



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE OF BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. 8 OF 2023

**KISHOR MADHAV SONAWANE AND OTHERS
VERSUS**

THE UNION OF INDIA THROUGH ITS SECRETARY AND OTHERS

....

Mr. B. I. Mahajan, Advocate for Petitioners

Mr. S.R.Yadav–Lonikar, AGP for Respondent Nos.2 to 5, 8, 11 to 15

Mr. R. B. Bhosale, Advocate for Respondent Nos. 1, 7 and 10

Mr. A. S. Bajaj, Advocate for Respondent Nos. 14 and 16

Mr. D. B. Thoke, Advocate for Respondent No.17

Mr. L. D. Vakil, Advocate for Respondent No.18

....

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE AND
Y. G. KHOBRAGADE, JJ.**

DATE : 18.07.2024

PER COURT :-

1. The learned Advocate for the Petitioner draws our attention to the counter affidavit dated 06.06.2024, filed by Dr. Purushottam R. Sakhare, Scientist “E” in Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Nagpur. He refers to paragraph Nos. 7 and 8, which indicate that no proposals were received by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, for seeking approval of the National Board for Wild Life, from the State Government of Maharashtra

for the projects of Respondent No.17, Fermi Solar Farms Private Limited and Respondent No.18, JBM Solar Power Maharashtra Private Limited. In paragraph 8, it is mentioned, that violators of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, are liable for punishment under the Act.

2. We, therefore, desire to know as to what steps have the Union of India undertaken to deal with Respondent Nos. 17 and 18 for allegedly failing to seek approvals for their projects with regard to the Wild Life clearance, forest clearance and environmental clearance, when more than 15 Hectors of land is covered by the project. Shri Mahajan submits that these solar projects are spread out over 1070 Acres.

3. Let the Union of India file an additional affidavit in the light of our observations in the foregoing paragraphs, on or before 08.08.2024.

4. List this PIL Petition at 4.30 p.m. on 14.08.2024.

[Y. G. KHOBRAGADE, J.]

[RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.]