



**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN
BENCH AT JAIPUR**

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 6539/2017

Suo Motu

-----Petitioner

Versus

State Of Raj And Ors

-----Respondent



For Petitioner(s) : Mr. R.B.Mathur, *Amicus Curiae*
For Respondent(s) : Mr. RD Rastogi, ASG assisted by
Mr. Devesh Yadav through VC
Mr. Anand Sharma
Mr. RP Singh, AAG with
Mr. JS Shekhawat
Dr. VB Sharma, AAG with
Mr. Prakhar Gupta
Mr. Avinash Choudhary

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. AKIL KURESHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UMA SHANKER VYAS**

Order

20/12/2021

D.B.Civil Misc. Stay Application No.14160/2021:-

Considering the issues arising in this application Hindustan Salt Limited ('HSL' for short) shall be joined as respondent in this application as well as in the main petition.

Learned *amicus curiae* shall supply a copy of this application alongwith annexures to the advocates for the respondents.

This application is filed by the *amicus curiae* in this Public Interest Litigation *suo motu* initiated by the High Court. In the Public Interest Litigation the High Court is examining the environmental concerns in relation to two of the important water bodies situated in the State namely Sambhar lake and Keoladeo



National Park. In this application it is pointed out that HSL which is a Government of India company, has initiated the steps for setting up a large solar plant at Sambhar lake area. Our attention is drawn to a newspaper item published in the Times of India on 11.12.2021 in which it is reported that the plans are initiated to set up a 4000 MW solar plant at Ramsar site. This would require an estimated 16,000 acres of land. Such a large scale solar power project on the wetland would damage the ecosystem of the region. Sambhar lake attracts many birds and in past few years archaeological department has also invested sizable funds to make it a tourist destination.

Learned *amicus curiae* today produced a copy of the intention of interest published by the HSL inviting bids for setting up the solar power project. The same is taken on record. As per this document, bids are invited from eligible agencies. Last date for receiving the bids is 28.12.2021 and bids would be opened on 29.12.2021.

We would like to examine the issues concerning setting up such a large scale power project near the lake area and its possible impact on the environment and ecosystem of the lake. Under the circumstances let there be notice to the respondents returnable on 24.01.2022.

Mr. Anand Sharma, advocate waives notice on behalf of HSL.

By way of an ad-interim directions it is provided that the respondents may continue to accept the bids till the last date specified in the notification, however thereafter no further steps



will be taken in furtherance of the same. In other words the bids shall not be opened without leave of the court.

(UMA SHANKER VYAS),J

(AKIL KURESHI),CJ

Kamlesh Kumar-N.Gandhi/31



सत्यमेव जयते