

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
WRIT PETITION NO. 3771 OF 2024

Smt. Venutai Vishnu Bhadange .. Petitioner

Versus

The State of Maharashtra Thr. Prin. Sec. .. Respondents
Revenue and Forest Dept. and Ors

...

Mr. Jagdish Reddy for the petitioner.

Ms. Kavita Solunke, Additional Government Pleader for Respondent State.

Mr. B.R. Sanap, Regional Forest Officer, Palghar, present in Court.

CORAM: BHARATI DANGRE &
MANJUSHA DESHPANDE, JJ.
DATED : 2nd FEBRUARY, 2026

P.C:-

1. On 27/01/2026, the following order was passed:-

“1 Heard the learned counsel for the Parties.

2 We want clarity on two aspects i.e. i) the number of trees to be cut by the Petitioner and ii) whether on expiry of the working plan for Jawahar Forest Division as claimed by the Forest and Environment Department for the year 2009-10 and which was in force for 10 years, having expired on 31/03/2019, under what provision the State Government to insist to obtain permission from the Central Government, as at present there is no working plan of Central Government under implementation.

3 Let the instructions be sought on the above points.

Re-notify to 02/02/2026, on Supplementary Board.”

2. In compliance with the above order, Ms. Solunke, learned Additional Government Pleader, had offered clarification.

At the outset, she would submit that the Petitioner had made an online application for cutting of trees in the year 2018-2019; however, on 26/01/2020, the Petitioner informed that due to financial crisis and some unexpected issues, she was unable to cut the trees and, therefore, sought extension of time.

In the meantime, the Management Plan formulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for Jawahar Forest Division expired in 2019, and steps were taken to formulate a new plan.

Ms. Solunke has submitted that a new Management plan (2023) has now come into force and shall remain in operation till 2033.

3. The Petitioner was specifically intimated about this by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests on 2/05/2023, stating that, with reference to the Management Plan of Gut No. 141, (Old Survey No.53/1 & 53/3), area 4.85 ha., of Village – Waki, was already sanctioned for the period 2009-10 to 2018-19. However, the felling operations as per the approved plan could not take place, and the Petitioner Smt. Venutai Bhadange had requested to extend the duration of the Management Plan for the period 2023-24 to 2032-33. As per her request, the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, was requested to extend the duration of the Management Plan for Gut No. 141, as prayed for by the Petitioner.

4. In the wake of the aforesaid, the option available to the petitioner is to submit an application along with the Management

Plan in respect of Gut No. 141 (Old Survey No.53/1 & 53/3), area 4.85 ha, of Village Waki, Taluka Vikramgad, District Thane, for the period 2023-24 to 2032-33, which shall receive due consideration at the end of respondent nos.5 and 7.

With this direction, the petition stands disposed of.

(MANJUSHA DESHPANDE)

(BHARATI DANGRE, J.)