



सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No. NCST/ATY-2023/TS/89/2024-RO-BHUV

Date: 17.09.2025

To,

1. The Principal Secretary,
Tribal Welfare Department,
Government of Telangana,
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Secretariat Building,
Hyderabad, (Telangana)

2. The Collector and District Magistrate,
District- Bhadradi Kothagudem,
Integrated District Offices Complex,
(Telangana)- 507115
Email: collector-bdd@telangana.gov.in

3. The Member Secretary,
Telangana State Pollution Control Board,
Paryavaran Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate,
Sanath Nagar,
Hyderabad, (Telangana)- 500004

4. The Chairman & Managing Director,
ITC Ltd- Paperboards & Specialty Papers Division,
3rd floor, 2, Lee Road,
Kolkata (West Bengal)

Sub: Representation dated 11.09.2024 received from Shri Kunja Ramakrishna, Bhadrachalam, Sarapaka Village, Bhadradi Kothagudem regarding allegation against ITC Paper Board.

महोदय/महोदया,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of sittings held on 28.8.2025 under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Dilkusha Guest House, Hyderabad on the above mentioned subject.

2. It is requested that the action taken/to be taken in the matter may be intimated to NCST within stipulated time from receipt of the letter for placing it before the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

(डॉ. पी. कल्याण रेड्डी/Dr. P. Kalyan Reddy)

निदेशक/Director

Telephone No: 011-20819841

Copy to:

1. Shri Kunja Ramakrishna, 2 BHK Colony, Near Sub Station, Manguru, District-Bhadradi Kothagudem (Telangana) – 507117
2. PS to Hon'ble Member (JH), NCST.
- ✓ 3. NIC, NCST for uploading on the website of the Commission.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Dilkusha Guest House, Hyderabad in the case of Shri Kunja Ramakrishna(9441160441) regarding exploitation of ITC-Paper Board company in Scheduled area of Sarapaka, Bhadrachalam District.

Date of the Sitting: 28/08/2025, 4.00 PM
Participants in the Sitting: As per Annexure
NCST/ATY-2023/TS/89/2024-RO-BHUV

The petitioner, Shri Kunja Ramakrishna, vide his petition dated 11.09.2024, has alleged that ITC PSPD Bhadrachalam was illegally established at Sarapaka village, Bhurgampahad Mandal, Bhadradri Kothagudem District on land protected under the 1 of 1970 Act and the judgment in Samatha vs State of Andhra Pradesh case, which prohibits leasing of tribal, forest, and government lands in Scheduled Areas to private companies. He states that most residents in the area are Scheduled Tribes living below the poverty line, and that the company's management, with the collusion of government authorities, illegally acquired tribal lands without following legal procedures, misled the tribals, and manipulated land records without awarding due compensation. The petitioner has requested the Hon'ble Commission to take up the matter with Chairman of ITC-PSPD, the Commissioner of CCLA Telangana, the District Collector of Bhadradri Kothagudem, the Project Officer of ITDA Bhadrachalam, the Revenue Divisional Officer Bhadrachalam, and the Mandal Revenue Officer Bhurgampahad.

2. NCST vide notice dated 22.01.2025 sought facts and comments from the Principal Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department, Gov of Telangana within 30 days. Interim replies were received from PO, District Collector, Bhadradri Kothagudem and Member Secretary, Telangana Pollution Control Board.

3. The Commission decided to discuss the issue with the authority and the petitioner on 28.08.2025. Hence a sitting notice was sent on 13.08.2025.

4. The petitioner has attended the hearing, the authorities ie, Additional Director, TWD and Director, TCRTI on behalf of the Secretary, Tribal welfare and SEE, TGPCB and Environmental Engineer, TGPCB have attended on behalf of the Member Secretary, TGPCB.

5. The petitioner has raised the specific issues that the paper and pulp mill operated by ITC in Sarapaka is causing air pollution and water pollution due the discharge of effluents into the Godavari River. The petitioner has submitted that there is obnoxious smell due to which the people and livestock suffer.

6. The polluted waste water is also piped into the Godavari River due to which the people using it are suffering with Skin rashes and the aquatic life is getting affected. It is further mentioned that the localities are not given preference or not even hired for the outsourcing positions.

7. On behalf of the authority from the Tribal welfare Department while mentioning the letter of District Collector the Additional Director, Tribal Welfare has informed that as per the available documents the land on which the industrial unit at Sarapaka is established was legally alienated by the then Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1970s through G.O.Ms No 1561 dated 26.11.1977. Additionally some land was acquired under the provisions of Land Acquisition Act 1894 and compensation was duly paid to the land owners as per law. Further it is informed that as on date 673 individuals belonging to tribal communities are working in the unit either directly or through contract engagements. Additionally more than 75 ancillary units operate around the main unit many of which also employ members form tribal communities. It is mentioned that certain CSR activities including the improvement of school infrastructure, provision of drinking water facilities, supporting tribal festivals and culture, skill development of tribal youth and provision of scholarships for Higher education are taken up.

जाटोतु हुसैन / Jatothu Hussain
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

8. The Pollution Control Board has informed that the said industry has obtained consents of the board ie, CFO and HWA vide order dated 25.4.22 which is valid upto 30.11.2025 and the industry has provided online monitoring for measuring of COD, BOD, TSS , Flow rate , TOC, Temperature, PH, Color of the treated water and connected with the TGPCB Website. Further it is mentioned that Board officials inspected the industry on 16.5.25, 17.5.25 and 28.5.25 and carried out ambient air quality monitoring and as per the Analysis report the values are within standards stipulated by the Board.

9. It is also mentioned that there is a pending writ petition No.37331 of 2012 before the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana which is examining whether Sarapaka falls under the Agency area. The Hon'ble High Court in its interim order dated 4.12.2012 has directed that the matter requires examination and granted interim relief, thus the issue of Agency area applicability is sub-judice before the Hon'ble High Court.

10. After hearing to both the petitioner and authorities the following recommendations are made.

- i. The Tribal welfare Department and CCLA may submit the legal status of Sarapaka village and the status of the case that is said to be filed by the ITC contending the Scheduled area status.
- ii. The ITC may submit the name wise and year wise details of the employment provided to the local Scheduled Tribes of the District from whom the land is acquired and also the list of ancillaries supported and year wise CSR activities done for the betterment of quality of life of the native ST people.
- iii. The Industries Department may submit the details of permissible limits of TDS, BOD and PH limits and the frequency in which the PCB evaluates the same.
- iv. The Irrigation Department may submit the volume of water permitted for usage and the daily usage of the same and the volume of water released into the Godavari after treatment.
- v. The Secretary, Tribal welfare, Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board, Commissioner Industries and MD, ITC may attend to the next scheduled date of hearing.

(Jatothu Hussain)

जाटोतु हुसैन / Jatothu Hussain
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

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F. No. NCST/ATY-2023/IS/89/2024-RO-BHUV

List of participants of the sitting held on 28.8.2025 at under the chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST at Hyderabad.

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
I	<u>National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</u>		
1.	Dr. P.K Reddy Director		
2.	NCST Officials		
II	<u>Tribal Welfare Department</u>		
Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
1.	V. Sarveshwar Reddy ASST Director	TW Dept 9490957118	[Signature]
2.	Dr. V. Samudra Director, RTI, TW	Tribal Welfare 4382620484	[Signature]
III	<u>Collector & District Magistrate</u>		
IV	<u>Telangana State Pollution Control Board</u>		
	P. Janshantul (9949079336) Gr. San (tn) (9177303246)	SEE TAPCB Environmental Engineer TAPCB	[Signature] [Signature]