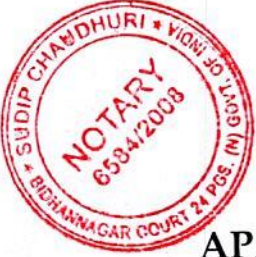


BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA



ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 117/2023/EZ

APARNA SARKAR

.....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

.....RESPONDENT(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT ON AFFIDAVIT FILED BY
THE WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD.

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2.	Copy of inspection report of Committee.	'R'	

Filed by
Dipankar Ghosh
DIPANJAN GHOSH
ADVOCATE

HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

CI NO. 403 2024

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA



ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 117/2023/EZ

APARNA SARKAR

.....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

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..... RESPONDENT(S)

BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC
AT BIDHANNAGAR
DIST.-NORTH 24 PARGANAS

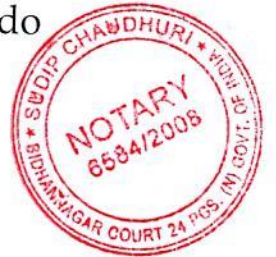
COMMITTEE REPORT ON AFFIDAVIT FILED BY
THE WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD.

Most Respectfully Sheweth

I, Sri Subrata Ghosh, son of Shri Biswanath Ghosh, aged about 60 years, by faith-Hindu, Occupation- Service, residing at Narkelbagan, Gorosthan, Chinsurah, District - Hooghly, do hereby solemnly declare and say as follows:-

15 JAN 2024

01. That, I am the Officer on Special Duty, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter will be referred to as the 'State Board') and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case. I have been duly authorized by the Respondent No. 03 to affirm this Affidavit on its behalf and as such, I am competent to do so.
02. That, this affidavit is being affirmed in pursuant to the orders passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal dated 14.09.2023 and 05.12.2023.
03. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 14.09.2023, constituted a committee comprising of the following members: -



15 JAN 2024



- a) Senior Scientist / Environmental Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board;
- b) Senior Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board;
- c) Representative of the Municipal Commissioner, Siliguri Municipal Corporation of Senior rank.

The said Committee was directed to inspect the site in question and thereafter submit its report.

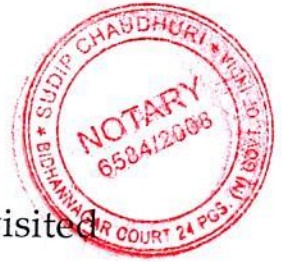
04. That, in compliance to the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 14.09.2023, the Committee visited the said site and carried out an inspection during 21st to 24th November, 2023.
05. That, from the joint inspection conducted it was inter alia observed by the Committee members that:
 - a) On 21st November, 2023 Committee members gathered for

15 JAN 2024



a meeting at the Siliguri Municipal Corporation. The Committee members then physically visited the local market, street vendors, grocery shops and as observed, banned SUP items were found. Banned plastic carry bags were also found in a sweet shop. At Mahavirsthan Rail gate market, the Committee members lodged a complaint through SUP-CPCB App against an unnamed shop for keeping banned SUP item. Further, SMC was requested to initiate appropriate action against the vendor. The representative of the Siliguri Municipal Corporation stated that they have organized special drives against plastic carry bags and banned SUP items on a regular basis. If any vendor was found violating, items are seized and fines as per the law are imposed on the vendors.

5 JAN 2024



- b) On 22nd November, 2023, the Committee members visited the local market, street vendors and grocery shops of Darjeeling Municipal area and as observed, banned SUP items and thermocols were not in use in the said establishments. However, it was observed that shopkeepers and street vendors were using cloth bags, non-woven bags and paper bags for carrying of goods. Vegetable and edible materials like fish, meat etc. were wrapped in paper sheet/bags. Carry bags marked as compostable were also used in the market.
- c) Executive Officer of Darjeeling Municipality stated that in Darjeeling generally there is no usage of plastic carry bags and banned SUP items as per the PWM Rules 2016 and its amendments. He also further stated that they have taken initiatives to implement a complete ban on plastic carry

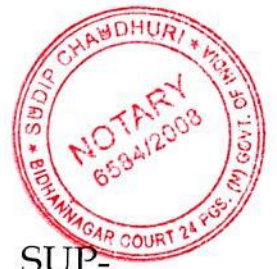
15 JAN 2024



bags irrespective of thickness. He further stated that the Municipality carries out surprise inspections of the markets, street vendors and shopping complex regularly to prevent the usage of plastic carry bags. If found violating fines as per the law are imposed on the vendors. He further stated that the plastics used for the packaging of goods become plastic waste after their use. They are facing problems managing these wastes since no plastic recycler is available in Darjeeling. All the plastic wastes are dumped in their dumping yard.

d) On 23rd November, 2023, it was observed that shopkeepers, street vendors were using cloth bags, non-woven bags and paper bags for carrying of materials. However, in Relli Road Market area, one shopkeeper was found using plastic carry bag (banned category). The

15 JAN 2024



Committee members lodged complaint through SUP-CPCB App. Further, Kalimpong Municipality was requested to initiate appropriate action against the vendor. Health Officer of Kalimpong Municipality stated that there is almost no usage of plastic carry bags and thermocols in Kalimpong. He stated surprise inspection of the markets, street vendors and shopping complex are carried out to prevent usage of any plastic carry bags and banned SUP items. He further stated that the plastics used for the packaging of goods become a plastic waste after their use. They are facing problems managing these wastes since no plastic waste recycler is available in Kalimpong. They have to dispose that waste into their dumping ground.

e) On 24th November, 2023, the Committee members visited

15 JAN 2024



the Siliguri Regulated Market. Siliguri Municipal Corporation was requested to initiate appropriate action against the vendor. Banned SUP items and plastic carry bags were found. Visit was made to the Solid Waste Processing Facility, where wastes from the market are segregated. Biodegradable wastes are composted, recyclable non-biodegradable wastes are sent to recyclers and the rest is sent to the dumping yard. There is a waste storing area at the end of the Siliguri Regulated Market. Thermocol wastes were seen scattered there and loaded in trucks. It was informed by the truck drivers and waste collectors that thermocol wastes are sent to a Siliguri based unit where these are melted by heat, cooled and solidified. End products are sent to other States for recycling.

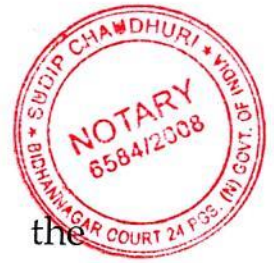
15 JAN 2024



Waste Compactor machine was observed at the waste storage area of Siliguri Regulated market. During visit it was observed that the Waste Compactor machine had been non-functional for more than two years as confirmed by the local people. The committee members then visited the river ghats.

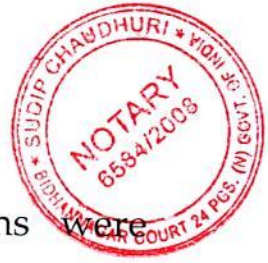
It was observed that cattle rearing were present. Sanitary Inspector of SMC informed that the problem of cattle rearing is in a decreasing stage as the local people are not interested any more in the rearing of cattle. He further informed that SMC regularly clears the cow dung from all the cowsheds in the vicinity of the river ghats. Untreated sewage generated from the municipal areas is passed through screeners followed by manual aeration before being discharged into the rivers.

15 JAN 2024



The committee members had talked with the representatives of KMDA. They informed that 3 nos. of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are being constructed at the confluence points of the rivers by Mahananda, Fuleswari, Balason and Jorapani by KMDA to treat the untreated sewage before discharging into the rivers. STP-1 (26 MLD) for which detailed Project Report has been prepared, and will be constructed at the confluence of Mahananda and Balason river, STP-2 (24 MLD) and STP-3 (32 MLD) for which construction has been started at Noukaghat and at the confluence of Jorapani - Fuleshwari River separately.

15 JAN 2024



06. That, the following remarks/ recommendations were made by the Committee members:

- a) The concerned Municipal Corporation should carry out the surprise inspection of Major Establishment/ street vendors, shopping malls on regular basis.
- b) The Municipal Corporation in coordination with Police Department shall carry out inspection drive at Nakas (Entry/ Exit point of the Municipal Boundary) so that Import/ Export of banned carry bag and SUP items may be minimized.
- c) Municipal Corporation with the help of Non-Governmental Organizations, Educational Institutes should make public awareness. Display boards regarding ban of carry bags and SUP items should be installed at major road crossing. Posters/ pamphlets may be distributed among general public for awareness about SUP.

15 JAN 2024

- d) Municipal Corporation may distribute cloth paper bags on subsidized rates.
- e) Municipal Corporation may make provision of cancellation of Trade/ Commercial License of Trader/ shopkeeper for repeated violation of PWM Rules.
- f) Local bodies may explore the possibility for setting up plastic waste recycling plants or may invite private parties to do so.
- g) All proposed Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) shall be constructed and made operational as soon as possible.
- h) Cattle rearing along the river ghats shall be stopped.
- i) Possibility of setting up of a thermocol waste recycling plant may be explored.
- j) Corporation/ Municipalities shall manage solid wastes as per the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Copy of the inspection report of the Committee is annexed herewith and marked with letter "R".



15 JAN 2024



07. It is therefore respectfully prayed that Hon'ble Tribunal

may pass such order/orders as it deems fit and proper in

the interest of justice.

S. Chaudhuri

DEPONENT

*Witnessing by me
I / for you / glad
advocate
ABPC*

S. Chaudhuri
S. CHAUDHURI
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
Regd. No.-6584/08
Bidhanagar Court
Dist.-North 24 Pgs.

15 JAN 2024

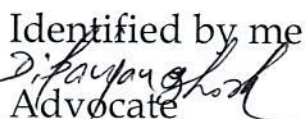


VERIFICATION

I, Sri Subrata Ghosh, son of Shri Biswanath Ghosh, aged about 60 years, by Religion - Hindu, by Occupation- Service, residing at Narkelbagan, Gorosthan, Chinsurah, District-Hooghly, do hereby solemnly declare and say as follows:-

1. That, I am the Officer on Special Duty (OSD), West Bengal Pollution Control Board and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the instant Original Application.
2. That, the statements made in paragraph 1 of this affidavit is true to my knowledge and belief.
3. That, the statements made in paragraphs 2 to 6 of this affidavit are my information derived from the records available in the office of the State Board which I verily believe to be true and the rest are my respectful submission before this Hon'ble Tribunal.


DEPONENT

Identified by me

Advocate

WBPCB


S. CHAUDHURI
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
Regd. No.-6584/08
Bidhannagar Court
Dist.-North 24 Pgs.

INSPECTION REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY HON'BLE NGT VIDE THEIR ORDER DTD. 14.09.2023, IN THE MATTER OF OA NO. 117/2023/EZ-APARNA SARKAR Vs STATE OF WEST BENGAL



The Hon'ble NGT, EZB, vide its order dated 14.09.2023 in the matter of OA NO. 117/2023/EZ- Aparna Sarkar Vs. State of West Bengal was pleased to constitute a committee comprising of the following members:

- I. Senior Scientist/ Env Engr, West Bengal Pollution Control Board,
- II. Senior Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board,
- III. Representative of the Municipal Commissioner, Siliguri Municipal Corporation of Senior rank.

As per the order dated 14.09.2023, following directions were issued by the Hon'ble NGT

1. The Committee shall carry out an inspection of the various sites with reference to the allegations made in the complaint and noticed by us hereinabove and shall submit its Report on affidavit and if the allegations are found to be correct, the Committee shall also suggest remedial measures.
2. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board shall be the Nodal Office for all logistic purposes and shall file the Committee Report on affidavit within three weeks.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble NGT, WBPCB being Nodal Agency in the matter, conducted a Meeting (via VC) among the Committee members on 13/10/23 which was attended by Officials from following dept:

1. Dr. Prasun Kumar Mondal, Assistant Environmental Engineer & In-Charge, Siliguri RO, WBPCB and Nodal Officer of the Joint Committee.
2. Sri Sandeep Roy, Scientist D, CPCB
3. Sri Dipen Thakre, Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality
4. Executive Officer, Darjeeling Municipality
5. Sri Rupindar Thapa, Sanitary Inspector, Kalimpong Municipality
6. Sri Mriganka Dey, Sanitary Inspector, Siliguri Municipal Corporation
7. Ms. Jayati Sinha Dey, Urban Planner, Siliguri Municipal Corporation

During the meeting, discussion was held on the Status of SUP Ban implementation in alleged Region and measures adopted by individual Municipalities. Siliguri Municipal Corporation described about the status of Cattle Sheds, River (Mahananda, Fuleswari, Jorapani).
(Minutes of the Meeting Enclosed)

In the meeting, as decided, Site inspection of alleged region, Rivers, was also carried out during 21st -24th November 2023.

Following Officials were present from respective Municipalities and other Depts:

- Sri Biswajit Pan, Asst. Environmental Engineer, WBPCB- Siliguri Regional Office
- Sri Sandeep Roy, Scientist D, CPCB- Kolkata
- Sri M Dey, Sanitary Inspector, Siliguri Municipal Corporation
- Dr Sanjay Zimba, Health Officer, Kalimpong Municipality
- Sri Tapas Hazra, EO, Darjeeling Municipality



On 21st November 23, Committee members gathered for a meeting at the Siliguri Municipal Corporation. The committee members then physically visited the Local market, Street vendors, Grocery Shops (Randomly selected) and as observed, Banned SUP items were found. Banned plastic carry bags also found in a sweet shop. At Mahavirsthan Rail gate market, the Committee members lodged a complaint through SUP-CPCB App (No. SR-8108) against an unnamed shop for keeping banned SUP item. Further, SMC was requested to initiate appropriate action against the Vendor.

The representative of the Siliguri Municipal Corporation stated that they have organized special drives against plastic carry bags and banned SUP items on a regular basis. If any vendor found violating, items are seized and fines as per the law are imposed on the vendors.

On 22nd November 23, the Committee members gathered for a meeting at the Darjeeling Municipality. The committee members visited the local market, street vendors & grocery shops (Randomly selected) of Darjeeling Municipal area and as observed, Banned SUP items and thermocols were not in use in the said establishments. However, it was observed that Shopkeepers & Street Vendors were using Cloth bags, non-woven bags & Paper bags for carrying of goods. Vegetables & edible materials like fish, meat etc were wrapped in Paper Sheet/ Bags. Carry bags marked as compostable were also used in the market.

Executive Officer of Darjeeling Municipality stated that in Darjeeling generally there is no usage of plastic carry bags & banned SUP items as per the PWM rules 2016 and its amendments. He also further stated that they have taken initiatives to implement a complete ban on Plastic carry bags irrespective of thickness. He further stated that the Municipality carries out surprise inspections of the markets, street vendors and shopping complex regularly to prevent the usage of plastic carry bags. If found violating fines as per the law are imposed on the vendors. He further stated that the plastics used for the packaging of goods become plastic waste after their use. They are facing problems managing these wastes since no plastic waste recycler is available in Darjeeling. All the plastic wastes are dumped in their dumping yard.

On 23rd November 23, the committee members visited the Local market, Street vendors & Grocery Shops (Randomly selected) of Kalimpong Municipal area and it was observed that banned SUP items were not in use in the said establishments. It was also observed that Shopkeepers, Street Vendors were using Cloth bags, non-woven bags & Paper bags for carrying of materials. However, in Relli Road Market area, 1 No. of Shopkeeper was found using Plastic Carry bag (Banned category). The Committee members lodged complaint through SUP-CPCB App (No. SR-8125). Further, Kalimpong Municipality was requested to initiate appropriate action against the Vendor. Health Officer of Kalimpong Municipality stated that there is almost no usage of plastic carry bags & thermocols in Kalimpong. He further stated that they carry out surprise inspection of the markets, street vendors and shopping complex to prevent the usage of any plastic carry bags & banned SUP items. He further stated that the plastics used for the packaging of goods become a plastic waste after their use. They are facing problems managing these wastes since no plastic waste recycler is available in Kalimpong. They have to dispose that waste into their dumping ground.

On 24th November, 2023, the committee members visited the Siliguri Regulated Market. Banned SUP items and plastic carry bags were found. Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) was requested to initiate appropriate action against the Vendor. Visit was made to the Solid Waste Processing Facility, where wastes from the market are segregated. Biodegradable wastes are composted, recyclable non-biodegradable wastes are sent to recyclers & the rest is sent to the dumping yard. There is a waste storing area at the end of the Siliguri Regulated Market. Thermocol wastes were seen scattered there & loaded in trucks. It was informed by the truck drivers & waste collectors that thermocol wastes are sent to a Siliguri based unit where these are melted by heat, cooled and solidified. End products are sent to other States for recycling.

Waste Compactor machine was observed at the waste storage area of Siliguri Regulated market. During visit it was observed that the Waste Compactor machine had been non-functional for more than two years as confirmed by the local people. The committee members then visited the river ghats. It was observed that cattle rearing were present. Sanitary Inspector of SMC informed that the problem of cattle rearing is in a decreasing stage as the local people are not interested any more in the rearing of cattle. He further informed that SMC regularly clears the cow dung from all the cowsheds in the vicinity of the river ghats. Untreated sewage generated from the municipal areas is passed through screeners followed by manual aeration before being discharged into the rivers.

The committee members had talked with the representatives of KMDA. They informed that 3 nos. of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are being constructed at the confluence points of the rivers by Mahananda, Fuleswari, Balason and Jorapani by KMDA to treat the untreated

sewage before discharging into the rivers. STP – 1 (26 MLD) for which Detailed Project Report has been prepared, and will be constructed at the confluence of Mahananda & Balason river, STP – 2 (24 MLD) & STP - 3 (32 MLD) for which construction has been started at Noukaghat & at the confluence of Jorapani - Fuleshwari River respectively.



Recommendations:

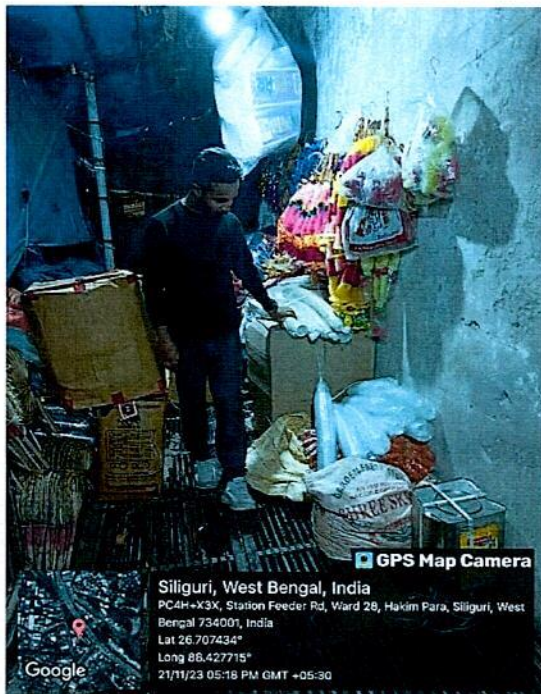
- The concerned Municipal Corporation should carry out the Surprise inspection of Major Establishment/ Street Vendors, shopping malls on regular basis.
- The Municipal Corporation in coordination with Police Dept. shall carry out inspection drive at Nakas (Entry/ Exit point of the Municipal Boundary) so that Import/ Export of Banned carry bag & SUP items may be minimized.
- Municipal Corporation with the help of NGOs, Educational Institutes should make Public awareness. Display boards regarding Ban of carry bags & SUP items should be installed at major Road crossing. Posters/ Pamphlets may be distributed among general Public for awareness about SUP.
- Municipal corporation may distribute Cloth/ Paper bags on subsidized rates.
- Municipal Corporation may make provision of cancellation of Trade/ Commercial License of Trader/ Shopkeeper for repeated Violation of PWM Rules.
- Local bodies may explore the possibility for setting up Plastic waste recycling plants or may invite Private parties to do so.
- All proposed STPs shall be constructed and made operational as soon as possible.
- Cattle rearing along the river ghats shall be stopped.
- Possibility of setting up of a thermocol waste recycling plant may be explored.
- Corporation/Municipalities shall manage Solid Wastes as per the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Sandip Roy
Scientist - D
Central Pollution Control Board

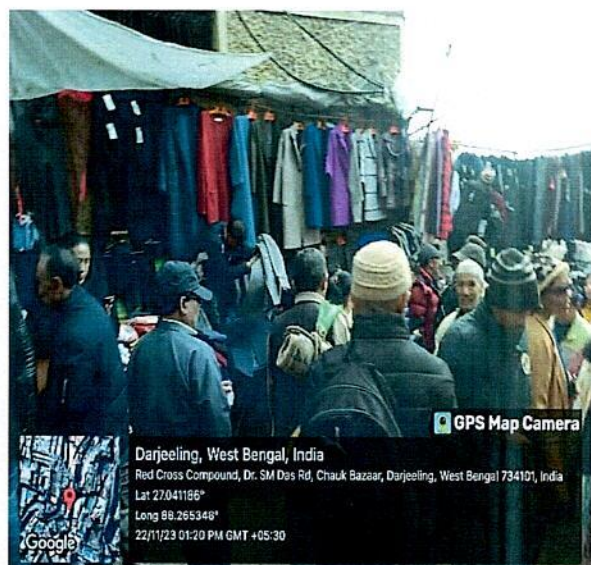
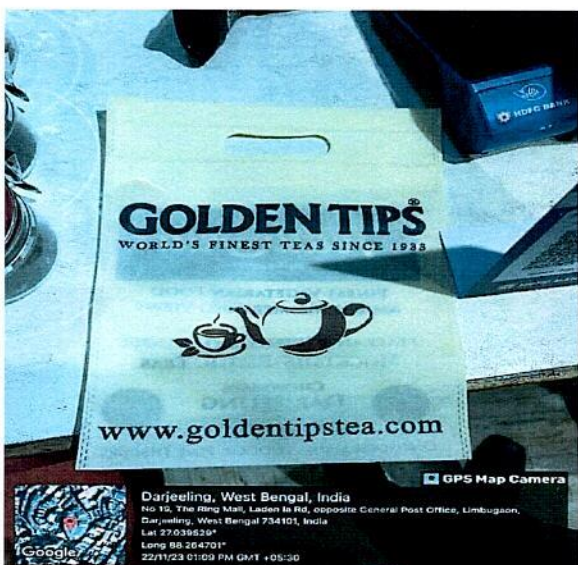
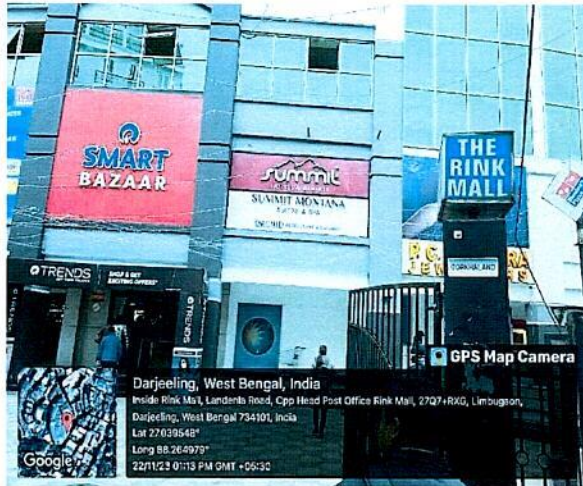
Biswajit Pan
Asst. Environmental Engineer
Siliguri Regional Office, WBPCB

Dr. Prasun Kumar Mondal
Asst. Environmental Engineer & In-charge
Siliguri Regional Office, WBPCB
(Nodal Officer)

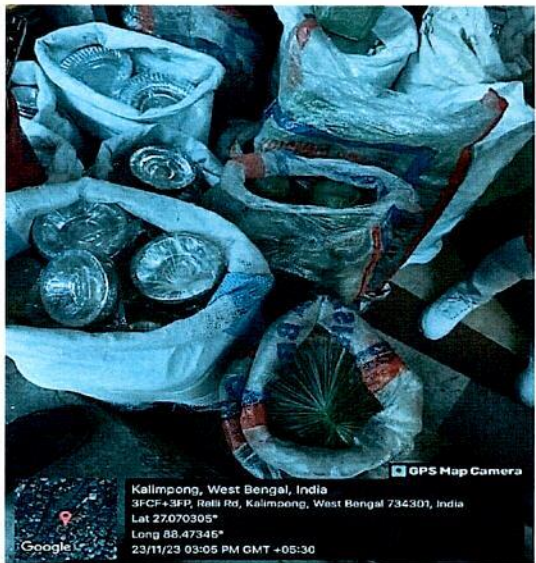
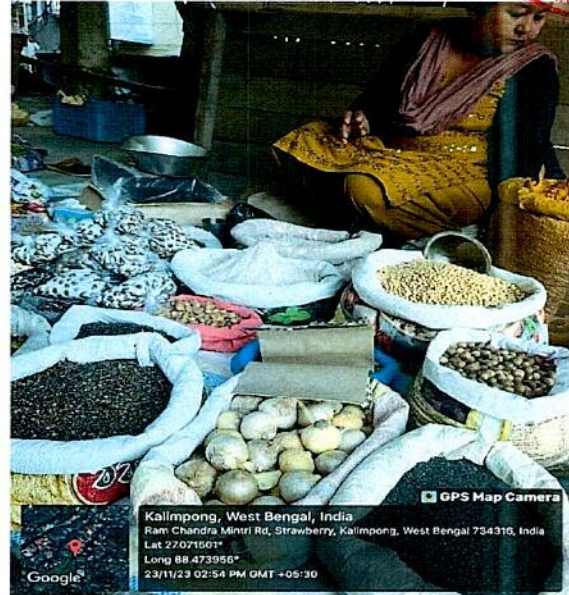
Photographs taken during inspection at Siliguri Local Market on 21.11.2023



Photographs taken during inspection at Darjeeling local market on 22.11.2023

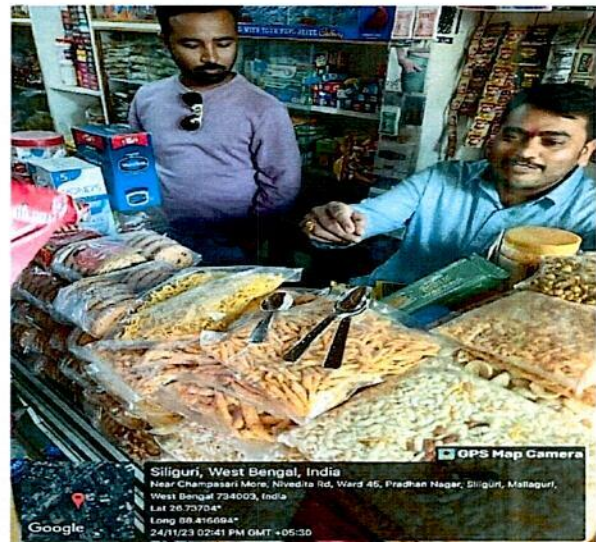
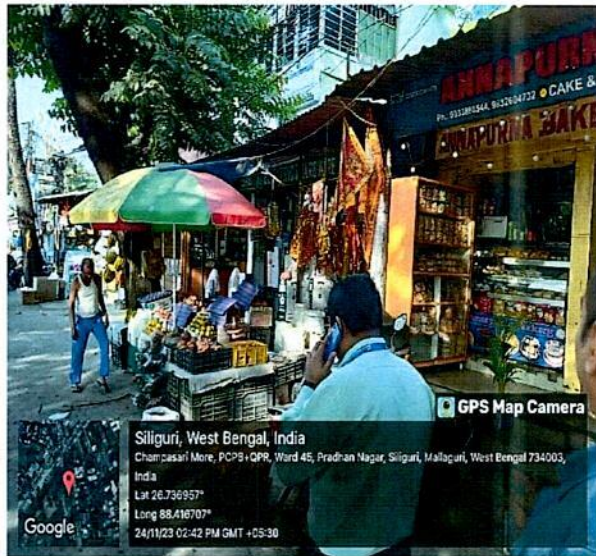


Photographs taken during inspection at Kalimpong local market on 23.11.2023

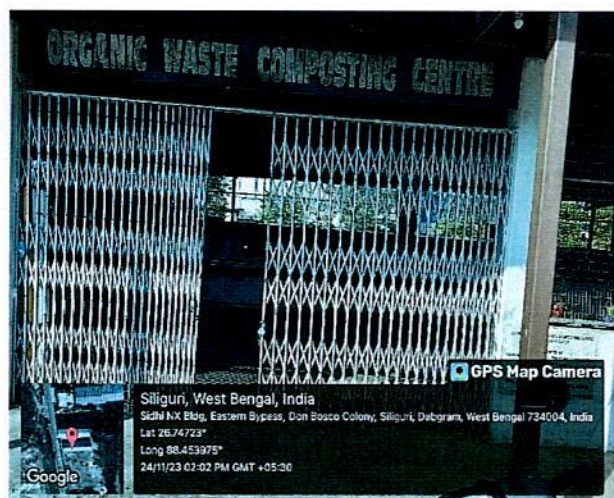


Photographs taken during inspection on 24.11.2023

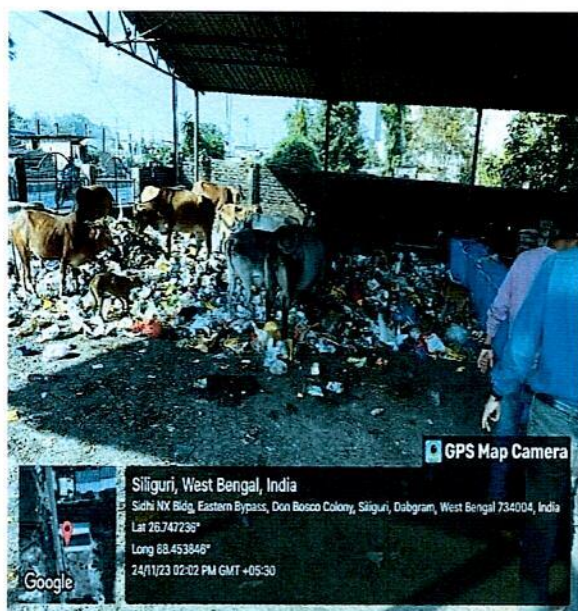
Siliguri Regulated Market



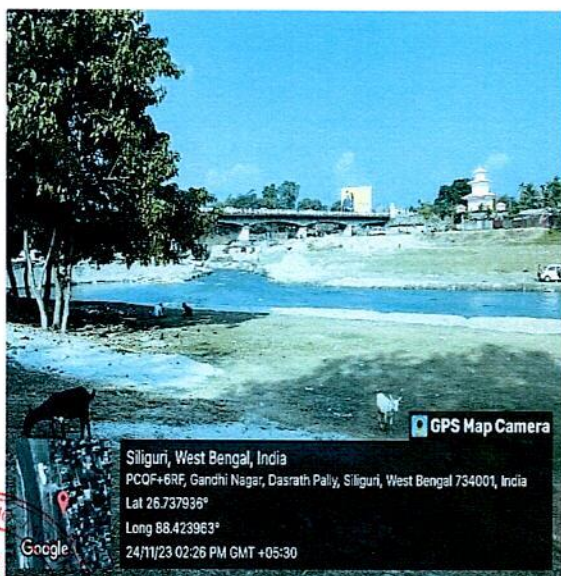
Composter at SMC waste disposal facility



Segregation Point at SMC Waste Disposal Facility



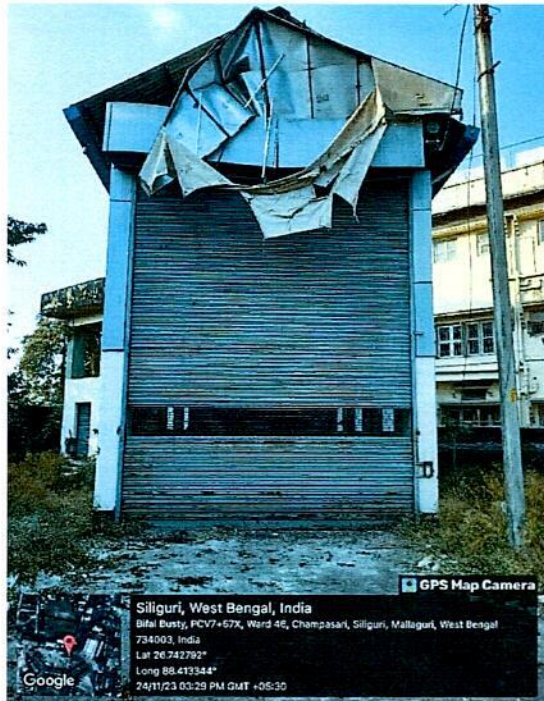
Inspection at the River Ghats



Final Outlet of SMC drain leading to rivers



Waste Compactor



Minutes of Meeting



Hon'ble NGT Matter OA 117/2023/EZ (titled Aparna Sarkar Vs State of WB)

Minutes of the meeting held on 13.10.2023 at 12.00 Noon through virtual mode among CPCB, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Darjeeling Municipality, Kalimpong Municipality and Siliguri RO, WBPCB regarding Order of the Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata vide OA no. 117/2023/EZ dated 14.09.2023 for use of plastic carry bags within Darjeeling & Kalimpong Municipalities, use of thermocol items within Siliguri Municipal Corporation area, pollution due to cattle rearing at river banks of Mahananda, Panchnai, Jorapani, Rongtong, Balasone etc rivers & untreated sewage discharge into these rivers and improper solid waste management of Siliguri Regulated Market

As per Order of the Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata vide OA no. 117/2023/EZ dated 14.09.2023 for use of plastic carry bags within Darjeeling & Kalimpong Municipalities, use of thermocol items within Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) area, pollution due to cattle rearing at river banks of Mahananda, Panchnai, Jorapani, Rongtong, Balasone etc rivers & untreated sewage discharge into these rivers and improper solid waste management of Siliguri Regulated Market (SRM), the Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone, Kolkata constituted a joint committee comprising officials of WBPCB, CPCB and SMC with WBPCB being Nodal Agency of the said committee to submit a report before the Hon'ble NGT after conducting joint inspection. Accordingly, a meeting was held on 13.10.2023 at 12.00 Noon through virtual mode with concerned Departments so that status of said allegation may be discussed and next course of action may be decided.

Following officials of various Govt. Departments attended the meeting on 13.10.2023 at 12.00 noon:

1. Sri Dipen Thakre, Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality
2. EO, Darjeeling Municipality
3. Sri Rupindar Thapa, S. I., Kalimpong Municipality
4. Sri Sandeep Roy, Scientist D, CPCB- RD, Kolkata
5. Sri Mriganka Dey, S. I., Siliguri Municipal Corporation
6. Ms. Jayati Sinha Dey, Urban Planner, Siliguri Municipal Corporation
7. Dr. Prasun Kumar Mondal, Assistant Environmental Engineer & In-Charge, Siliguri RO, WBPCB and Nodal Officer of the Joint Committee constituted by the Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zonal Bench, Kolkata

At the start of the meeting, Dr. Prasun Kumar Mondal, Assistant Environmental Engineer & In-Charge, Siliguri RO, WBPCB and Nodal Officer of the Joint Committee constituted by the Hon'ble NGT, welcomed the joint committee members as well as other participants of the meeting especially the Chairman, Darjeeling for attending the meeting in spite of his busy schedule and delivered introduction of the matter for which meeting was called. Then he asked each participant to address one by one against their issues mentioned in the present Hon'ble NGT Order.

Sri Rupindar Thapa, S. I., Kalimpong Municipality stated that there is one market, Hut Bazar within Ward No. 10 of Kalimpong Municipality and there is no shopping mall. Within this Municipality, plastic carry bags are used in negligible amount. All major food / eatery shops are using Paper Bags.



Small vendors are also using Paper Bags for delivery/ carry materials. The few percentages of plastic carry bags which is observed within their Municipality comes from Siliguri Market.

In the said meeting, Sri Dipen Thakre, Chairman, Darjeeling Municipality highlighted that there are a number of markets, shopping malls, Big Bazars at a stretch of 4 Km area within this Municipality. No plastic carry bag is used there. This Municipality has banned ½ lit and 1 lit plastic water bottles, instead, 2 lit and 5 lit plastic water bottles are used. Local people make corn bags which are used to a large extent to encourage their domestic business instead of plastic carry bags. Main market place is Chak Bazar.

Sri Mriganka Dey, S. I., Siliguri Municipal Corporation, in this virtual meeting, informed about action taken by SMC on each issue raised in Hon'ble NGT order. Point wise reply from the representative of SMC in each issue are given below:

- After receiving this Hon'ble NGT Order, SMC called a meeting on 03.10.2023 for their future course of action and subsequently, SMC along with Police personnel organized a special drive to implement the ban on plastic carry bags on 07.10.2023 & 09.10.2023 to 12.10.2023. Through this special drive, they imposed penalty of Rs. 10,000/- to 11,000/- against sellers who sold banned plastic carry bag (thick ness <120 micron). In this respect, they had given responsibility to I, II, III, IV & V nos. Borough Offices of SMC to make awareness to sellers and common people. He also highlighted that no plastic carry bag manufacturing unit falls within the jurisdiction of SMC. This SMC cannot check whether any plastic carry bag manufacturing unit operates outside of SMC. Within Siliguri Industrial Estate, plastic bottle manufacturing units are running. They raided Mahabirthan area and caught cyclists who sell plastic carry bags of thickness <120 micron. SMC is not able to control use of plastic carry bags in fish & meat markets.
- At SRM, thermocol boxes containing fish item come from other States through trucks and SMC has no control for coming goods from other States. They had issued letter to Secretary of SRM for proper implementation of Solid Waste Management. Solid waste in SRM was controlled compared to previous year.
- SMC had seized thermocol cutlery items & thermocol decorative items which were sold in shops and fine was also imposed to those sellers. The seized thermocol items was sent to godown as no recycler is available within SMC jurisdiction.
- SMC inspected and issued notice at Ward nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 where cattle are reared at the banks of Mahananda, Fuleswari, Jorapani & Panchanoi rivers. Many cattle sheds were shifted to other places from river banks. They had not yet inspected at river banks within Ward nos. 10, 23, 31, 32, 43, 44, 45 & 46 due to inaccessibility. Though miking (awareness) was done at these Wards. Local people stated that they were rearing cattle at river banks as they had no cattle shed.
- SMC installed iron nets at final discharge point of drains which lead to Rivers. Mahananda Task Force cleans these nets in regular basis. At Ward nos. 16, 23 & 24 of Fuleswari & Jorapani rivers, SMC also installed iron nets at final discharge point of drain which lead to these rivers.
- SMC has taken programme for development cum beautification of river banks at various locations. They had developed river banks within Ward nos. 4 & 10 as idol immersion Ghat earlier which were cattle rearing areas. At river bank of Ward no. 1, there was burning Ghat

where beatification was carried out. 13 Nos. trees of 10 years old were trimmed and relocated successfully for beautification.

- For treatment of generated sewage within SMC area, STP is maintained by Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority (SJDA). There was no open defecation at river banks of Ward nos. 4 & 10 of SMC.

Sri Sandeep Roy, Scientist D, CPCB mentioned in the meeting that in recent inspection by CPCB at Bhagalpur, Bihar, it was informed by sellers that banned plastic item/ carry bags etc. are being supplied from Siliguri region West Bengal as source. He also suggested to SMC that they can contact with Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC) as HMC performs solid waste management of banned thermocol items through Delhi based Vendor. He also stated that next meeting will be conducted involving SJDA and Police Authority along with present Depts. and subsequently, joint inspection will be carried out at SMC, Darjeeling Municipality & Kalimpong Municipality areas. He also emphasized that Authorities/ Dept. responsible for Upkeeping/ Cleaning of Rivers/ River banks as alleged in Para 5 of the Hon'ble NGT Order, may be included during Inspection/ Meeting. This will help the committee to submit adequate data/ information (in form of Report) before Hon'ble NGT.

Dr. Prasun Kumar Mondal, Assistant Environmental Engineer & In-Charge, Siliguri RO, WBPCB and Nodal Officer of the Joint Committee constituted by the Hon'ble NGT finally, thanked to all members of the joint committee as well as other participants for co-operation throughout this meeting and the meeting was ended.

Prasun K. Mondal 17/10/23

Dr. Prasun Kumar Mondal

Assistant Environmental Engineer & In-Charge, Siliguri RO, WBPCB

and Nodal Officer of the Joint Committee constituted by the Hon'ble NGT

Asst. Environmental Engineer & In-Charge
West Bengal Pollution Control Board
Siliguri Regional Office





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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 117/2023/EZ

APARNA SARKAR

.....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

..... RESPONDENT(S)

**COMMITTEE REPORT ON AFFIDAVIT FILED BY
THE WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD.**

**DIPANJAN GHOSH
ADVOCATE
HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA**