

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH: KOLKATA.**

**O.A. No.157 of 2024/EZ**  
**(Earlier O.A No. 771/2024/PB)**

In News item titled "Odisha 9 hospitalised  
after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant"  
appearing in the Times of India dated 01.07.2024.

.....Applicant

**-Versus-**

State of Odisha & Ors. .....Respondents

**I N D E X**

<b><u>Sl.No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description of documents</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
1.	Counter Affidavit filed by Respondent No.4.	01-05
2.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-A/4.</u></b> True copy of letter no. 3028, dtd.14.08.2024.	
3.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-B/4.</u></b> True copy of letter no. 3310, dtd.10.09.2024.	
4.	<b><u>ANNEXURE- C/4</u></b> True copy of inspection dated 27.08.2024.	
5.	<b><u>ANNEXURE- D/4</u></b> True copy of reference No. HR-IR&R/271, dated 18.09.2024.	
6.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-E/4</u></b> Copy of the letter No.3465/Judl., dated 19.09.2024.	

Cuttack.  
Dt. 20 . 09.2024.

By the Respondent No.4 through

Addr. Standing Counsel

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH: KOLKATA.**

**O.A. No.157 of 2024/EZ  
(Earlier O.A No. 771/2024/PB)**

In News item titled "Odisha 9 hospitalised  
after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant"  
appearing in the Times of India dated 01.07.2024.

.....Applicant

**-Versus-**

State of Odisha & Ors.

.....Respondents

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED BY  
RESPONDENT NO. 4.**

I, Sri Manoj Satyawan Mahajan, aged about 31 years, S/o. Satyawan Shamrao Mahajan, at present working as Collector & District Magistrate, Sundargarh, At/Po/Dist.- Sundargarh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am working as Collector & District Magistrate, Sundargarh, Odisha, hereinafter referred to as the answering Respondent No.4.
2. That, I am the Respondent No.4 in this Original Application and well acquainted with the facts of the case and as such competent to swear this affidavit in my official capacity.
3. That, I have gone through the notice of the Registrar National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata order dtd.09.07.2024 of this



*Manoj Satyawan Mahajan*  
Collector  
Sundargarh

*[Handwritten signature]*

X

Hon'ble Tribunal and understood the contents thereof. I am well acquainted with the facts of this case on the basis of official records.

4. That, it is humbly submitted that, as per order dtd.09.07.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in Original Application No. 157/2024/EZ (Earlier O.A No. 771/2024/PB) the Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Rourkela vide letter no. 3028 dtd.14.08.2024 & Director, Steel Authority of India, Rourkela vide letter no. 3310 dtd.10.09.2024 have been requested to submit the factual reports for compliance of the matter relating to the hospitalization of nine people in a suspected gas leak incident at Rourkela Steel Plant.

True copies of Letter No. 3028, dated 14.08.2024 & Letter No.3310, dated 10.09.2024 are annexed herewith as ANNEXURE-A/4 & B/4 respectively.

5. That, it is humbly submitted that, the Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha has inspected the Blast Furnace-5 of RSP on dated 27.08.2024 for compliance of the order of Hon'ble NGT and submitted the report.

True copy of the inspection report dated 27.08.2024 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE-C/4.

6. That, it is pertinent to mentioned here that the DGM (HR) IR, R&GA, Steel Authority of India, Ltd Rourkela vide reference no. HR-IR&R/271 dated



*Shubraj*  
R. Choudhary  
Sandargarth

*[Handwritten signature]*

X

18.09.2024 has submitted the detailed report, on gas leakage. In this incident, as per the said report there have been no casualties so far as the affected persons are concerned & on 03.07.2024 all of them reported for duty. To avoid any untoward situation in future, additional safety protocols have been initiated by Rourkela Steel Plant Limited.

True copy of reference No.HR-IR&R/271 dated 18.09.2024 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE-D/4.

7. That it is humbly submitted that as per the direction of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Kolkata the copy of the Original Application along with annexures and notice has been served upon the Respondent No. 5 i.e. Rourkela Steel Plant, Sundargarh vide letter No.3465/ Judl., dated 19.09.2024.

True copy of the letter No.3465/Judl., dated 19.09.2024 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE-E/4.

8. That the averments/assertions/allegations made in the original application which are not specifically admitted by this deponent shall be deemed to have been denied. This deponent craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file further affidavit, if required at the time of hearing.

9. That in view of the above submissions made by the Respondent No.4, the prayer made in the original application is devoid of any merit and liable to be rejected.

*Manoj Kumar*  
19/09/2024  
Sundargarh



*Manoj*

X

10. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and based on official records.

*Mahajan*  
**DEPONENT**  
 Collector  
 Sundargarh

**VERIFICATION**

I, Sri Manoj Satyawan Mahajan, aged about 31 years, S/o. Satyawan Shamrao Mahajan, at present working as Collector & District Magistrate, Sundargarh, At/Po/Dist.- Sundargarh, do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge as derived from official records and that nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Cuttack on this the 20th day of September, 2024.

Identified by:

*[Signature]*  
**ADDL. STANDING COUNSEL**

*Mahajan*  
**VERIFIER**  
 Sundargarh

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Sri Manoj Satyawan Mahajan, aged about 31 years, S/o. Satyawan Shamrao Mahajan, at present working as Collector & District Magistrate, Sundargarh, At/Po/Dist.- Sundargarh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am the Respondent No.4 in this case.

I am well acquainted with the facts of the case



X

and as such competent to swear this affidavit in my official capacity.

- 2. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and based on official records.

Identified by:

*Manoj*

VERIFICANT  
Collector  
Sundargarh

ADDL. STANDING COUNSEL

*[Signature]*



The above named deponent being identified by Mr./Ms. *Sworned before me and signed* appears before me on *11 AM* AM/PM. on this the *20/9/2024* day of *20* solemnly affirms that the facts stated are true to his/her knowledge and belief.

*[Signature]*

NOTARY  
CUTTACK TOWN  
NETAJI SABYASACHI GHOSE  
NOTARY, ADVOCATE  
GOVT. OF ORISSA  
Regd. No-ON-28/03  
CUTTACK TOWN



OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, SUNDARGARH  
(JUDICIAL SECTION)

E-mail: [dm-sundargarh@nic.in](mailto:dm-sundargarh@nic.in), [dcjudicialsng@gmail.com](mailto:dcjudicialsng@gmail.com), FAX-  
06622-273166, PIN- 770001

No. 3028 Date. 14/08/2024

To,

The Additional District Magistrate, Rourkela  
At/Po-Rourkela, Dist-Sundargrah

The Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board,  
Rorukela, Dist-Sundargrah

Sub: Regarding submission of report in Suo Motu O.A No. 157 /2024/ EZ  
(Earlier O.A No. 771/2024/PB) In-News item titled "Odisha 9  
hospitalised after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant" appearing  
in the The Times of India 01.07.2024.

Ref: Letter From Registrar National Green Tribunal Eastern, Eastern Zone  
Bench, Kolkata & Order dt.09.07.2024 of National Green Tribunal,  
Principal Bench, New Delhi.

Sir,

With reference to the letter on the subject cited above, I am to say that  
Registrar National Green Tribunal Eastern, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata has  
sent the aforesaid letter and requested to submit the detailed report regarding  
Suo Motu O.A No. 157 /2024/ EZ (Earlier O.A No. 771/2024/PB) In-News item  
titled "Odisha 9 hospitalised after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant"  
appearing in the The Times of India 01.07.2024. The case is **listed on  
dt.10.09.2024 for hearing** before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,  
Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata.

Therefore, you are requested to submit the detailed report of the  
aforesaid case to the undersigned **within seven days** positively.

This matter is extremely URGENT

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
Collector, Sundargarh  
14/8/24

True Copy Attested

*[Signature]*  
DC, Judl  
Sundargarh



ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ଓ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ୍ କି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼  
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, SUNDARGARH  
(JUDICIAL SECTION)

E-mail: dm-sundargarh@nic.in, dcjudicialsng@gmail.com, FAX-06622-273166, PIN- 770001

No. 3310

Date. 10.09.2024

To

The Director,  
Steel Authority of India, Rourkela  
Sundargarh

Sub: Regarding submission of report in Suo Motu O.A No. 157/2024/EZ (earlier O.A No.771/2024/PB) in the new item titled "Odisha 9 hospitalised after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant" appearing in the The Times of India 01.07.2024.

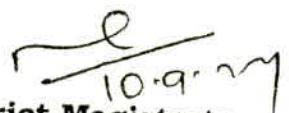
Ref:- Letter from Registrar National Green Tribunal Eastern, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata & Order dt.09.07.2024 of National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

Sir,

With reference to the letter on the subject cited above, I am to say that Registrar National Green Tribunal Eastern, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata has sent the aforesaid letter and requested to submit the detailed report regarding Suo Motu O.A No. 157/2024/EZ (earlier O.A No.771/2024/PB) in the new item titled "Odisha 9 hospitalised after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant" appearing in the The Times of India 01.07.2024.

Therefore you are requested to submit the detailed report of the aforesaid case to the undersigned **within two days** positively.

Yours faithfully,

  
10.9.24  
Addl. District Magistrate,  
Sundargarh

True Copy Attested

  
DC, Jd/1  
Sundargarh



Report on  
**M/s. Rourkela Steel Plant (SAIL),**  
Rourkela Dist: Sundargarh, Odisha

Blast Furnace-V of Rourkela Steel Plant was inspected on dtd.27.08.2024 by Er. C. S. Chauhan, DEE in connection with verification of compliance status of directions issued by the Board vide letter No. letter No.10200, dt.05.07.2024. Mr. P.C Dash, GM-I/C (Env. Engineering Department & others of RSP were present during inspection.

### Background

There was CO gas leakage in scrubber & clarifier area of Blast Furnace-5 at around 10:40 AM on dt.01.07.2024, causing exposure to about 9 no. of workers engaged in the proximity of the U-Seal-1 of Blast Furnace-5 area. Based on the report of the inspection conducted by Regional Office on 01.07.2024, Board has issued direction to the industry vide letter No.10200, dt.05.07.2024

Compliance to the direction given by the Board vide letter No. 10200, dt.05.07.2024

S.N.	Directions	Compliance Status
1.	Deploy only trained workers in CO emission prone areas and provide portable CO detector.	It was reported by the plant authority that they are deploying trained workers along with portable CO detector in CO emission prone areas.
2.	Upgrade the existing alarm systems and CO Detectors for any CO gas leakage U-Seal areas of Blast Furnace - 5.	<p>Industry has three (03) U-Seal areas in the Blast Furnace - 5 area. Each area had one offline CO detector and alarm system. Now industry has installed one new online CO detector and alarm system at each U-Seals.</p> <p>Online CO detectors are connected with the server of control room for central monitoring.</p> <p>Public Announcement (PA) in Odia and Hindi has been provided in the area for warning.</p> <p>CCTV have been installed near all 3 U-Seals for visual monitoring of the respective areas from control room.</p> <p>All three U-seals have been barricaded to prevent un-authorized entry into the area.</p>
3.	Ensure proper housekeeping in Gas Cleaning Plant (GCP) area.	Housekeeping in the Gas Cleaning Plant (GCP) area was observed to be improved.
4.	Clear the silt and sediments in the drains in GCP area.	Cleaning of silt and sediments from the drains in GCP area was being carried out.

True Copy Attested

*[Signature]*  
 DC, Judd  
 Sundargarh

*[Signature]*  
 Er. C. S Chauhan

ANNEXURE-D/4

राउरकेला इस्पात संयंत्र  
ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

Ref. No. HR-IR&amp;R/271

Dated: 18.09.2024



To.

The Addl. District Magistrate,  
Rourkela

**Sub: Submission of report in news item titled "Odisha 9 hospitalized after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant" appearing in The Times of India on 01.07.2024 reg.**

Sir,

This has refence to the letter No. 3028 dated 14.08.2024 of Collector, Sundargarh alongwith a order copy of the National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi regarding submission of report in news item titled "Odisha 9 hospitalized after suspected gas leak at Rourkela Steel Plant" appearing in The Times of India on 01.07.2024.

In this connection, the details of the localized gas leakage incident in Blast Furnace-5 of RSP on 1<sup>st</sup> July '24 is attached herewith.

This is for your kind information.

Yours faithfully,  
For SAIL, RSP, Rourkela

*[Signature]*  
18/09/2024  
(Robin Kumar)

DGM (HR) IR, R & GA

Encl. As above

*[Handwritten mark]*

**True Copy Attested**

*[Signature]*  
DC, Hrdl  
Sundargarh

CIN: 1.27109D1, 1973GO1006454

स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड, राउरकेला इस्पात संयंत्र, राउरकेला, ओडिशा-769011, दूरभाष: 0661-2641587, फैक्स: 0661-2510085, ई-मेल: rsp.coc@gmail.com  
Steel Authority of India Limited, Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela-769011, Odisha, Phone:0661-2641587, Fax :0661-2510085, e-Mail:rsp.coc@gmail.com

हर किसी की जिन्दगी से जुड़ा हुआ है सेल

There's little bit of SAIL in everybody's life

**Details of the localized gas leakage incident in Blast Furnace-5 of RSP on 1<sup>st</sup> July'24**

- At around 10:40 AM on 1<sup>st</sup> July'24, employees working in scrubber & clarifier area of BF-5 found 3 labours of M/s TPL lying unconscious on the nearby road. Immediately ambulance was called on the spot by the area I/C and the above 3 workmen were taken to first aid and then admitted to Ispat General Hospital for treatment.
- Localized Gas leakage was observed from the drain of nearby U seal and the U Seal was immediately isolated.
- 6 workmen who rescued the affected were also taken to first aid and 5 of them were admitted in IGH as a precautionary measure. 1 lady contractual employee was released after being administered first aid at plant OHSC. Sri Jairam Barik, Sr.Mgr , was discharged the same day evening and all the rest admitted were released from the hospital on the very next day and all of them reported for duty on 3<sup>rd</sup> July'24.

Details of the affected are as below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the injured person	Designation	Age
1.	Sri Jairam Barik	Sr Mgr, BF(O)	36
2.	Sri P. K. Sahu	MOMT, BF	52
3.	Sri Dikhisyam Das	MOMT, BF	36
4.	Sri Raju Ku. Maiti	Contractual Employees, M/S TPL	38
5.	Sri Pradip Kujur		30
6.	Sri SantanuNayak		33
7.	Sri Suraj Chhatri		26
8.	Smt. Laxmi Singh		34
9.	Smt. Pana Soren	Contractual Employees, M/s S K Gouda	39

**Following actions have been taken to prevent future recurrence of such incidents:**

- Locking arrangement provided in spindle of the flushing valve of the U-Seal to prevent accidental opening of the valve.
- Additional CO monitors with alarm installed near the U-seal.
- Feed back of CO monitors from U-seal area connected to DCS system and displayed in HMI in control room with an audio visual alarm at main Emergency Control Room to ensure continuous online monitoring.
- Emergency contact numbers, including the plant control number, displayed near all U-seals.
- Presence of area supervisors or in-charges during gas line preventive maintenance is ensured.
- CCTV Cameras installed near all the U-seals of BF-5 for better monitoring
- All the U Seals have been hard barricaded to restrict unauthorized access.

**True Copy Attested**

*Dr. Juddi Sundangach*



ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ଓ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ୍ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼  
 OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, SUNDARGARH  
 (JUDICIAL SECTION)  
 E-mail: dm-sundargarh@nic.in, dcjudicialsng@gmail.com, FAX-06622-273166, PIN- 770001

No. 3465

Date. 19.09.2024

To

The Director, Rourkela Steel Plant Ltd., Rourkela  
 Dist-Sundargarh

Sub: Regarding compliance of O.A No. 157/2024/EZ (earlier O.A No.771/2024/PB) Order passed by Hon'ble NGT, EZB, Kolkata.

Ref:- Order dt.10.09.2024 of National Green Tribunal, Eastern Bench, Kolkata passed in O.A No. 157/2024/EZ.

Sir,

With reference to the letter on the subject cited above, I am to serve the Order dt.10.09.2024 along with all annexure of National Green Tribunal, Eastern Bench, Kolkata passed in O.A No. 157/2024/EZ (earlier O.A No.771/2024/PB) received from the Deputy Registrar, National Green Tribunal Eastern, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata for favour of information and necessary action at your end.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
 19.09.24  
 Addl. District Magistrate,  
 Sundargarh

True Copy Attested

*[Signature]*  
 DC, Judd  
 Sundargarh