IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

IA No. _____ of 2025

In

IA No.145179 of 2019

In

Writ Petition (civil) No. 188 of 2004

In the Matter of :

M/S RAIGANJ CONSUMER FORUM .... Petitioner

Versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. .... Respondents

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New Delhi

Date:

Filed by

Soumya Datta,

Advocate on record
Counsel for the Committee - GFIL
(Appointed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India)

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APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION

To

The Hon'ble Chief Justice

and his Companion Judges of this Hon'ble Court

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the Committee has filed application IA No. 145179 of 2019 for direction regarding surplus Lands of the companies M/s Golden Forest (India) Limited, M/s Golden Projects Limited and M/s Golden Tourist Resorts and Development Limited in the state of Punjab.

2. That the company Golden Forests (India) Limited closed its business in 2000. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its orders dated 19.08.2004 & 5.09.2006, passed in T.C.(C) No. 2 of 2004 titled Securities & Exchange Board of India Vs. Golden Forests (India) Limited appointed this Committee with the following mandate:-

   (i) To invite claims from the investors of the Company Golden Forests (India) Limited;

   (ii) To identify properties of Golden Forests (India) Limited and its subsidies/associate Companies; and

   (iii) To take possession of such properties owned by the Golden Forests (India) Limited and its subsidiary/associate Companies through the District Administration with the help of police, if need be.

3. That the Company Golden Forests (India) Limited and its subsidiary/associate companies purchased large chunks of lands in districts of SAS Nagar (Mohali), Roopnagar and Hoshiarpur. The Collector Agrarian, Derabassi, Mukerian and Hoshiarpur declared the lands purchased by Golden Forests Group Companies as surplus under the Punjab Lands Reforms Act, 1972. The matters were challenged before Financial Commissioner who decided the matter against the company vide its order dated 29.5.2012.

4. That in compliance of the orders passed by the Financial Commissioner, the state of Punjab has mutated the name of

Punjab Government in the revenue record pertaining to the lands of Golden Forests Group Companies in the State of Punjab.

5. That the Committee approached the Punjab & Haryana High Court against the order passed by the Financial Commissioner vide CWP No. 17778/2014. The Punjab & Haryana High Court vide its order dated 9.4.2015 granted stay against dispossession of land declared surplus. Copy of order dated 9.4.2015 is annexed as **ANNEXURE A-1**. (pg 9 to Pg 9).

6. That there are about 26 villages having total area of about 1927 acres in which about 1697 acres are in exclusive possession and 230 acres in joint ownership of Golden Forests Group of Companies in Tehsil Derabassi.

7. That in the month of May, 2022 the Committee came to know about illegal cultivation of lands of Golden Forests Group of Companies in the villages of Tehsil Derabassi. The Committee also received a large number of complaints from the villagers regarding the nefarious activities of certain people of villages where surplus lands are located. This was taken very seriously, because the matter is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, where the Committee-GFIL and Government of Punjab are parties, and are both duty bound to protect and safeguard the lands of the Companies.

8. That a letter was addressed to Deputy Commissioner, District SAS Nagar (Mohali) on May 25, 2022 which can be treated as the starting point of the matter relating to illegal

cultivation/trespassing of the surplus lands in the State of Punjab. The Committee is particularly concerned with the lands in villages of Tehsil Derabassi.

9. That since May, 2022 there has been voluminous correspondence between the Committee and the District Administration to find a solution to the illegal occupation and cultivation of the surplus lands in Tehsil Derabassi. Finally on 8.4.2025 the Committee convened a meeting with the Revenue Officers in the main office of Committee-GFIL at Jharmari. The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Committee-GFIL and the Members of the Committee as well as SDM, Derabassi, Tehsildar, Derabassi, Naib Tehsildar, Derabassi, Naib Tehsildar, Zirakpur and Panchayat Officer, Derabassi. Several decisions were taken, copy of minutes of meeting are attached as **ANNEXURE A-2**. (pg 10 to Pg 11).

10. That on 11.4.2025 the officials of the Committee were fully prepared to starts harvesting of the wheat crop in 26 villages of Tehsil Derabassi, in accordance with the earlier decision taken by the Committee on 8.4.2025. However, at 10.35 A.M. on 11.4.2025 when the SDM, Derabassi reached the office of Market Committee, Jaraut, a big crowd of farmers had collected and the situation was tense. In a long meeting of over two hours negotiations between the farmers and the SDM, Derabassi took place and the matter was again fixed for further talks at 2.00 P.M.

11. That at 2.00 P.M. a meeting was held with the farmers at main office at Jharmari in a cordial atmosphere and a concession was given to the farmers to harvest the crops and deposit Rs. 12,000/- per Killa (Killa of 4 bigha) in the S/B Account No. 55024544491 (State Bank of India, High Court Branch, Chandigarh) of the Committee-GFIL either through cheques or RTGS.

12. That farmers under took to leave the land by 30.4.2025 and hand over it to the Committee-GFIL. As a result of strenuous efforts of the Revenue staff and the Committee staff, 124 farmers have deposited Rs. 60,64,500/- constituting 505.375 Killas of land. Detailed statement is attached as **ANNEXURE A-3**. (pg 12 to Pg 12).

13. That on 1.5.2025 the Committee-GFIL again met SDM, Derabassi and decided as under:

    a) that strenuous effort required to be taken to recover the amount of Rs. 12,000/- per acre from the farmers who have not deposited this amount for the Kharif 2024 to Rabi 2025 and the farmers shall be warned that in case of failure to deposit the amount, they may not be permitted to cultivate the lands in the ensuing year Kharif 2025 to Rabi 2026.

    b) that the SDM, Derabassi pointed out that the paddy cultivation date is likely to be advanced to 1.6.2025, therefore, some decision should be taken to regularize the cultivation by farmers on the surplus lands before that date.

c) that the SDM, Derabassi suggested that the possession of the lands by trespassers shall be vacated by 5.5.2025 thereafter the farmers shall be permitted to re-enter the lands for preparing it for cultivation of the Kharif crop.

d) that it was also proposed that for the ensuing years, the cultivators shall be charged Rs. 20,000/- per Killa (Killa = 4 Bighas), half to be paid by 25.5.2025 and the balance by 30.11.2025 (i.e. after the kharif harvest).

14. That the Committee prepared proceedings of meeting with SDM Derabassi held on 1.5.2025 and also recorded suggestions made by SDM during the meeting. Copy of the proceeding is annexed as **ANNEXURE A-4**. (pg 13 to Pg 17).

Prayer

Therefore in view of the above it is prayed that:-

a. The proposals/suggestions made by SDM Derabassi during the meeting dated 1.5.2025 (ANNEXURE A-4) may be allowed.

b. Pass any other order which the Hon'ble Court may deemed fit.

New Delhi
Date:

Filed by

Soumya Datta,
Advocate on record
Counsel for the Committee - GFIL
(Appointed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India)

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Sh. Brij Mohan Bedi S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram Bedi Aged about 75 years o/o the Committee, Flat No. 1065/1, Sector – 39 B Chandigarh, working as Member, Committee-GFIL do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. I am Member, Committee-GFIL, I am duly authorized and being fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case, I am competent to swear this affidavit.

2. I say that the Interlocutory Application for directions is drafted under my instructions and the contents thereof are true to the best of my knowledge and belief based on records.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION: -

Verified on this 12th day of May 2025 at Chandigarh that the contents of paras 1 to 14 and prayer clause of the accompanied application and para 1 & 2 of the above affidavit are true to my knowledge based on records and nothing material has been concealed there from.

DEPONENT

NOTARY GOVT. CHANDIGARH

ATTESTED AS IDENTIFIED

MEENA KUMARI
NOTARY CHANDIGARH

Certified that the Affidavit/GPA/SPA has been read over and explained to the Deponent/Executant who seems perfectly to understand the same at the time of making thereof.

The contents of this Affidavit / Document has been explained to the Deponent / executant He / she has admitted the execution of the document / executant has signed in my presence.

425 dt 12/5/2025

12 MAY 2025

I identify the deponent / document executant has signed the document in my presence.

Signature

12 MAY 2025

ANNEXURE-A-1

CM 4609/2015 and
CWP 17778/2014 104+215 9

Golden Forest India Ltd.and others v State of Punjab and others

Present:- Mr.PN Aggarwal,Advocate with
Mr.Prashant Chauhan,Advocate for the applicant/petitioner

Mr.Yatinder Sharma,Addl.AG Punjab for respondents

CM 4609/2015

Aforesaid application has been filed by the applicant/ petitioner-group of companies, seeking interim protection.

Notice of the application.

Learned Addl.AG Punjab accepts notice and prays for time to file reply.

Main Case.

Learned counsel for the respondents prays for time to file reply to the main writ petition.

Adjourned to 14.5.2015.

To be shown in the urgent list.

In the meanwhile dispossession of the petitioner shall remain stayed.

09.04.2015. **(Jaswant Singh)**
joshi **Judge**

RAJINDER PRASHAD JOSHI
2015.04.09 17:49
I attest to the accuracy and
authenticity of this document
High Court, Chandigarh.

ANNEXURE I

Noo1 dt. 9/4/2025

ANNEXURE A-2

10

Minutes of the meeting held today on 08.04.2025 in the Main Office of GFIL at Jharmari with SDM, Dera Bassi, to discuss harvesting of the wheat crops in the villages of Dera Bassi on lands of GFIL declared surplus.

On behalf of the administration, the following officials are present:-

1 Sh. Amit Gupta PCS, SDM, Dera Bassi.

2 Sh. Lakhwinder Singh Gill, Tehsildar, Dera Bassi.

3 Sh. Lovepreet Singh, Naib Tehsildar, Dera Bassi.

4 Sh. Harjot Singh, Naib Tehsildar, Zirakpur.

5 Sh. Mandeep Singh Dardi, Panchayat officer, Dera Bassi.

1. SDM Dera Bassi briefed the Committee regarding the ground situation and requested the Committee to assist in the harvesting of the crop. According to SDM some steps are required to be taken.

26 villages in the Dera Bassi, where the agriculture lands belonging to GFIL are located, have been divided into 4 zones and each zone has designated Nodal Officer, Patwari, Kanungo & Police Officer, as follows:-

Zone 1:- Samgoli, Bijanpur , Sangotha,Kasoli, Jeuli, Kheri Gujjran, Jandli, Nimbua, Ramgarh, Rampur (Sh Gurpreet Singh Mangat)

Zone 2:- Jarout, Jharmari, Batouli, Kurli, Dheremajra (Sh. Lakhwinder Singh)

Zone 3:- Jaula kalan, Malakpur, Jastna Kalan, Kauli Majra, Miapur, Mukandpur, Tofapur (Sh Lovepreet Singh)

Zone 4:- Sanoli, Meerpura, Basoli, Fatehpur (Sh Harjot Singh)

(Detailed List of Villages, Zonal Officers, Patwaris, Kanungos and Police Officers is attached)

2. SDM has requested that the Committee should depute an official of the Committee to be attached with each zone. These officials are as follows:

Zone 1 Sh. Kuldeep Singh.

Zone 2 Sh. Surbir Singh.

Zone 3 Sh. Gagan Modgil.

Zone 4 Sh. Shiv Singh.

3. Sh. Harjit Singh shall be overall in charge of harvesting operation from the side of the Committee. Sh. Ramesh Gupta, Security Incharge, shall assist Sh.Harjit Singh. All officers shall function from the Main Office at Jharmari. SDM has requested the Committee to arrange for combine harvesters and tractor-trollies for the harvesting of the crops. Sh. Surbir Singh shall make these arrangements from Distt. Ambala and Dera Bassi.SDM has assured that the drivers/owners of the hired machinery shall have full authorisation and he shall ensure their safety and protection.

4. It has been decided that the Committee shall meet once a week for reviewing the progress. The next meeting will be held on 16 April 2025.

Justice K.S. Garewal (Retd.)	Sh.P.L. Ahuja	Sh. B.M. Bedi	Sh.Amit Gupta
Chairman	Member	Member	SDM, Derabassi

08.04.2025

ANNEXURE-A-3 ANNEXURE-2

12

Sr. No.	26 Villages in Dera Bassi Village Name	No. of Farmers	Amt. Collected (In Rupees)	Total area (In Killa)	Amount deposit in Percentage as per Total Ared of village
1	Samgoli				NIL
2	Bijanpur				NIL
3	Sangotha	22	712500	59.375	51.46%
4	Kasoli				NIL
5	Jeuli				NIL
6	Kheri gujjran				NIL
7	Jandli				NIL
8	Nimbua				NIL
9	Ramgarh				NIL
10	Rampur				NIL
11	Jarout	30	1917000	159.75	57.66%
12	Jharmari	12	492000	41	14.89%
13	Batoli	11	498000	41.5	42.74%
14	Kurli	30	1407000	117.25	74%
15	Dhire majra	2	132000	11	88.63%
16	Joula kalan	2	252000	21	16.12%
17	Malakpur	1	12000	1	2.57
18	Jastana kalan		0		NIL
19	Kouli majra	2	24000	2	6.07%
20	Mianpur		0		NIL
21	Mukandpur		0		NIL
22	Tofapur		0		NIL
23	Sanoli		0		NIL
24	Mirpur	11	600000	50	37.38%
25	Basoli	1	18000	1.5	0.72%
26	Fatehpur		0		NIL
	Total:-	124	6064500	505.375	

Statement upto 30.04.2025
Submitted

Surbir Singh
Supdtt.

01.05.2025

ANNEXURE -A-4

13

COM/CHD/P-PB-28(1)/2025

May 1, 2025

Subject: Proceedings of the meeting with SDM, Derabassi held on May 1, 2025 regarding illegal cultivation on the lands of Golden Forest Group of Companies.

1. The company Golden Forests (India) Limited closed its business in 2000. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its orders dated 19.08.2004 & 5.09.2006, passed in T.C.(C) No. 2 of 2004 titled Securities & Exchange Board of India Vs. Golden Forests (India) Limited appointed this Committee with the following mandate:-

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(ii) To identify properties of Golden Forests (India) Limited and its subsidies/associate Companies; and

(iii) To take possession of such properties owned by the Golden Forests (India) Limited and its subsidiary/associate Companies through the District Administration with the help of police, if need be.

2. The Company Golden Forests (India) Limited and its subsidiary/associate companies purchased large chunks of lands in districts of SAS Nagar (Mohali), Roopnagar and Hoshiarpur. A list of villages where Golden Forests Group of companies purchased lands is enclosed. The Collector Agrarian, Derabassi, Mukerian and Hoshiarpur declared the lands purchased by Golden Forests Group Companies as surplus under the Punjab Lands Reforms Act, 1972. The matters were challenged before Financial Commissioner who decided the matter against the company vide its order dated 29.5.2012.

14

3. In compliance of the orders passed by the Financial Commissioner, the state of Punjab has mutated the name of Punjab Government in the revenue record pertaining to the lands of Golden Forests Group Companies in the State of Punjab.

4. The Committee approached the Punjab & Haryana High Court against the order passed by the Financial Commissioner vide CWP No. 17778/2014. The Punjab & Haryana High Court vide its order dated 9.4.2015 granted stay against dispossession of land declared surplus. Copy of order dated 9.4.2015 is enclosed herewith for ready reference.

5. In the month of May, 2022 the Committee came to know about illegal cultivation of lands of Golden Forests Group of Companies in the villages of Tehsil Derabassi. This was taken very seriously, because the matter is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, where the Committee-GFIL and Government of Punjab are parties, and are both duty bound to protect and safeguard the lands of the Companies.

6. Therefore, a letter was addressed to Deputy Commissioner, District SAS Nagar (Mohali) on May 25, 2022 which can be treated as the starting point of the matter relating to illegal cultivation/trespassing of the surplus lands in the State of Punjab. The Committee is particularly concerned with the lands in villages of Tehsil Derabassi.

7. The number of villages is 26 and the total area of land is 1697.23 Killas (exclusive possession) and 230.18 Killas in (joint ownership), total area being 1927.41 Killas. [Note: 1 Killa = 4 **Bighas** = 80 Biswas = 4033.33 Sq. yards].

8. Since May, 2022 there has been voluminous correspondence between the Committee and the District Administration to find a solution to the illegal occupation and cultivation of the surplus lands in Tehsil Derabassi.

9. The Committee has also been receiving a large number of complaints from the villagers regarding the nefarious activities of certain people of villages where surplus lands are located.

10. Finally on 8.4.2025 the Committee convened a meeting with the Revenue Officers in the main office of Committee-GFIL at Jharmari. The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Committee-GFIL and the Members of the Committee as well as SDM, Derabassi, Tehsildar, Derabassi, Naib Tehsildar, Derabassi, Naib Tehsildar, Zirakpur and Panchayat Officer, Derabassi.

11. Several decisions were taken, copy of minutes of meeting are attached as **Annexure-1.**

12. On 11.4.2025 the officials of the Committee were fully prepared to start harvesting of the wheat crop in 26 villages of Tehsil Derabassi, in accordance with the earlier decision taken by the Committee on 8.4.2025. However, at 10.35 A.M. on 11.4.2025 when the SDM, Derabassi reached the office of Market Committee, Jaraut, a big crowd of farmers had collected and the situation was tense. In a long meeting of over two hours negotiations between the farmers and the SDM, Derabassi took place and the matter was again fixed for further talks at 2.00 P.M.

13. At 2.00 P.M. a meeting was held with the farmers at main office at Jharmari in a cordial atmosphere and a concession was given to the farmers to harvest the crops and deposit Rs. 12,000/- per Killa (Killa of 4 bigha) in the **S/B Account No. 55024544491** (State Bank of India, High Court Branch, Chandigarh) of the Committee-GFIL either through cheques or RTGS.

16

14. Farmers undertook to leave the land by 30.4.2025 and hand over it to the Committee-GFIL.

15. As a result of strenuous efforts of the Revenue staff and the Committee staff, 124 farmers have deposited Rs. 60,64,500/- constituting 505.375 Killas of land. Detailed statement is attached as **Annexure-2**.

16. On 1.5.2025 the Committee-GFIL again met SDM, Derabassi and has decided that strenuous effort still needs to be taken to recover the amount of Rs. 12,000/- per acre from the farmers who have not deposited this amount for the Kharif 2024 to Rabi 2025.

17. The farmers shall be warned that in case of failure to deposit the amount, they may not be permitted to cultivate the lands in the ensuing year Kharif 2025 to Rabi 2026.

18. It is also pointed out by the SDM, Derabassi that the paddy cultivation date is likely to be advanced to 1.6.2025, therefore, some decision should be taken to regularize the cultivation by farmers on the surplus lands before that date.

19. SDM, Derabassi has also suggested that the possession of the lands by trespassers shall be vacated by 5.5.2025 thereafter the farmers shall be permitted to re-enter the lands for preparing it for cultivation of the Kharif crop.

20. It has also been decided that for the ensuing years, the cultivators shall be charged Rs. 20,000/- per Killa (Killa = 4 Bighas), half to be paid by 25.5.2025 and the balance by 30.11.2025 (i.e. after the kharif harvest).

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21. The Committee may request the Hon'ble Supreme Court to kindly grant its official approval to the plan for the coming year and retrospective approval of all the payments received from the farmers for the Rabi 2025.

Justice K.S. Garewal (Retd)
Chairman

P.L. Ahuja
Member

B.M. Bedi
Member