

OA-73/2024/EZ

To

The Hon'ble Judicial Member

National Green Tribunal, Kolkata

Subject: Complaint regarding kidney related deaths due to water pollution in Kaliapani area, Jajpur district, Odisha

Sir,

I am writing to bring to your esteemed attention the alarming situation prevailing in the Kaliapani area of Jajpur district, Odisha, regarding the severe water pollution leading to numerous kidney-related deaths among the residents.

The purpose of this letter is to file a formal complaint before the National Green Tribunal and request an urgent enquiry into the matter to address the root causes of this crisis and take necessary actions to prevent further loss of lives.

That Kaliapani comes under Sukinda Tehsildar of District Jajpur Odisha.

The Kaliapani area, known for its industrial activities, particularly chromite mining, has become one of the major industrial hubs in Odisha. Unfortunately, the unchecked

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industrialization has resulted in severe pollution of the water, particularly the ground water sources in the region.

Within the span of just one month, approximately 10-15 individuals have tragically lost their lives due to kidney-related ailments caused by the consumption of contaminated groundwater and water from nearby ponds and other water bodies. The list of deceased individuals, including their names and villages, is as follows:

Laxmipriya Nayak from village Bambilo, who passed away on 21st December,

Bhujuram Dehury aged 31 from Ostapal under Kanas panchayat, who passed away on 27th December,

Sunil Kumar Sahu aged 42 years,

Mangal Marandi aged 52,

Laxman Marandi aged 63,

Gurucharan Marandi aged 44, all from Ghagiasahi village,

Chakradhar Pradhan aged 25,

Gobind Dehuri aged 63 years from Village Saruabil, and

Bhakta Mohanty aged 68 years.

These deaths are just a few examples of the devastating impact of water pollution on the residents of the area.

⊗ (The groundwater in the Kaliapani area has been found to be excessively toxic, with elevated levels of iron, chromite, total coliform, and faecal coliform.) The Pollution Control Board's reports indicate alarmingly high levels of these contaminants in the groundwater, rendering it unfit for human consumption. That it is alleged that the effluents discharged by the companies are not being disposed and recycled for which the surface water as well as the groundwater get toxic. As per the Pollution Control Board report, the groundwater in Kamarda and Saruabil mining area has the highest iron content. The test report says that the iron content in groundwater in Saruabil is 2.621ml per litre. Similarly, the iron content is 5.324 ml per litre in Kamarda. This apart, the groundwater in Tisco and Kaliapani areas has high content of total coliform and faecal coliform. The groundwater in Tisco mining area has 1600MPN (most probable number)/100 ml of total coliform and 540MPN/ 100 ML of faecal coliform. In Kaliapani, the groundwater has 7.8 MPN/100 ML of total coliform and 1.8 MPN/100 ML of faecal coliform. Many private laboratories which have examined the groundwater have found it unfit for human consumption.

Moreover, the lack of proper water infrastructure in the affected villages exacerbates the crisis, forcing villagers to rely on tube wells or nearby ponds for their water needs. Even when pipelines are available, they often remain defunct, worsening the water crisis in the area.

The dumping of pollutants in roads, farmlands, and water bodies has severely impacted the ecological balance of the area, leading to widespread health hazards among the villagers.

In light of the above, I respectfully pray before Hon'ble Tribunal to implement an immediate enquiry into the kidney-related deaths in the Kaliapani area, implementation of measures to mitigate water pollution, ensure access to safe drinking water for the residents, health benefits for the affected families, and enforcement of strict regulations to prevent further environmental degradation in the region.

This is my humnle prayer before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal

Yours sincerely,



Mantu Das S/o Late Ratnakar Das aged 34 years

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