

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI BENCH

O.A. No. 73 of 2021

IN THE MATTER OF:

**VISAKHA PAWAN PRAJA KARMIKA
SANGHAM, ANDHRA PRADESH**

.....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

.....RESPONDENT(S)

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, RESPONDENT No. 1.**

I, Dr. Suresh Babu Pasupuleti working as Scientist 'D' in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Integrated Regional Office, Green House Complex, Gopalareddy Road, Vijayawada. I do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am duly authorized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Respondent no.1 to swear this affidavit and I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and am thereby competent to depose as under:
2. The present matter pertains to violations committed by the 9th respondent M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in operating their unit in Vishakhapatnam which resulted in serious environmental degradation. Apart from causing odour pollution, there are lot of violations committed in respect of the conditions imposed in the environmental clearance granted as well as the 'Consent to Operate' granted by the Pollution Control Board.
3. That the answering Respondent no. 1 is primarily engaged in, *inter alia*, policy formulation for abatement, control and prevention of pollution, prescribing



environmental standards which are implemented through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). The SPCBs/PCCs are required to enforce these standards and monitor the compliance by industries.

Besides, the concerned State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees are empowered to take all such measures as are deemed necessary or expedient for the purpose of protection and improving the quality of environment as well as prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution including issue involve in the instant matter.

4. It is humbly prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly pass such order(s) as may deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case.


01/12/21
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified at Vijayawada on this the 1st day of December, 2021 that the contents of this reply affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are correct to my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.


01/12/21
DEPONENT