**JUSTICE L.N. MITTAL (RETD.), COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

**INQUIRY REPORT**

**INTRODUCTION**

 This inquiry relates to an unfortunate incident in which Sh. Surender Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police (in short, DSP), Taoru, District Nuh, made supreme sacrifice in the line of his duty on 19.07.2022.

Haryana Government vide gazette notification No 11/44/2022-1HG1 dated 18.08.2022 appointed the undersigned [Justice L.N. Mittal (Retd.)] as one man Commission of Inquiry (in short, the Commission):-

1. to look into the circumstances leading to assault and unfortunate death of Sh. Surender Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Taoru, District Nuh, while conducting the raid on illegal mining activities;
2. to suggest deterrent measures to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents and to curb the illegal mining in that area in future.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

The undersigned assumed charge of the duties of the Commission on 18.08.2022 (AN). The Commission was provided with office premises and skeleton staff with effect from 01.09.2022 and the Commission started its proceedings.

 After prior intimation to Deputy Commissioner, Nuh and Superintendent of Police, Nuh, the Commission reached Nuh on 07.09.2022 and had detailed interaction and discussion with Deputy Commissioner, Nuh, Superintendent of Police, Nuh, Assistant Mining Engineer, Nuh and Mining Officer, Gurugram (who held additional charge of Mining Officer, Nuh at the relevant time). Superintendent of Police, Nuh gave to the Commission a note on illegal mining in District Nuh and also a note on the incident relating to unfortunate death of Sh. Surender Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Taoru, District Nuh.

 On 07.09.2022 itself, the Commission accompanied by aforesaid Officers and others also inspected the spot in village Panchgaon, Police Station Sadar Taoru, District Nuh where the occurrence had taken place. After crossing the village abadi, there is hilly area where illegal mining of stone was allegedly being done. There was kacha uneven inhospitable path leading to the spot. Stones said to have been unloaded from the offending dumper during the occurrence were still lying there. The Officers briefed the Commission about the manner of occurrence. The place from where stones had allegedly been illegally excavated and loaded in the offending dumper was also shown. The Commission was told that out of 443 villages in the District, illegal mining was being done in 29 villages only. The Commission was shown one such spot in adjoining villages of Silko and Nurpur.

 On return to Nuh, copies of First Information Report (in short, FIR) and statements of alleged three eye witnesses of the occurrence recorded by the police during investigation of the case were procured by the Commission through Superintendent of Police, Nuh. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for prevention of illegal mining in Haryana was obtained from Assistant Mining Engineer.

 On 15.09.2022, meeting was held in the office of the Commission with Sh. P.K.Aggarwal, IPS, Director General of Police, Haryana and Sh. Mukul Kumar, IAS, Director Mines and Geology Department, Haryana accompanied by Dr. Madhvi Gupta, Mining Engineer. Detailed discussion was held with them on the subjects of deterrent measures to prevent reoccurrence of such incident and to curb illegal mining in the area in future.

 Public notice in Hindi and English was got published in various newspapers dated 22.09.2022 namely Amar Ujala, Chandigarh (Hindi), Danik Jagran, Chandigarh (Hindi), Punjab Kesari, Jalandhar (Hindi) and The Tribune, Chandigarh and Gurugram (English). The public notice was issued for information of the General Public and for the persons interested to appear as witness in the inquiry for sittings of the Commission in Circuit House, Nuh on 19th and 20th October, 2022. Prior intimation of the said sittings of the Commission was also given to Deputy Commissioner, Nuh, who was requested to make proper arrangements of secretarial assistance to the Commission for conducting its proceedings at Nuh. Prior intimation was also given to Superintendent of Police, Nuh, who was requested to ensure presence of relevant witnesses of the incident including alleged three eye witnesses and investigating officer(s) and other witnesses, if any, before the Commission on 19th October, 2022 at 01.30 PM in Circuit House, Nuh for recording their statements.

 Accordingly the Commission reached Circuit House, Nuh at 12.30 PM on 19th October, 2022. On that day, statements of two alleged eye witnesses of the incident namely Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Sanjay Kumar, witness no. 1 and Constable Amit Kumar, witness no. 2 and of both the Investigating Officers, Inspector Arvind Kumar, Station House Officer, Police Station Sadar Taoru, witness no. 3 and Inspector Naresh Kumar, Incharge CIA Staff, Nuh witness no. 4, who were present, were recorded by the Commission. Another alleged eye witness EHC Umesh Kumar did not come present on that day, although he was said to have been served with summons for appearance before the Commission on that day. He was also said to be absent from duty. No other witness or person from the public came present on that day before the Commission in pursuance of public notice.

 On 20.10.2022 till 1.30 PM, neither one of the alleged eye witnesses EHC Umesh Kumar, who was absent the previous day, nor in pursuance of public notice, any other witness or pubic person appeared before the Commission. However, EHC Umesh Kumar turned up very late after 2.30 PM on that day. Proceedings were taken up again on his appearance and his statement as witness No. 5 was recorded.

 Superintendent of Police, Nuh was requested on 07.09.2022 during visit of the Commission at Nuh to find out from the family members of late Sh. Surender Singh, DSP, if any of them wanted to appear as witness before the Commission and if so, whether it would be convenient for them to appear at Nuh or at Chandigarh before the Commission. Accordingly Superintendent of Police, Nuh intimated the family of late Sh. Surender Singh, DSP. Pursuant thereto, on 18.10.2022, Sh. Ashok Kumar Manjhu, brother of late Sh. Surender Singh, DSP, contacted the undersigned on telephone and expressed desire of some family member(s) of late Sh. Surender Singh, DSP to appear before the Commission to make statement(s) at Chandigarh . So, I contacted Sh. Ashok Kumar Manjhu on telephone on 20.10.2022 and told him that they may appear before the Commission at Chandigarh on 26.10.2022. The undersigned also told him that if they had any difficulty or inconvenience in coming to appear before the Commission at Chandigarh, they may send their affidavit(s) to the Commission by post, courier or whatsapp regarding whatever statement(s) they want to make before the Commission. Again on 22.10.2022, Sh. Ashok Kumar Manjhu was contacted telephonically through the Secretary to the Commission. Pursuant thereto, Sh. Ashok Kumar Manjhu sent on 23.10.2022 by whatsapp to the Secretary of the Commission an application accompanied by his unattested affidavit dated 20.10.2022. Printout thereof has been taken and placed on record of the Commission on 26.10.2022 (23rd to 25th October, 2022 being holidays).

**BRIEF FACTS**

Brief facts of the occurrence as emerged from the FIR and other documents on record may be mentioned as under:-

 On 19.07.2022, Sh. Surender Singh, DSP asked his staff to accompany him in official Bolero vehicle No. HR 27GV 6157 to some place without disclosing them the destination. Accordingly ASI Sanjay Kumar, Reader of the DSP and EHC Umesh Kumar, Gunman of the DSP who had joined this duty on that day only, accompanied the DSP in the official vehicle with driver Constable Amit Kumar. On the way, the DSP kept on giving directions to the driver. After crossing abadi of village Panchgaon, they went ahead on kacha passage towards hills. They went there for checking and curbing illegal mining. They saw that one dumper of six wheels was going from the side of mining site towards hills on the kacha path. The dumper was loaded with illegally mined stones. Ahead of the dumper, a motorcycle with two young boys riding it was going. As per direction of DSP, the official vehicle chased the dumper and also blew Siren giving signal to the dumper to stop. There was no registration number plate on rear side of the dumper. There were in all four persons including driver in the dumper. On seeing the police vehicle chasing the dumper, the dumper driver with intent to kill the police officials started unloading stones from the dumper by raising the body of the dumper with pressure. The stones started falling on the kachha path ahead of the police vehicle. Consequently driver of the police vehicle stopped it with great difficulty. All the four police officials alighted from the police vehicle and started running on kacha path to stop the dumper. ASI Sanjay Kumar and Constable Amit Kumar went from the side of the dumper driver whereas DSP and EHC Umesh Kumar went from cleaner side of the dumper. They reached in front of the dumper and saw registration number plate on front side of the dumper bearing Number HR 74A only. The police officials asked the occupants of the dumper to come down from the dumper, but they did not do so. Rather they asked the police officials to get aside, but they also did not do so. Dumper occupants among themselves were calling dumper driver as Mittar and dumper cleaner as Ikkar. They took out two country made pistols and threatened the police officials to get aside failing which they would shoot them. The police officials started retreating in self-defence. Meanwhile dumper occupants and motorcycle riders asked dumper driver Mittar that the police would seize and challan the dumper for illegal mining and therefore, the dumper be not stopped and the police officials be run under the dumper. Thereupon dumper driver tried to run over the police officials with intent to kill them by accelerating the speed. ASI Sanjay Kumar, EHC Umesh Kumar and Constable Amit Kumar saved themselves by jumping aside. DSP also tried to jump away to save himself but dumper driver intentionally hit the dumper into the DSP and ran over him and murdered him. DSP died on the spot. Dumper driver with occupants and motorcycle with riders sped away while unloading the stones from the dumper on the passage. The occurrence took place at about 11.50 AM.

 ASI Sanjay Kumar telephonically informed Inspector Arvind Kumar, Station House Officer of Police Station Sadar Taoru and also Superintendent of Police, Nuh.

 On receiving information, Inspector Arvind Kumar, alongwith other police officials, went to the spot in official Bolero vehicle. Dead body of Sh. Surender Singh, DSP was lying there. Stones unloaded from the dumper there were also lying on the kacha passage. Inspector Arvind Kumar telephonically informed higher Officers. Scene of Crime Team was also intimated to come to the spot. Inspector Arvind Kumar took photographs exhibit 3 to exhibit 8 from his mobile telephone. ASI Sanjay Kumar gave application exhibit 1 to Inspector Arvind Kumar regarding the occurrence. Inspector Arvind Kumar made his endorsement exhibit 1/A on the application and sent it to police Station Sadar Taoru where on its basis, FIR No. 309 dated 19.07.2022 exhibit 1/B was recorded for various offences. Inspector Arvind Kumar prepared rough site plan exhibit 9 of the place of occurrence and recorded statements exhibit 2 of Constable Amit Kumar and exhibit 10 of EHC Umesh Kumar under section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. He also prepared inquest report of the dead body of Sh. Surender Singh, DSP. Senior Officers also reached the spot and gave necessary instructions. Forensic team headed by Dr. Vinod Kumar also reached the spot and minutely inspected the spot. They handed over parcels of evidence collected from the spot to Inspector Arvind Kumar. Dead body of Sh. Surender Singh, DSP was sent to Community Health Centre, Nuh, where Board of Doctors conducted postmortem examination. Parcels of evidence were given by them to the police. The dead body was handed over to the family members.

 Special Investigating Team (SIT) comprising of Smt. Usha Kundu, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Inspector Arvind Kumar, Inspector Naresh Kumar, incharge CIA Staff, Nuh and two other Inspectors was constituted for further investigation of the case. Inspector Naresh Kumar conducted further investigation under supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police. On 20.07.2022, Mittar alias Sabbir, driver of the offending dumper, was arrested by Inspector Naresh Kumar. His police remand was obtained from Court on 21.07.2022. His disclosure statement was recorded wherein he disclosed the names of his co-accused as Ikkar alias Ikram, Bhuru alias Bhura, Ashru alias Asruddin, Sabbir alias Beda and Abbas who were present at the spot at the time of occurrence. Kallu alias Fazru, said to be owner of the illegal mine from where illegally mined stones had been loaded in the dumper, was arrested on 27.07.2022, but there was no document of the mine in his name. Other accused persons named above were arrested from 22.07.2022 to 25.07.2022. All of them separately led the police to the place of occurrence. Scaled site plan of the place of occurrence was got prepared. Application for Test Identification Parade (TIP) of the aforesaid accused persons, who were allegedly present at the spot at the time of occurrence, was given in Court and the said application was still pending. Disclosure statements of accused were recorded. Offending dumper No. HR74A 2728 and offending motorcycle, without registration number going ahead of the offending dumper, were taken into possession by the police. Both country made pistols used in the occurrence were seized by the police in separate FIR No. 310 dated 19.07.2022 Police Station Sadar Taoru. The same were taken by Inspector Naresh Kumar in the present case. Call detail record and location of Mobile telephones of the accused persons, who were present at the spot, were obtained. Some other persons, who had given shelter and transportation to the main accused persons, were also arrested. Statements of witnesses were recorded during investigation. On completion of investigation, challan i.e. report under section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure exhibit 11 was prepared and presented in Court on 17.10.2022.

**EVIDENCE**

Alleged eye witnesses ASI Sanjay Kumar witness No. 1, Constable Amit Kumar. Witness No. 2 and EHC Umesh Kumar, witness No. 5 made statements regarding the entire occurrence as noticed above. Inspector Arvind Kumar witness No. 3 and Inspector Naresh Kumar, witness no. 4 stated about investigation of the case as detailed above.

 It may be mentioned that at the time of occurrence, none of the police officials had any weapon, arm or ammunition. Even EHC Umesh Kumar, Gunman did not have any arm or ammunition because he was deputed as such on that very day and was yet to get issued the weapon when suddenly he had to accompany the DSP for raid to curb illegal mining.

 **Sh. Ashok Kumar, brother of late Sh. Surender Singh, DSP, has stated in his application and unattested affidavit dated 20.10.2022 that inquiry be made on the points mentioned by him:-**

1. How Sh. Surender Singh, DSP received information of illegal mining and whose telephone he received on 19.07.2022.
2. What was the role of staff of Sh. Surender Singh, DSP and what effort was made by them to save him.
3. Whether Sh. Surender Singh, DSP was beaten and physically man handled. His uniform was found torn at two places in the photograph creating doubt if there was some scuffle with him and where was his staff at that time.
4. Whether gunman of the DSP had any weapon or not and if he had weapon, why he did not act immediately and if not, why he did not have the weapon.
5. What was the location of Sh. Surender Singh and his staff and official vehicle. His call detail record and location be obtained.
6. Any staff member of Sh. Surender Singh during his posting as DSP Taoru from 29.06.2020 to 19.07.2022 might have some connection with the occurrence.
7. Similarly police officials against whom Sh. Surender Singh, DSP during his said posting might have taken departmental action or recommended penal action might be having direct or indirect connection with the occurrence.
8. There may also be role of officers and employees of Mining Department with this murder and so their call detail record be also obtained.
9. It is also matter of inquiry as to how the other police officials escaped whereas Sh. Surender Singh, DSP fell on being hit by the dumper.
10. According to the statement made by Sh. Anil Vij, Home Minister, Haryana in the Assembly, the State had reached up to the crusher zone where stones loaded in the dumper were to be supplied, but according to police inquiry, the stone was being transported for personal domestic use.

**FINDING OF THE COMMISSION**

1. **Circumstances leading to assault and unfortunate death of Sh. Surender Singh, DSP:-**

There is ample evidence on record to arrive at a firm conclusion regarding the circumstances leading to unfortunate death of Sh. Surender Singh, DSP, proving facts regarding manner of occurrence as stated hereinbefore. The said version of the occurrence stands fully proved by the evidence on record. There are statements of three eye witnesses of the occurrence namely ASI Sanjay Kumar witness no. 1, Constable Amit Kumar, witness no. 2 and EHC Umesh Kumar witness no. 5. They have stated in detail about the aforesaid manner of occurrence. FIR in the case giving detailed version of the occurrence was lodged promptly by eye witness ASI Sanjay Kumar and therefore, FIR is also significant piece of evidence corroborating the statements of eye witnesses made before the Commission. Statements of the other two eye witnesses Constable Amit Kumar and EHC Umesh Kumar were also recorded at the spot without delay under section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure during investigation. The said statements also assume significance. There is unadulterated version of the occurrence in the FIR lodged by ASI Sanjay Kumar eye witness and also in the statements of the other two eye witnesses recorded at the spot during investigation of the case, soon after the occurrence. There was no time or occasion for the eye witnesses to have consultation with anybody else or to give concocted version of the occurrence at the spot. There was also no reason or motive for them to give false version of the occurrence at that time. On the other hand, they had every reason to state the truth about the occurrence because their own officer had been killed in the occurrence. All the three eye witnesses made similar statements about the manner of occurrence before the Commission. They did not name in their statements at the spot all the persons who committed the occurrence and rather named Mittar and Ikkar only and also stated how the witnesses came to know the names of the dumper driver as Mittar and dumper cleaner as Ikkar because their co-accused were addressing them with these names. Their statements are completely trustworthy and inspire confidence and fully prove the aforesaid manner of occurrence. There are also statements of both Investigating Officers Inspector Arvind Kumar, witness no. 3 and Inspector Naresh Kumar, witness No. 4. From all this evidence, it becomes as clear as the sunlight that the occurrence took place in the manner stated above. Sh. Surender Singh, DSP accompanied by other police officials went to the spot to check and curb illegal mining activities. On spotting a dumper loaded with illegally mined stones, the police party started chasing the dumper to stop it. However, the dumper driver started unloading the stones on the kacha path by suddenly raising the body of the dumper with pressure. Due to stones falling on the way, police vehicle had to be stopped. The police party then alighted from their vehicle and tried to stop the dumper by running up to front of the dumper. They asked the dumper occupants to come down from the dumper, but they did not do so and rather they asked the police officials to get aside failing which they would shoot them with country made pistols which two of them had taken out. Dumper driver was being addressed as Mittar and the person sitting on cleaner seat of the dumper was being addressed as Ikkar by the occupants of the dumper. When the dumper did not stop, police officials started retreating to save themselves. Occupants of the dumper and two persons riding the motorcycle going ahead instigated and prompted dumper driver Mittar to run over the police officials under the dumper. Dumper driver thereupon accelerated the speed of the dumper with intent to kill the police officials by running them over with dumper. Sanjay Kumar, ASI, Amit Kumar, Constable and Umesh Kumar, EHC saved themselves by jumping aside. Sh. Surender Singh, DSP also tried to save himself by jumping away, but the dumper driver, intentionally with high speed, hit the dumper into the DSP and ran over him and thus murdered him. Sh. Surender Singh, DSP died on the spot. The dumper occupants and motorcycle riders sped away. While going away, the dumper driver kept on unloading the stones from the dumper. The occurrence took place at about 11.50AM.

Before proceeding further, it may be mentioned that there is not even an iota of material on record to even remotely suggest that there was any scuffle between the police party and the accused persons i.e. occupants of the offending dumper and riders of the motorcycle going ahead of it. There was no physical manhandling of the DSP by anybody. According to the manner of occurrence narrated above, neither occupants of the dumper and motorcycle riders alighted from their vehicles nor the police officials boarded the dumper. On the other hand, the dumper and the motorcycle kept on moving ahead. There was thus no physical contact between the policy party and the occupants of the dumper and the motorcycle riders. Consequently there was no scuffle among them nor physical manhandling of the DSP by anybody. On the other hand, if occupants of the dumper and the motorcycle riders had alighted from their vehicles and had had any scuffle with the police party or physical manhandling of the DSP or anybody else, then perhaps there would have been no occasion of the DSP being hit or run over by the dumper.

Police officials accompanying the DSP could not have possibly saved the DSP from being run over by the dumper in view of the facts and circumstances of the occurrence. The said police officials as well as the DSP tried to save themselves from the speeding dumper. In the process, the three police officials were able to save themselves by jumping aside, but unfortunately, the DSP was not successful in saving himself and was hit and run over by the dumper.

It is also significant to notice that none of the police officials was having any weapon, arm or ammunition at that time, as stated by ASI Sanjay Kumar witness no. 1. Even the gunman Umesh Kumar, EHC was not having any weapon, arm or ammunition because he was assigned the said duty on that very day only and before he could get any arm and ammunition issued, DSP asked him and others to accompany him. Consequently even post occurrence, the police officials could not do anything to catch the dumper occupants or riders of the motorcycle while they were speeding away with their vehicles. The police officials could not use their vehicle to chase them because the path was strewn with stones unloaded from the speeding dumper. Obviously, on foot, the police officials could not have chased and caught the speeding dumper and the motorcycle.

There is no material or evidence in support of some of the points raised by Sh. Ashok Kumar Manjhu in his application and affidavit. Even his affidavit is unattested. No other document has either been annexed by him.

As noticed above, the aforesaid application and unattested affidavit of Sh. Ashok Kumar Manjhu were placed on record of the Commission on 26.10.2022. Term of the Commission is ending on 31.10.2022 with only four working days from 26th to 28th October, 2022 and 31st October, 2022 to prepare the inquiry report and to submit the same to the Government. **Consequently due to paucity of time, the Commission could not make any further inquiry into some of the points raised by Sh. Ashok Kumar Manjhu in his affidavit and application. The State Government may get the said points inquired into or investigated through Investigating Officer or SIT or through some other agency.**

It is accordingly concluded that Sh. Surender Singh, DSP, was killed by being intentionally hit and run over by the dumper in the manner stated above while conducting raid to check and curb illegal mining activities. However, there was no physical assault, manhandling or scuffle with him before being hit and run over by the dumper. The culpability or otherwise of the accused persons sent for prosecution by the police relating to this occurrence will be determined by the Court(s) concerned.

Point number 1 of the terms of reference of the Commission is concluded accordingly.

1. **Suggestions regarding deterrent measures to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents and to curb illegal mining in the area in future:-**

As mentioned above, the Commission had interaction and discussion with district authorities of Administration, Police and Mining Department on this point. Superintendent of Police, Nuh also gave to the Commission a note on illegal mining in district Nuh. Assistant Mining Engineer also supplied the Standard Operating procedure (SOP) for prevention of illegal mining in Haryana. These documents have been perused by the Commission. Detailed discussion on this point was also held with Director General of Police, Haryana and Director, Mines and Geology Department, Haryana accompanied by Mining Engineer. Various suggestions were made during the interaction on 15.09.2022. It was also assured that they would revert with further feedback after holding discussion in their Departments. However, when contacted telephonically on 20.10.2022, both Director General of Police and Director, Mines and Geology Department told that they had nothing more to add. The Commission also worked extensively on this issue.

It was pointed out during discussion that there is disparity in the procedure of mining and transportation of the mined material in the State of Haryana and adjoining State of Rajasthan giving rise to illegal mining activities in district Nuh. Area of Nuh district, where illegal mining is done, borders the State of Rajasthan and the aforesaid disparity creates problems in the area of district Nuh. Besides it, complete ban on mining activities in Aravali Hills, including the concerned area of district Nuh, has been imposed under orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Hon’ble Supreme Court. It has given rise to illegal mining activities in district Nuh.

Based on the entire process, the Commission makes the following suggestions to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents and to curb illegal mining in that area in future:-

1. While conducting raids or checking relating to illegal mining activities, sufficient police force properly armed should be taken.
2. Steps be taken to remove disparity in the procedure of mining and transportation of the mined material in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan.
3. Installation of GPS in vehicles, particularly dumpers, engaged in transportation of mined material be made compulsory so that their movement and location can be traced in real time.
4. There should also be provision of mentioning GPS in e-Rawana issued for transportation of the mined material.
5. A separate crusher zone be established with single exit/entry point so that there may be proper and effective survey and monitoring thereof. It is difficult to check and monitor scattered crushers.
6. There should be survey of crushers atleast twice a month.
7. Mass awareness programme be launched by involving NGOs, Social Activists, elders and respectable of the area, Panches and Sarpanches, Nambardars, Chowkidars and Patwaris. They being locally available all the 24 hours would prove to be of great assistance in indentifying the offenders of illegal mining and in giving timely information of illegal mining in their area to the concerned authorities. It will be of great help to check and curb illegal mining activities in the area in future. Sarpanches, Panches, Nambardars, Chowkidars and Patwaris may be told that they shall be held responsible for illegal mining in their area. On the other hand, they may be rewarded with suitable incentives or rewards for extending proper and effective help in curbing illegal mining activities in their area.
8. As against one time movement against illegal mining, continuous sustainable efforts should be made to curb illegal mining. A clear message should sent to the general public, particularly potential offenders, that illegal mining activities will be curbed with iron hand.
9. Drones may also be deployed for surveillance, if found feasible and effective, after experimental trial.
10. Network of secret informers among the local residents may be created. They will be of great help in curbing illegal mining. Their identity should be kept confidential and they may also be rewarded with some incentives.
11. Since there is complete ban on mining in the area, it leads to illegal mining. Therefore, steps may also be taken to start lease for legal mining in some area where feasible. For this, permission may be sought from National Green Tribunal and Hon’ble Supreme Court by making out a strong case particularly that there will be no damage to ecology and environment of the area.
12. Nakas with CCTVs may also be fixed for proper and effective checking of illegal mining and transportation of illegally mined material.
13. There is also severe staff crunch in Mining and Police Departments due to which effective control on illegal mining is diluted. Sufficient staff be provided for the same. Dedicated sincere police personnel may be deployed exclusively to assist the Mining Authorities to curb illegal mining.
14. Satellite Remote Sensing may be used to have information of illegal mining in real time in the same manner as this facility is being used to have real time information of stubble burning in agricultural fields. It will greatly help in curbing illegal mining.
15. All measures to curb illegal mining should be implemented strictly and sincerely on the ground and should not remain on paper only. These measures should be made operational at the earliest in time bound manner.

Point number 2 of the terms of reference of the Commission is answered accordingly.

The inquiry report regarding both terms of reference of the Commission is accordingly submitted to the State Government.

**Subject: Memorandum of Action Taken by Police Department and Mines & Geology Department on the suggestion submitted in its report by Mr. Justice L.N. Mittal (Retired) Punjab and Haryana High Court, Commission of Inquiry into the circumstances leading to assault and death of Sh. Surender Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Taoru, District Nuh, while conducting a raid on illegal mining activities**.

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 As per report obtained from the Director General of Police, Haryana and Director, Mines and Geology, Haryana the action taken are as follows:-

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| S.N. | Recommendations of enquiry Commission | Action Taken by Police Department, Haryana | Action Taken by Mines & Geology, Department, Haryana |
| i) | While conducting raids or checking relating to illegal mining activities, sufficient police force properly armed should be taken | All concerned have been directed to ensure that sufficient Police force may be deployed while conducting raids related to illegal mining activities and all preventive & security measures may also be kept in mind during such raids. | The matter would be taken in the next meeting of State Level Task Force. |
| ii) | Steps be taken to remove disparity in the procedure of mining and transportation of the mined material in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan | -------------- | -Do- |
| iii) | Installation of GPS in vehicles, particularly dumpers, engaged in transportation of mined material be made compulsory so that their movement and location can be traced in real time | --------------- | -Do- |
| iv) | There should also be provision of mentioning GPS in e-Rawana issued for transportation of the mined material | ------------------ | -Do- |
| v) | A separate crusher zone be established with single exit/entry point so that there may be proper and effective survey and monitoring thereof. It is difficult to check and monitor scattered crushers | ------------------- | -Do- |
| vi) | There should be survey of crushers atleast twice a month. | --------------- | -Do- |
| vii) | Mass awareness programme be launced by involving NGOs, Social Activities, elders and respectable of the area, Panches and Sarpanches, Nambardars, Chowkidars and Patwaris. They being locally available all the 24 hours would prove to be of great assistance in indentifying the offeneders of illegal mining and in giving timely information of illegal mining in their area to the concerned authorities. It will be of great help to check and curb illegal mining activities in the area in future. Sarpanches, Panches, Nambardars, Chowkidars and Patwaris may be told that they shall be held responsible for illegal mining in their area. On the other hand, they may be rewarded with suitable incentives or rewards for extending proper and effective in their area. | Necessary directions have been issued to all concerned to carry out mass awareness in NGOs, Social activities elders, Panches, Sarpanches, Namberdars, Chowkidars Patwaries & respected persons & of area regarding illegal mining. These directions are being complied with meticulously. | -Do- |
| viii) | As against one time movement against illegal mining, continuous sustainable efforts should be made to curb illegal mining. A clear message should sent to the general public, particularly potential offenders, that illegal mining activities will be curbed with iron hand | Necessary directions have been issued to all concerned for taking strict legal action against the offenders of illegal mining, to discourage people from taking part/involved in illegal mining activities. | Necessary directions have been issued by Director Mines & Geology, Haryana to all the field officers to take action as per the suggestions by discussing the same in the meetings of District Level Task Forces being held regularly.  |
| ix) | Drones may also be deployed for surveillance, if found feasible and effective, after experimental trial. | Necessary directions have been issued to all concerned to carry out experimental trial to assess the feasibility & effectiveness of surveillance by drones. | Necessary directions have been issued by Director Mines & Geology, Haryana to all the field officers to take action as per the suggestions by discussing the same in the meetings of District Level Task Forces being held regularly |
| x) | Network of secret informers among the local residents may be created. They will be of great help in curbing illegal mining. Their identity and they may also be rewarded with some incentives | Necessary directions have been issued to all field units to deploy security agents in their jurisdiction to collect specific intelligence and share it with senior formations well in time. They have also been directed to enhance their network of sources among the local residents to help in curbing illegal mining. | Necessary directions have been issued by Director Mines & Geology, Haryana to all the field officers to take action as per the suggestions by discussing the same in the meetings of District Level Task Forces being held regularly |
| xi) | Since there is complete ban on mining in the area, it leads to illegal mining. Therefore, steps may also be taken to start lease for legal mining in some area where feasible. For this, permission may be sought from National Green Tribunal and Hon’ble Supreme Court by making out a strong case particularly that there will be no damage to ecology and environment of the area | --------------- | ------------------- |
| xii) | Nakas with CCTVs may also be fixed for proper and effective checking of illegal mining and transportation of illegally mined material. | Necessary directions have been issued to all concerned to equip Nakas with CCTV cameras. | The matter would be taken in the next meeting of State Level Task Force. |
| xiii) | There is also severe staff crunch in Mining and Police Departments due to which effective control on illegal mining is diluted. Sufficient staff be provided for the same. Dedicated sincere police personnel may be deployed exclusively to assist the Mining Authorities to curb illegal mining. | Police force is provided as and when requisitioned by mining department. Additionally dedicated police official have been provided to the mining department through the newly created Enforcement Wing. | -Do- |
| xiv) | Satellite Remote Sensing may be used to have information of illegal mining in real time in the same manner as this facility is being used to have real time information of stubble burning in agricultural fields. It will greatly help in curbing illegal mining | ---------------- | ------------------ |
| xv) | All measures to curb illegal mining should be implemented strictly and sincerely on the ground and should not remain on paper only. These measures should be made operational at the earliest in time bound manner | --------------------- | Necessary directions have been issued by Director Mines & Geology, Haryana to all the field officers to take action as per the suggestions by discussing the same in the meetings of District Level Task Forces being held regularly. |

 It is also pertinent to mention here that vide Notification No. 2/3/2022-2HC dated 16.03.2023, Government has been constituted a Haryana State Enforcement Bureau for devising and implementation a comprehensive institutional mechanism to further strengthen the efforts of various departments to curb unlawful activities that, interalia, could to illustrate, include illegal mining, theft of canal water, theft of electricity enforcement of public properties, sale of illicit/spurious liquor etc.

विषय: श्री सुरेंद्र सिंह, पुलिस उप अधीक्षक, ताउडू, जिला नूंह पर अवैध खनन गतिविधियों के सम्बन्ध में छापेमारी करते समय हुए हमले और दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण मौत की जांच रिपोर्ट में श्री न्यायमूर्ति एल.एन. मित्तल (सेवानिवृत्त) पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा दिये गए सुझावों पर पुलिस विभाग और खान एवं भूविज्ञान विभाग द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही का ज्ञापन।

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 पुलिस महानिदेशक, हरियाणा और निदेशक, खान एवं भूविज्ञान, हरियाणा से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के अनुसार की गई कार्यवाही इस प्रकार है:-

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| क्र.सं. | जांच आयोग की सिफ़ारिशें | पुलिस विभाग, हरियाणा द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही | खान एवं भूविज्ञान विभाग, हरियाणा द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही |
| i) | अवैध खनन गतिविधियों से संबंधित छापेमारी या जांच करते समय पर्याप्त सशस्त्र पुलिस बल लिया जाना चाहिए। | सभी संबंधितों को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए निर्देशित किया गया है कि अवैध खनन गतिविधियों से संबंधित छापेमारी करते समय पर्याप्त पुलिस बल तैनात किया जाए और ऐसी छापेमारी के दौरान सभी निवारक और सुरक्षा उपायों को भी ध्यान में रखा जाए ।  | इस मामले को राज्य स्तरीय टास्क फोर्स की अगली बैठक में रखा जाएगा। |
| ii) | हरियाणा और राजस्थान राज्यों में खनन और खनन सामग्री के परिवहन की प्रक्रिया में असमानता को दूर करने के लिए कदम उठाए जाएंगे। | -------------- | सम |
| iii) | खनन सामग्री के परिवहन में लगे वाहनों, विशेषकर डंपरों में जीपीएस लगाना अनिवार्य किया जाए ताकि वास्तविक समय में उनकी आवाजाही और स्थान का पता लगाया जा सके। | --------------- | सम |
| iv) | खनन सामग्री के परिवहन के लिए जारी ई-रवाना में जीपीएस का उल्लेख करने का भी प्रावधान होना चाहिए । | ------------------ | सम |
| v) | एकल निकास/प्रवेश बिंदु के साथ एक अलग क्रशर जोन स्थापित किया जाए ताकि उचित और प्रभावी सर्वेक्षण और निगरानी हो सके। बिखरे हुए क्रशरों की जाँच और निगरानी करना कठिन है । | ------------------- | सम |
| vi) | महीने में कम से कम दो बार क्रशरों का सर्वे होना चाहिए। | --------------- | -Do- |
| vii) | गैर सरकारी संगठनों, सामाजिक गतिविधियों, क्षेत्र के बुजुर्गों और सम्मानित लोगों, पंचों और सरपंचों, नंबरदारों, चौकीदारों और पटवारियों को शामिल करके जन जागरूकता कार्यक्रम शुरू किया जाए। वे सभी 24 घंटे स्थानीय रूप से उपलब्ध होने के कारण अवैध खनन के अपराधियों की पहचान करने और संबंधित अधिकारियों को उनके क्षेत्र में अवैध खनन की समय पर जानकारी देने में बहुत मददगार साबित होंगे। इससे भविष्य में क्षेत्र में अवैध खनन गतिविधियों को रोकने और रोकने में बहुत मदद मिलेगी। सरपंचों, पंचों, नंबरदारों, चौकीदारों और पटवारियों से कहा जाए कि वे अपने क्षेत्र में अवैध खनन के लिए जिम्मेदार होंगे। दूसरी ओर, उन्हें अपने क्षेत्र में उचित और प्रभावी विस्तार के लिए उपयुक्त प्रोत्साहन या पुरस्कार से पुरस्कृत किया जा सकता है। | अवैध खनन के संबंध में गैर सरकारी संगठनों, सामाजिक गतिविधियों के बुजुर्गों, पंचों, सरपंचों, नंबरदारों, चौकीदारों, पटवारियों और सम्मानित व्यक्तियों और क्षेत्र में बड़े पैमाने पर जागरूकता लाने के लिए सभी संबंधितों को आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। इन निर्देशों का अनुपालन सूक्ष्मता से किया जा रहा है। | -Do- |
| viii) | अवैध खनन के विरुद्ध एक बार के आंदोलन की तरह अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए निरंतर स्थायी प्रयास किये जाने चाहिए। आम जनता, विशेषकर संभावित अपराधियों को एक स्पष्ट संदेश भेजा जाना चाहिए कि अवैध खनन गतिविधियों पर कठोरता से अंकुश लगाया जाएगा । | लोगों को अवैध खनन गतिविधियों में भाग लेने/शामिल होने से हतोत्साहित करने के लिए अवैध खनन के अपराधियों के खिलाफ सख्त कानूनी कार्यवाही करने के लिए सभी संबंधितों को आवश्यक निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। | निदेशक खान एवं भूविज्ञान, हरियाणा द्वारा सभी फील्ड अधिकारियों को नियमित रूप से होने वाली जिला स्तरीय टास्क फोर्स की बैठकों में चर्चा करके सुझावों के अनुसार कार्यवाही करने के लिए आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। |
| ix) | प्रायोगिक परीक्षण के बाद यदि व्यवहार्य और प्रभावी पाया गया तो निगरानी के लिए ड्रोन भी तैनात किए जा सकते हैं। | ड्रोन द्वारा निगरानी की व्यवहार्यता और प्रभावशीलता का आकलन करने के लिए प्रायोगिक परीक्षण करने के लिए सभी संबंधितों को आवश्यक निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। | सम |
| x) | स्थानीय निवासियों के बीच गुप्त मुखबिरों का नेटवर्क बनाया जा सकता है। इनसे अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने में काफी मदद मिलेगी। उनकी पहचान और उन्हें कुछ प्रोत्साहनों से पुरस्कृत भी किया जा सकता है | विशिष्ट खुफिया जानकारी एकत्र करने और समय पर वरिष्ठ संरचनाओं के साथ इसे साझा करने के लिए अपने अधिकार क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा एजेंटों को तैनात करने के लिए सभी फील्ड इकाइयों को आवश्यक निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। उन्हें अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने में मदद के लिए स्थानीय निवासियों के बीच अपने स्रोतों का नेटवर्क बढ़ाने का भी निर्देश दिया गया है। | सम |
| xi) | चूँकि क्षेत्र में खनन पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध है, इसलिए अवैध खनन होता है। इसलिए, जहां संभव हो, कुछ क्षेत्रों में वैध खनन के लिए पट्टे शुरू करने के लिए भी कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं। इसके लिए राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण और माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय से एक मजबूत मामला बनाकर अनुमति मांगी जा सकती है, विशेषकर यह कि क्षेत्र की पारिस्थिति की और पर्यावरण को कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा। | --------------- | ------------------- |
| xii) | अवैध खनन और अवैध खनन सामग्री के परिवहन की उचित और प्रभावी जाँच के लिए सीसीटीवी वाले नाके भी तय किए जा सकते हैं। | नाकों को सीसीटीवी कैमरों से सुसज्जित करने के लिए सभी संबंधितों को आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश जारी कर दिए गए हैं। | इस मामले को राज्य स्तरीय टास्क फोर्स की अगली बैठक में रखा जाएगा। |
| xiii) | खनन और पुलिस विभाग में कर्मचारियों की भी भारी कमी है जिसके कारण अवैध खनन पर प्रभावी नियंत्रण कमजोर हो गया है। इसके लिए पर्याप्त स्टाफ उपलब्ध कराया जाए। अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए खनन अधिकारियों की सहायता के लिए विशेष रूप से समर्पित ईमानदार पुलिस कर्मियों को तैनात किया जा सकता है। | खनन विभाग द्वारा मांग किये जाने पर पुलिस बल उपलब्ध कराया जाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त नव निर्मित प्रवर्तन विंग के माध्यम से खनन विभाग को समर्पित पुलिस अधिकारी उपलब्ध कराये गये हैं। | सम |
| xiv) | सैटेलाइट रिमोट सेंसिंग का उपयोग अवैध खनन की वास्तविक समय में जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए किया जा सकता है, जैसे इस सुविधा का उपयोग कृषि क्षेत्रों में पराली जलाने की वास्तविक समय जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए किया जा रहा है। इससे अवैध खनन पर रोक लगाने में काफी मदद मिलेगी । | ---------------- | ------------------ |
| xv) | अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने के सभी उपायों को जमीन पर सख्ती और ईमानदारी से लागू किया जाना चाहिए और केवल कागजों तक ही सीमित नहीं रहना चाहिए। इन उपायों को यथाशीघ्र समयबद्ध तरीके से क्रियान्वित किया जाना चाहिए । | --------------------- | निदेशक खान एवं भूविज्ञान, हरियाणा द्वारा सभी फील्ड अधिकारियों को नियमित रूप से होने वाली जिला स्तरीय टास्क फोर्स की बैठकों में चर्चा करके सुझावों के अनुसार कार्रवाई करने के लिए आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। |

 यहां यह उल्लेख करना भी प्रासंगिक है कि अधिसूचना संख्या 2/3/2022-2HC दिनांक 16.03.2023 के तहत, सरकार ने विभिन्न विभागों के प्रयासों को और मजबूत करने के लिए एक व्यापक संस्थागत तंत्र तैयार करने और कार्यान्वयन के लिए एक हरियाणा राज्य प्रवर्तन ब्यूरो का गठन किया है। गैरकानूनी गतिविधियों पर अंकुश लगाना, जिनमें अन्य बातों के अलावा, अवैध खनन, नहर के पानी की चोरी, बिजली की चोरी, सार्वजनिक संपत्तियों की चोरी, अवैध/नकली शराब की बिक्री आदि शामिल हैं।