

**BEFORE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, FARIDKOT HOUSE,  
COPERNICUS MARG, NEW DELHI – 110001**

**Ref: O.A. No. 670/2018 Atul Singh Chauhan Vs. Ministry of Forests and  
Climate Change & Others**

The humble submissions are as follows:

It is submitted that vide order dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 the Hon'ble Tribunal has constituted a Oversight Committee under my Chairmanship to monitor and assess the illegal mining going on in and around Yamuna river and to assess the environmental effect/loss and compensation in Prayagraj area. In this regard, several rigorous steps have been taken by the Committee which resulted the dismissal and suspension of some of the officers working in Mining department and the further action is in process. The various reports in this regard have been submitted in the Hon'ble Tribunal.

The origin of river Yamuna is from Yamnotri in Uttarakhand and ends at Prayagraj. While reaching Prayagraj, it flows through the various cities of Uttarakhand , Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

During the movement from Uttarakhand to Prayagraj, it is being diverted to various canals by the construction of barrages on the way which resulted to virtual no pure Yamuna water. It is also found that number of Nalas fall and the effluents of the factories/industries situated in Harayana are being discharged in the Yamuna. As a result, the water of the Yamuna river has become completely polluted. On reaching at Delhi, virtually the Yamuna river loses its significance and it is converted into Nala, wherein the effluents of the various industries and the Nalas are discharged. The water which is seen in the so called Yamuna river is mainly the water of Nalas and effluents of the factories, it does not remain as the Yamuna river.

Moving ahead, at Agra, there are only 4 to 5 inch waters in so called Yamuna river. The water recharging is almost nil due to the layers of polythene material, resulting the ground water level at Agra has gone down much below and



is causing water crisis. Similar is the position at Etawah. When the Yamuna river reaches Hamirpur, then it gets water from Betwa river, which originates from Madhya Pradesh. Due to the fall of Betwa river water and other hill water, the Yamuna river gains some water and from this area it contains sand particles which deposits both sides of the banks of the river and becomes the source of sand mine. From Fatehpur to Prayagraj, entire belt in the river side areas are considered to be the main sand mining zone. Both in Fatehpur and Kaushambi districts, like Prayagraj, a very heavy sand mining is in operation and big mining operations are going on. The allotment of the area was made by e-auction by the Government.

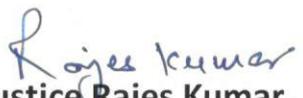
It may be mentioned here that the quality of the sand is far better at Fatehpur and Kaushambi than Prayagraj. Huge illegal mining operations are going on from the stream of the river by using JCB machine and Pokland machine. The monitoring of the illegal mining of sand which is going on in Kaushambi and Fatehpur onwards also requires monitoring of illegal mining from the river bed.

I am of the view that in view of the aforesaid facts, the following is required:-

- (a) Complete monitoring of Yamuna water from its origin to the end – i.e. from Yamnotri to Prayagraj is required. The Nalas carrying sewer water and industrial effluents without treatment at various places may be completely stopped.
- (b) A complete plan be prepared for Yamuna river from Haryana to Hamirpur before it meets Betwa river and other hill rivers near Kalpi.
- (c) The illegal sand mining be monitored strictly from Hamirpur to Prayagraj including Fatehpur, Kaushambi, Prayagraj.

The necessary order is required to be made to meet the problem. This is for information and necessary action.

16.07.2019

  
**Justice Rajes Kumar,**  
**Chairman**  
**Oversight Committee**