

Adivasi Kranti Sanghatan v. State of Orissa (Anantpur)

In the present case the petitioner states that there are instances of indiscriminate cutting of trees in the name of Coupe Operation under taken in eighties that resulted in a massive forest depletion. For that reason Orissa government was banned from timber operation since 1992 till 2005.

But in the year 2005, the Orissa State Government vide letter No. 10F(TR)-26/2003 12069/F&E dated 12.7.2005 and 12057/F&E to the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt of India requesting permission for timber operations as per the approved working plans. The proposals of the State Government have been examined by the Core Group in the Ministry and were granted permission.

In October 2005 an order issued by the Orissa government lifted the ban on felling of trees in 11 of its 50 forest divisions in September with an approved working plan. Many forest protecting communities, federation and other groups who were working for conservation and environment have strongly opposed this move.

Mr Bhagirathi Behera, director (operation), Orissa Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) stated that the working plans for 11 divisions have been approved by the Union Ministry of environment and forest. According to him only a restricted number of trees will be cut, especially old and mature trees, which will otherwise rot and lose their timber value. Thus the state governments argument was that that the felling of trees in the identified areas will be in accordance with the working plan.

But it was observed that that the State Government was not felling the trees in accordance with the revised working plan and accordingly clearing the green forest cover at an alarming rate. It was also found that the areas inhabited by the local tribals had sacred groves and was also dense compared to the ones conserved by the State Government< So it was feared that the unscrupulous felling of trees by the State Government with out abiding by the Working Plan would amount to large-scale depletion of project.

Hence Adivasi Kranti Sanghatan along with LIFE filed a case with the CEC.

Order Pending!!!!!!