

MOST URGENT

E-mail

No.F. 7(292)/For/FP-2014/Part-II/ 2456
Government of Tripura
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Tripura, Agartala

Date: 03/05/2025

To
The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FPD)
Forest Protection Division
MoEF&CC, Government of India
Agni Wing, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003
E-mail: fpd-moefcc@gov.in

Subject: Order of the Hon'ble NGT (PB) dated 17.02.2025, in Original Application No. 425/2023 titled Deepika Khari vs. State of Uttarakhand & Others-reg.

Ref: Your office e-mail communication dated 01.05.2025.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith the required information/reply as sought by the Ministry in connection with Order of the Hon'ble NGT (PB) dated 17.02.2025, in Original Application No. 425/2023 titled Deepika Khari vs. State of Uttarakhand & Others.

This is for favour of your kind information and doing the needful please.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

(L) 03/05/25
(Animesh Das, IFS)
Deputy Conservator of Forests
(Forest Protection)

Order of the Hon'ble NGT (PB) dated 17.02.2025, in Original Application No. 425/2023 titled Deepika Khari vs. State of Uttarakhand & Others

Information sought by the Ministry	Remarks
i) Whether controlled burning is the only available method for preventing or controlling forest fires, of if there are alternative approaches in practice or under consideration.	In North-Eastern States, the main cause of forest fire is considered to be due to Shifting Cultivation in majority of cases. However, we are relying mostly on creation of fire lines and maintaining fire line as a standard practice for mitigating forest fire. Furthermore, controlled burning is also practiced for controlling forest fire as it helps in reducing the forest biomass.
ii) Whether the use of controlled burning as a fire prevention/control method is supported by any scientific studies or evidence demonstrating its effectiveness.	There is no exclusive scientific study which proves the efficacy of control burning. But, control burning has been one of the traditional ways of managing forest fire.

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**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 425/2023

Deepika Khari

Versus

Applicant

State of U.P. & Ors.

Respondents

Date of hearing: 10.09.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: None for the applicant.

Respondents: Ms. Suhasini Sen, Advocate for respondent no. 1.
Mr. Deepak Boora, Advocate for respondent no. 2 to 5.
Mr. Anuj Bhandari, Advocate for respondent no. 7.
Mr. Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik, CCF, Fire and Disaster Management,
Uttarakhand.
None for the respondent no. 6.

ORDER

1. In the present case, Forest Survey of India was impleaded as respondent no.6 and was duly served but none has appeared for respondent no.6 and no response has been filed by respondent no.6 so far.

2. The proceedings before this Tribunal are not adversarial in nature and the concerned authorities impleaded as respondents being under constitutional obligation to protect and improve environment cannot abstain from the proceedings before this Tribunal on assumption of applicability of provisions of civil law warranting taking of *ex-parte* proceedings against absenting respondents. Such authorities are

impleaded as respondents for a purpose taking into consideration their role and also their potential contribution to the environmental remediations. Since, respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India has not appeared despite service of notice, we are constrained to impose cost of Rs. 1 lakh on respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India for inconvenience, delay in disposal and unnecessary adjournment thereby caused.

3. Respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India is directed to appear on the next date of hearing fixed and file its response at least one week before the next date of hearing fixed and ensure its representation before this Tribunal within one month.

4. Costs may also be deposited by respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India with the Secretary, NGT Bar Association, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

5. In compliance with order dated 06.08.2025, Mr. Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik, CCF, Fire and Disaster Management, Uttarakhand has appeared before this Tribunal and we have interacted with him and heard submissions made by him.

✓ 6. In view of the nature and magnitude of the control of forest fires, we consider it essential that the information pertaining to each of the States and UTs having forest with respect to the aspects highlighted in the orders passed by this Tribunal be uploaded on the websites of the Forest Department of the concerned State/UT Forest Department and we direct uploading of such information on the website of the State/UT Forest Department within one month accordingly. CPCB is directed to forward a copy of this order to the PCCFs (HoFF) of the concerned States/UTs for requisite compliance and to compile the information and file report regarding the information so uploaded by the Forest Department of the concerned States/UTs.

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7. List on 27.10.2025 for further hearing.
 8. Additional response may be filed by any of the respondents and suggests may be filed by learned Amicus Curiae at least one week before the date of hearing fixed.
 9. Appropriate interim directions will also be given by this Tribunal on that date.
 10. After completion of above said order, Mr. Sushil Chandra, Deputy Director, FSI has joined through V.C. It appears that he joined V.C. from the beginning but he did not turn on his microphone and video when the hearing commenced in the case. The directions regarding filing of response, representation before this Tribunal and payment of costs be complied with by respondent no.6- FSI.
 11. A copy of this order be sent to the Director General, Forest Survey of India and Member Secretary, CPCB by email for requisite compliance.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

September 10th, 2025
Original Application No. 425/2023
AB