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मंत्री जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय भारत सरकार शप्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001 MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110001

Dated: 30 August, 2023

Hon'ble Justice Prakash Shrivastava Ji,

As a matter of major concern, I am writing to you to draw your attention towards the ongoing onslaught on environment in the East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. I am in receipt of several representations from the nearby villages complaining about these activities in this ecologically fragile region. We all are witness as to how rampant urbanization and unplanned development leading to constricting river courses, blocking drainage system and altering hill slopes have started to show its ill effects, as even a slightly more than normal rainfall results into natural calamities.

Having its headquarters in the industrial township of Jamshedpur, home to the country's first integrated Iron & Steel plant, East Singhbhum is equally endowed with nature's bounty. The picturesque Dalma Range hills on the northern side, running from west to east, is the natural habitat of the elephants and numerous flora and fauna in Jharkhand. Pristine river Subarnarekha, flowing through the district and running parallel to the hill range, serves as a lifeline to its residents.

Together, the two help in maintaining the ecological balance of the district and absorbs all the industrial effluence emanating from the various units in and around the city. Any damage to either of these two will for sure cause an unprecedented environmental catastrophe to the entire region, as it has been the case off late in several ecologically sensitive regions across the country.

However, oflate the human greed has started to manifest. The rampant and indiscriminate construction of high-rise buildings on the river-bed of the Subarnarekha river in blatant violation of environmental guidelines, proves that the concerned officials have complete disregard for the rules and regulations. Similarly, construction activities by private individuals have started in the foothills of Dalma Range, which otherwise is protected area.

I, therefore, request you to kindly take cognizance of the same and order an inquiry against these environmental violations, because if allowed to continue unabated then a natural disaster is imminent.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Arjun Munda)

53/PPS-HCP/23-12/9/23

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Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Green Tribunal, Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi- 110 001.