

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH
AT JABALPUR
WP No. 42565 of 2025**

(IN REFERENCE (SUO MOTU) Vs THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH AND OTHERS)

Dated : 29-10-2025

There is an article published in the Times of India, Delhi today dated 29.10.2025 reporting that 488 trees have been axed by PWD without permissions of the National Green Tribunal appointed body near Bhopal. The report further indicates that no permission has been taken from the State Government constituted 9-member Committee or from the Tree Officer. It reports that permission has been granted by the ADM, Raisen for felling of trees.

The article shows shocking state of affairs, where 488 trees are sought to be axed despite the National Green Tribunal declining such an action and repeated orders by this Court. Accordingly, we take suo motu cognizance of the said action of the PWD and direct the Registry to register a suo motu petition.

Issue notice to the State including PWD.

Notice is accepted by Shri Abhijeet Awasthi, Deputy Advocate General and Shri Anubhav Jain, Government Advocate appearing for the State.

We also appoint Shri Amal Pushp Shroti as an amicus curiae to assist the Court.

PWD shall file an affidavit indicating how many trees have been felled

for the subject project and how many trees are further sought to be felled.

PWD shall also indicate as to whether permission has been obtained from the Special Committee constituted by the State Government in terms of the directions issued by the National Green Tribunal and/or the Tree Officer.

We further direct that till the next date of hearing, no tree shall be felled or pruned except in accordance with the permission granted by the Committee and the Tree Officer under the Madhya Pradesh Protection of Trees Act (Urban), 2001.

List on 04.11.2025.

C.C. today.

(SANJEEV SACHDEVA)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(VINAY SARAF)
JUDGE

m/-