

S.L. No. 35/23

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONAL BENCH, KOLKATA**

IN

O.A. NO. 34/2023/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

In Re-News Item published in The Times of India Newspaper, Calcutta edition dated 23.03.2023 titled Kolkata Water Table Dips 2m in 5 years, Experts flag rise in arsenic, salinity

VERSUS

Central Ground Water Authority & Ors

....RESPONDENT(S)

INDEX

S. No.	Particulars	Annexure	Page No.
1.	Counter Affidavit on behalf of Central Pollution Control Board, Respondent No. 5		24-27
2.	Water Quality Data Of Ground Water During 2021-2022 For 11 Locations In West Bengal Under NWMP	I	28

Mrinal Kanti Biswas

Mrinal Kanti Biswas
Regional Director
CPCB, Kolkata

Surendra Kumar
Filed Through Counsel *Advocate*

Dated: ²¹15.06.2023
Place: Kolkata



21 JUN 2023

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 5 i.e. CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

I, Mrinal Kanti Biswas, S/o Shri Saroj Kumar Biswas, aged about 41, by Religion – Hindu, by Occupation – Service, having office at the Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, 1582, Rajdanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

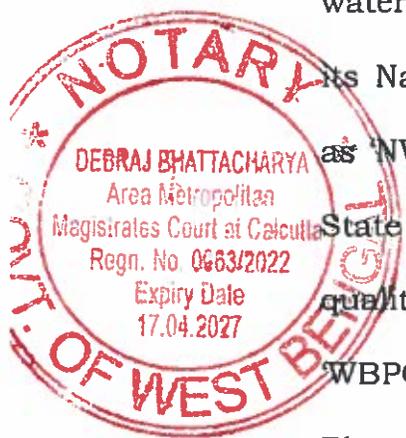
1. That I am working as Regional Director in the Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'CPCB'), Regional Directorate Kolkata and have been authorized to file the present affidavit on behalf of the Respondent No. 5 i.e. CPCB. I am well conversant with the facts of the application from the records maintained by the offices of the CPCB hence, I am competent to swear this independent response on behalf of the CPCB.



2. That I have read and understood the contents of the present Counter Affidavit. The contents thereof are true and correct and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Brief Submissions

3. The Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone vide its order dated 24.03.2023 in the matter of In Re-News Item published in The Times of India Newspaper, Calcutta edition dated 23.03.2023 titled Kolkata Water Table Dips 2m in 5 years, Experts flag rise in arsenic, salinity Vs. Central Ground Water Board & Ors in OA No.34/2023/EZ referred an analysis of the Central Ground Water Board's data on groundwater for 2017-21 where it was revealed "a 2.1m drop in Kolkata's groundwater level, a decline of 18.6% over the level recorded five years ago. For South 24 Parganas, the drop is 2.5m, or 27.8% from what it was five years ago. If left unchecked, the depletion for Kolkata could be 44% by 2025, say researchers". Further different other issues associated with this were also highlighted in this order and it was directed that the matter requires consideration.
4. That in reply to the order it is submitted by Respondent no. 5. that Central Pollution Control Board is not having any exclusive ground water quality monitoring program in West Bengal however, under its National Water Monitoring Programme (hereinafter referred to as 'NWMP') 68 locations are being monitored through West Bengal State Pollution Control Board (on half-yearly basis. About 52 water quality parameters including hereinafter referred to as 'WBPCB') general parameter (like color, odour, Temperature, pH, Electrical Conductivity, Total Dissolved Solid), Nutrients, Major

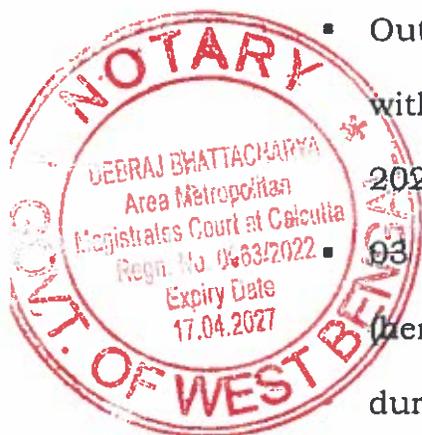


ions, Demand parameter like Chemical Oxygen Demand, Microbiological Parameters, Micropollutants covering Pesticides and Toxic Metals are analyzed to assess the ground water quality. However, "ground water level" is not measured. There are total 7 numbers of monitoring locations in Kolkata, and 4 numbers of monitoring locations in South 24 Parganas.

Sl No.	Monitoring Location with Station Code	District	Type Of Water Body
1	1773-Tangra, Calcutta , West Bengal	Kolkata	Well
2	1774-Topsia Calcutta, West Bengal	Kolkata	Well
3	1775-Dhapa Calcutta, West Bengal	Kolkata	Well
4	1776-Garia Calcutta, West Bengal	Kolkata	Well
5	1777-Behala Calcutta, West Bengal	Kolkata	Well
6	1931-Cossipore - North Kolkata	Kolkata	Well
7	1932-Central Kolkata	Kolkata	Well
8	1935-Inside Kolkata Leather Complex	South 24 Parganas	Well
9	1936-Residential Area - Sonarpur	South 24 Parganas	Well
10	2547-Amtola On Diamond Harbour Road, 24 Parganas (s)	South 24 Parganas	Well
11	4737-Ground Water At Shyampur Budge Budge	South 24 Parganas	Well

Based on the water quality monitoring conducted by West Bengal Pollution Control Board under NWMP during 2021 & 2022 at 11 ground water locations in Kolkata (7) and South 24 Parganas (4), the data are analysed and compared with permissible limit of BIS drinking water specification IS 10500:2012 and the observations are given below:

- Out of 11 monitored locations, 10 locations are not meeting with respect to turbidity during 2021 and 04 locations during 2022.
- 03 locations are not meeting for Total Dissolved Solids (hereinafter referred to as 'TDS') during 2021 and 01 location during 2022.



- All monitored heavy metals viz Arsenic, Cadmium, Copper, Lead, Chromium, Nickel and zinc were observed as Below Detection Limit (hereinafter referred to as 'BDL') at all 11 monitored locations of ground water during 2021 & 2022 except the parameter of Iron.
- All monitored pesticide parameters are observed as BDL at all 11 monitored locations during 2021 & 2022.

The Water Quality Data Of Ground Water During 2021-2022 For 11 Locations In West Bengal Under NWMP is enclosed herein and marked as **Annexure-I**.

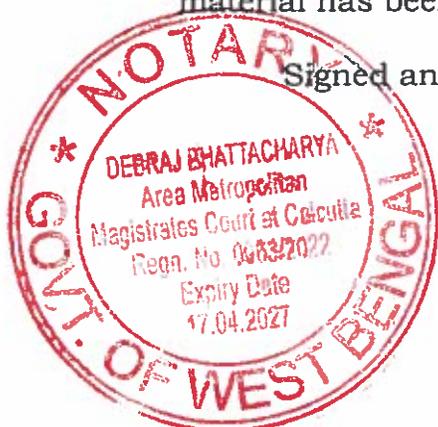
5. That the present Respondent reserves his rights to put forth any other or further argument, averment, claim, response and/or documents that may need to be submitted in future through separate affidavits.
6. In view of the above facts indicated in earlier paras, it is respectfully prayed that this Respondent No. 5 shall abide by any order or direction, passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.


DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

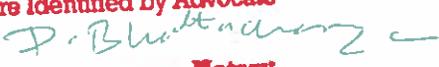
I, Mrinal Kanti Biswas, the above named deponent do hereby verify that, the contents of the above Counter Affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge based on official records, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Signed and verified on this ^{21th} 15th Day of June, 2023 at Kolkata.



Solemnly Affirmed and
Declared before me U/S 139
CPC, U/S 297 (C) CRPC Deponent
Signature Identified by Advocate


DEPONENT


Debraj Bhattacharya
Notary, Govt. of W.B.
Regd. No. 063/2022
MM, Bankshall Court, Calcutta


Suresh Kumar
Advocate.

21 JUN 2023

WATER QUALITY DATA OF GROUND WATER DURING 2021-2022 FOR 11 LOCATIONS IN WEST BENGAL UNDER NWMP

Station Code	Name of Monitoring Location	District	State Name	Turbidity (mg/L)				Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)				Iron (mg/L)				Zinc (mg/L)			
				Min		Max		Min		Max		Min		Max		Min		Max	
				2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Permissible Limit of BIS Drinking Water Specification IS 10500:2012																			
				5 NTU				2000 mg/L				0.3 mg/L				15 mg/L			
1773	TANGRA, CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	6	129	21.8	129	1358	1518	1500	1580	0.49	3.44	1.52	3.97	1.69	1.42	4.42	2.71
1774	TOPSIA CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	15.8	4.8	32	4.8	926	1068	1470	1624	0.56	0.35	2	1.78	2.01	1.47	3.23	3.72
1775	DHAPA CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	8.36	15.7	27	15.7	1146	1278	1216	1330	0.55	0.97	1.72	3.6	1.6	0.47	2.3	1.45
1776	GARIA CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	7	383	30.3	383	406	464	498	544	0.9	0.56	1.96	1.39	0.22	0.34	0.62	0.72
1777	BEHALA CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	13	1.28	27.5	1.28	736	540	824	590	1.35	0.16	2.04	0.34	BDL	0.35	0.57	0.5
1931	COSSIPORE - NORTH KOLKATA	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	4	4.95	14.7	4.95	1956	1812	2048	1880	0.48	2.27	0.6	3	1.53	0.07	6.04	1.44
1932	CENTRAL KOLKATA	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	15	16.7	15	16.7	242	408	316	496	1.7	1.31	2.4	1.36	0.43	0.03	0.7	0.35
1935	INSIDE KOLKATA LEATHER COMPLEX	SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	WEST BENGAL	BDL	1.85	BDL	1.85	882	932	936	1020	BDL	1.22	BDL	1.22	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
1936	RESIDENTIAL AREA - SONARPUR	SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	WEST BENGAL	2	1.74	28.63	1.74	462	480	726	574	0.4	0.21	1.31	0.74	0.07	BDL	0.12	BDL
2547	AMTOLA ON DIAMOND HARBOUR ROAD, 24 PARGANAS (S)	SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	WEST BENGAL	3.72	2.64	24	2.64	554	1652	6070	1734	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.41	BDL	BDL	0.17	BDL
4737	GROUND WATER AT SHYAMPUR BUDGE	SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	WEST BENGAL	31.77	21.9	31.77	21.9	572	636	2858	2564	0.28	0.94	0.24	1.32	BDL	BDL	0.32	0.57

NOTE:
BDL value for Turbidity is 1 NTU; BDL value from is 0.00067 mg/L and BDL value for zinc 0.00059 mg/L.

28

