

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH KOLKATA  
IN  
OA No.144/2024/EZ  
(Earlier OA No. 655/2024/PB)

IN THE MATTER OF:

News item titled "Vaishakh mei hee sukh gai Bihar kee 60 nadiya; ret me huee tabdil nadiyan par bhee ho gaya atikraman" published in livehindustan.com dated 03.05.2024

...APPLICANTS

VERSUS

The Bihar State Pollution Control Board & Others

...RESPONDENTS

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*Mrinal Kanti Biswas*

**Mrinal Kanti Biswas**

Regional Director & Scientist E,

CPCB, Kolkata

Filed through

*Abhishek*

Counsel

Dated: 5/10/2024

Place: Kolkata



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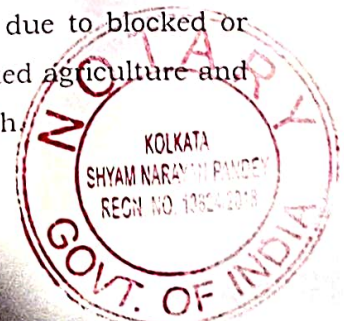
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**Bihar State Pollution Control Board and others**

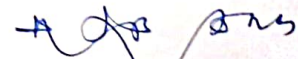
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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT No. 03 i.e. CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB).**

1. That, Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 01.07.2024 in the subject matter has impleaded three respondents, including CPCB, and has sought the reply of respondents in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under Section 3 of The Water Act 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as Air Act) and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. That the averment made under ibid news item dated 03.05.2024 pertains to the details regarding the drying up of over 60 rivers in Bihar by April this year, even before the onset of summer
4. That the averment made under ibid news item dated 03.05.2024 also refers to the decline in river water levels has led to rapidly falling groundwater levels, with some areas experiencing a drop of up to 50 feet thereby making the access to drinking water difficult. Additionally it is also averred that canals, wells, and ponds are drying up due to blocked or encroached water channels which has severely impacted agriculture and irrigation, and has also negatively affected public health.

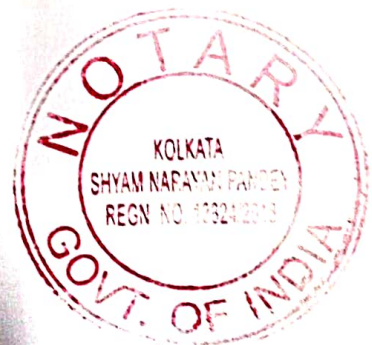


5. That the averment made under ibid news item, also brings out the issue of drying up of rivers in Bihar, including silting, encroachment for construction and use as dumping zones. It is further averred that Natural factors such as climate change, erratic rainfall, inadequate land recharge, and reduced water flow from sources are also contributing towards it. Additionally, widespread deforestation is exacerbating siltation. Specific rivers affected include Noona, Punpun, Banas, and others, with notable encroachments such as huts built in the Karmanasha river and the Chhadi river being narrowed into a canal due to encroachment.
6. It is humbly submitted that decrease in availability of surface and under ground waters is not being monitored by CPCB hence no comments are offered over the same by this Answering Respondent No. 3. However, physio-chemical and bacteriological parameters pertaining to water quality in 95 rivers and 70 ground water locations in Bihar are being carried out by CPCB in association with Bihar State Pollution Control Board under National Water Monitoring Programme.
7. That in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering respondent i.e. CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble tribunal in the instant OA.
8. That, the answering respondent herein craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply in future, if required.



**Mrinal Kanti Biswas**

Regional Director & Scientist E,  
CPCB, Kolkata



58 DT 04.10.2024

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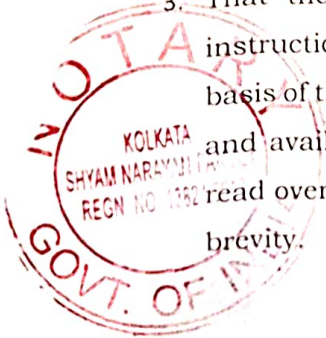
The Bihar State Pollution Control Board & Others

RESPONDENTS

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Mrinal Kanti Biswas, son of Shri Saroj Kumar Biswas, aged about 42 years, having office at the Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, Southend Conclave' Block No.502, 5<sup>th</sup>& 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1582, Rajdanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under:

1. That the deponent is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



IDENTIFIED BY ME  
*Ashok Biswas*  
ADVOCATE

Solemnly Affirm & Declared  
Before Me on Identification  
of Ld. Advocate

*Shyam Narayan Pandey*  
SHYAM NARAYAN PANDEY  
NOTARY, GOVT. OF INDIA  
REGN. NO. 1382/2018  
04.10.2024

*Mrinal Kanti Biswas*  
DEPONENT

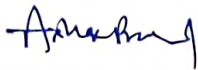
04 OCT 2024

**VERIFICATION**

Verified at Kolkata on this day of 4th Day of Oct 2024 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as mentioned in the day to day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

Verified at Kolkata on this the 4th Day of October, 2024.

**IDENTIFIED BY ME**



**ADVOCATE**



**DEPONENT**

