

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPPIL No. 21 of 2020**ARPA ARPAN MAHA-ABHIYAN **versus** STATE OF CHHATTISGARH**WPPIL/66/2023**

<b>06/11/2024</b>	<p>Heard Mr. Ankit Pandey, learned counsel for the petitioner in WPPIL No.21/2020 and counsel for the intervenor in WPPIL No.66/2023. Ms. A Sandhya Rao, learned counsel appearing on behalf of Mr. Pankaj Agrawal, learned counsel for the respondent No.12 in WPPIL No.21/2020. Also heard Mr. Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General for the State/respondent.</p> <p>Mr. Ankit Pandey, learned counsel for the intervenor in WPPIL No.66/2023 has filed a covering memo annexing the instances of illegal mining which is being carried out by the person and has annexed the paper report from 01/01/2024 to 07/09/2024 and the latest paper report about the illegal mining going at Lokhandi Ghat which has been published on 26/10/2024 in the news paper Dainik Bhaskar, Bilaspur,</p>
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which goes to show that the State has not been able to check the illegal mining going on and only it has been stated by the Secretary in his earlier affidavit that though the action has been taken against the person concerned who are indulged in illegal mining, penalty has been imposed, but it appears that imposing of penalty without there being any substantive and positive action being taken against the persons who are indulged in illegal mining will not suffice. The Secretary(Mines and Minerals Department) is directed to file his fresh affidavit explaining the action taken against them besides imposing penalty on the persons concerned.

Learned State counsel submits that some FIRs have been lodged but that too appears to be an eyewash only as it seems some influential persons in the State are involved in illegal mining and the State is unable to check them.

List the case on 09/12/2024

SD/-

**(Bibhu Datta Guru)**

**Judge**

SD/-

**(Ramesh Sinha)**

**Chief Justice**

Amardeep