

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 240 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti Vahini &amp; Ors.

Applicant(s)

Vs.

Union of India &amp; Ors.

Respondent(s)

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**(Nazimuddin)**

Scientist-'F'

Central Pollution Control Board,  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar  
Delhi- 110032.

Date: 20.05.2024

Place: Delhi

**Interim Progress Report in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated  
15.03.2024 in OA No. 240/2024 titled as Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti  
Vahini & Ors. Vs Union of India & Ors.**

1. Hon'ble NGT has passed the Order dated 15.03.2024 on Original Application No. 240/2024 in the matter of Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti Vahini & Ors. Versus Union of India & Ors. , the operative part of the order is as follows: -

*"1. The OA raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms.*

*...2. Respondent No. 2 will file a comprehensive report disclosing the extent of pollution in the area concerned and its effect on the health of the residents and also the truthfulness of the allegations made in the present OA. Let the reply/report be filed by the respondents at least one week before the next date of hearing by e-mail at [judicialngt@gov.in](mailto:judicialngt@gov.in) preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF".*

2. Issues raised by Applicant:

Applicant has summarized following five main issues:

- 2.1. The main source of water, the Rihand reservoir is severely polluted with the discharge of fly ash and other effluents from the industries. The water is unfit for consumption.
- 2.2. Detailed environmental studies have concluded that Singrauli was one of the Critically Polluted Areas identified by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- 2.3. There is a high prevalence of fluorosis in the region, in addition to indications of lead and mercury toxicity.
- 2.4. There is a need to assess the carrying capacity of the region and to halt further industrialization/expansion of existing industries.
- 2.5. There is a need for industries to contribute towards compensation for damage to victims of the pollution in the region as well as restoration of the environment.

Further environmental issues are stated by the applicant as under:

- 2.6. There is heavy metal pollution in the region including toxic heavy metals such as mercury, chromium, lead and arsenic, which are attributable to the thermal power plants and coal mining in the region.
  - 2.7. Singrauli experiences at least 95 days of very poor or critical air quality throughout the year.
  - 2.8. The lung function of the residents is severely affected, being on average 42.7% less than the average Indian.
  - 2.9. There is a high prevalence of fluorosis, yellowing of teeth, blue line on gums (indicating exposure of heavy metals) and a higher rate of miscarriages in the region.
3. In compliance of Hon'ble NGT order, team from CPCB Regional Directorate, Lucknow visited Sonbhadra area during May 06-07, 2024 and collected the samples from surface and groundwater sources as well as relevant information.
  4. Further, to seek the information from different concerned sources a letter dt. 03.05.2024 has been written to Regional Officer, UPPCB to provide the data on ambient air quality, carrying capacity study, if carried out and health status of local residents particularly with reference to lung disease and fluorosis from Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of district Sonbhadra. **(Annexure-1)**

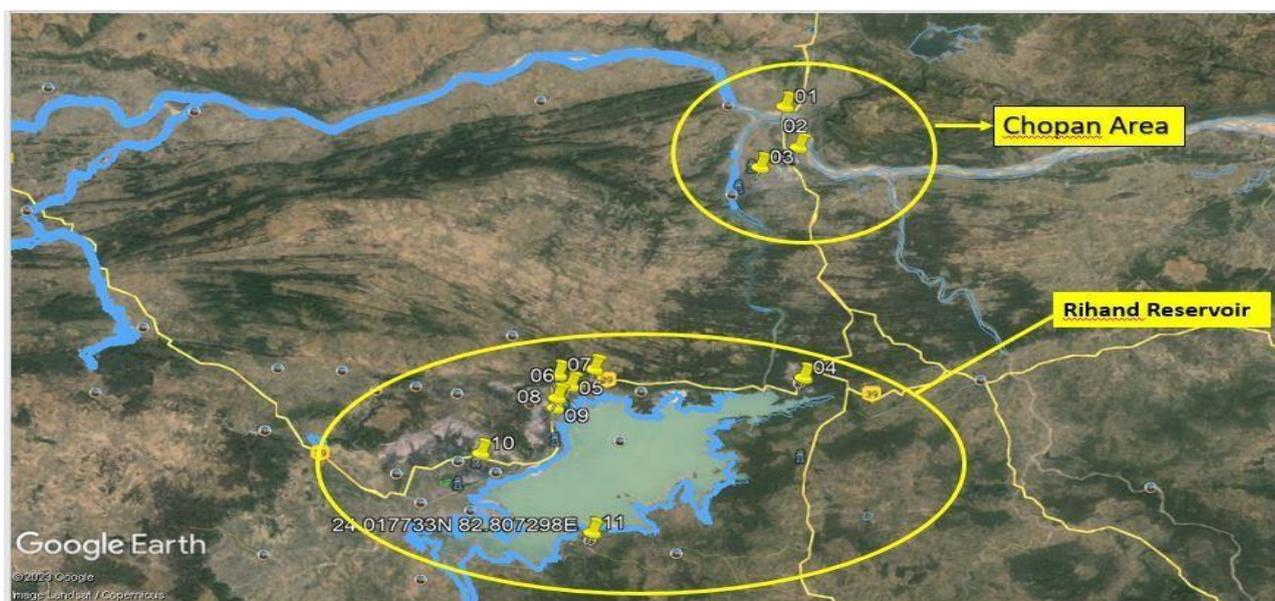
Surface water and groundwater samples:

5. To know the status of both Surface & Ground water quality of this region, water quality data from UPPCB has been obtained and CPCB team has also collected water surface water and groundwater samples.
6. RO, UPPCB, Sonbhadra has provided information wide letter dt. 02.03.2024 related to 04 no. ground water samples. Analysis for physical parameters and heavy metals, sampling was carried out by UPPCB, RO on dt. 14.02.2024.
7. CPCB team has also collected total 18 nos. of water samples (11 groundwater, 08 surface water, including seven river water and one drain water) for the analysis physico-chemical parameters including heavy metals from different locations of Sonbhadra covering the industrial area to and address the issues raised by complainant. **(Fig-1,2 &3)**

8. The collected samples are under analysis at CPCB and SPCB laboratories for relevant parameters.

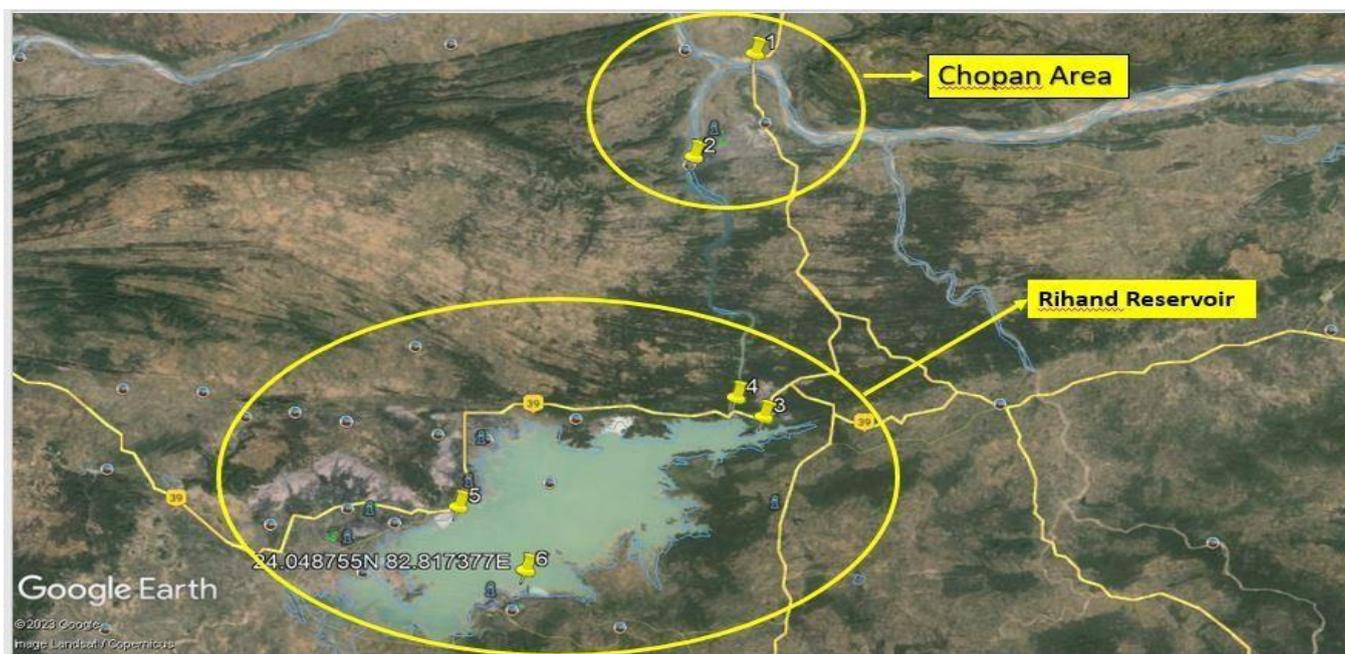
8.1. Details of the sampling locations for Surface Water and Groundwater are tabulated at **Table-1 & 2**.

<b>Table 01.: Groundwater sampling locations from where samples collected by CPCB during May 06-07, 2024</b>		
S. No.	Name of the Locations	Latitude/Longitude
1.	Near Chopan Bridge, Chopan	24.530725N/83.019553E
2.	Near Vaishno Devi Temple, Dalla	24.481449N/83.034387E
3.	Obra Town	24.457449N/82.992121E
4.	Near Renukut Railway Station	24.204053N/83.039139E
5.	Anpara Nagar Palika – 01	24.214517N/82.809616E
6.	Anpara Nagar Palika – 02	24.194592N/82.783588E
7.	Near Audi Mode, Anpara	24.207599N/82.769847E
8.	Near Kakari Pariyojna	24.179846N/82.768764E
9.	Near Krishnashila/Bina Mines	24.168016N/82.76689E
10.	NTPC Colony Shaktinagar	24.113068N/82.685224E
11.	NTPC Rihand Market	24.017733N/82.807298E



**Fig.01. Sampling locations of Groundwater in Sonbhadra.**

<b>Table 02.: Surface water sampling locations Sonbhadra area from where samples collected by CPCB during May 06-07, 2024</b>		
S. No.	Name of the Locations	Latitude/Longitude
1.	Son River, Near Chopan Bridge, Chopan	24.53132N/83.019559E
2.	Obra Dam, Obra	24.434791N/82.965532E
3.	Rihand Reservoir, Pipri Picnic Spot (U/s)	24.192059N/83.02648E
4.	Rihand Dam, Renu River (D/s)	24.209949N/83.002443E
5.	Rihand Reservoir, Near Khadia Ash Dyke	24.107941N/82.758467E
6.	Rihand Reservoir, Near NTPC Rihand Ash Dyke	24.048755N/82.817377E



**Fig.02. Surface water Sampling locations in Sonbhadra area**

6.2. One sample from Ballia Drain, Singrauli has been collected. This drain is originating from the NCL Dudhichuwa Mines, which carries wastewater of the area and directly meet to Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar (Rihand Reservoir) near Telgawan Bazar (24.091472N, 82.709950E).



**Fig.03. Origin and Confluence point of Ballia Nala**

Ambient Air Quality data:

9. The ambient air quality data has been collected from the UPPCB, Regional Office Sonbhadra for the period of April-2023 to March-2024. These stations are installed under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) at Nagar Palika Parishad, Anpara and Renusagar (**Annexure-2**).
10. The CAAQMS data has been collected from the units viz. M/s NTPC Shaktinagar (02 nos. CAAQMS), M/s NTPC Rihand (03 no. CAAQMS), M/s UPRVUNL, Obra (03 nos. CAAQMS) which are operating CAAQMS in the Sonbhadra area for ambient air quality monitoring (AAQM) data (**Annexure-3**).

### **Submission**

11. In compliance to the NGT order a site visit has been carried out by a team from CPCB Regional Directorate, Lucknow and sampling has been carried out and analysis of the samples collected is in progress. Further, available environmental and health data is being collected in respect of the grievance made in the present application.

Therefore, it is humbly submitted to grant two months to collect and compile necessary information/analysis results and prepare and submit the report as directed by Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 15.03.2024 in this matter.

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Annexure- 1

**केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड**  
**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, लखनऊ Regional Directorate, Lucknow  
(पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)

F. No. ZOL/Tech/ NGT/341/ 79

May 03, 2024

सेवा में,

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी,

उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

मकान संख्या - 162, उत्तर मोहाल

रॉबर्टसगंज, सोनभद्र -231216

**विषय:** OA No. 240/2024 के मामले में माननीय एनजीटी के आदेश का अनुपालन- संबंध में

**Ref.:** E-mail communication from HO dated 02.05.2024

This office received CPCB HO communication vide email dated 02.05.2024 vide in reference to Hon'ble NGT matter under O. A. No. 240/2024, were forwarded (copy attached). If any analysis/studies have been carried out by UPPCB Regional office, Sonbhadra on following is required:

1. Surface and Groundwater Quality data/status of the area, specially which may include Heavy Metals Analysis such as: Mercury, Chromium, Lead and Arsenic
2. Ambient air quality data/status of the area
3. Health status of local residents of the area as per healthcare facilities, specially which may include lungs related diseases, fluorosis, lead and mercury toxicity, yellowing of teeth, blue line on gums (indicating exposure of heavy metals) and rate of miscarriage in the region
4. Status of carrying capacity studies being carried out by SPCBs, if any

Therefore, it is requested to please provide the information as mentioned above on priority basis to this office latest by 10.05.2024

**Encl:** As above

Yours Faithfully

  
(Devendra K. Soni)

Regional Director

**Copy to:** Divisional Head, IPC-II, CPCB Delhi – for kind information please

Regional Director

Annexure-2

<b>Table-1: NAMP STATION</b>						
	<b>Monitoring Station: Anpara</b>			<b>Monitoring Station: Renusagar</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>NO<sub>2</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>PM 10 (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>NO<sub>2</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>PM 10 (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
Apr-23	18.91	26.55	174	18.20	26.51	170
May-23	19.09	27.47	184	18.48	27.35	177
Jun-23	16.97	23.49	164	17.07	22.92	166
Jul-23	16.75	22.53	165	16.05	22.38	158
Aug-23	14.99	21.40	124	14.12	20.58	122
Sep-23	15.77	21.09	114	15.43	20.51	109
Oct-23	17.54	22.56	129	17.15	22.46	120
Nov-23	18.29	24.98	159	17.96	24.15	153
Dec-23	19.14	26.98	198	19.03	26.77	188
Jan-24	19.05	27.04	209	18.45	26.80	197
Feb-24	17.92	27.85	188	17.15	26.79	177
Mar-24	18.36	27.96	193	17.40	27.09	179
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>17.73</b>	<b>24.99</b>	<b>166.75</b>	<b>17.21</b>	<b>24.53</b>	<b>159.67</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>

The above NAMP monitoring stations are operated by Regional Office, UPPCB, Robertsganj.

Location: 1	Table-2: CAAQMS, NTPC Rihand, PUNERVAS			
	PM10 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	PM2.5 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	SO <sub>2</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	NOx ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Apr-23	75	20	22	26
May-23	77	21	23	29
Jun-23	70	18	21	28
Jul-23	59	29	19	25
Aug-23	50	25	25	23
Sep-23	46	23	31	26
Oct-23	59	29	33	29
Nov-23	81	22	28	32
Dec-23	73	20	23	36
Jan-24	71	23	32	33
Feb-24	55	26	33	54
Mar-24	51	19	31	57
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by NTPC Rihand at "Punervas."

Location: 2	Table-3: CAAQMS, NTPC Rihand, MGR			
	PM10 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	PM2.5 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	SO <sub>2</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	NO <sub>x</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Apr-23	63	13	18	24
May-23	44	13	27	24
Jun-23	49	21	25	27
Jul-23	55	29	35	24
Aug-23	45	22	52	34
Sep-23	52	29	31	21
Oct-23	59	28	26	25
Nov-23	69	15	29	29
Dec-23	55	21	30	26
Jan-24	78	23	31	26
Feb-24	70	26	30	32
Mar-24	40	12	46	29
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by NTPC Rihand at "MGR."

Location: 3	Table-4: CAAQMS, NTPC Rihand, SHIV MANDIR			
	PM10 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	PM2.5 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	SO <sub>2</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	NOx ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Apr-23	39	25	22	23
May-23	57	29	15	28
Jun-23	44	20	17	24
Jul-23	48	22	16	23
Aug-23	45	21	19	23
Sep-23	47	24	40	25
Oct-23	53	33	41	39
Nov-23	84	44	27	52
Dec-23	64	36	24	31
Jan-24	71	42	32	24
Feb-24	59	34	25	37
Mar-24	55	26	40	38
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by NTPC Rihand at "Shiv Mandir".

<b>Table-5: CAAQMS, NTPC Shaktinagar, Inside plant</b>				
<b>Location-1</b>	<b>PM10</b>	<b>PM2.5</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>NOx</b>
	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
Apr-23	73.8	23.5	14.9	31.6
May-23	76.0	25.8	15.1	25.7
Jun-23	62.6	20.1	19.1	21.3
Jul-23	29.3	10.9	22.2	24.5
Aug-23	44.0	17.9	18.8	17.3
Sep-23	36.4	26.2	14.0	21.4
Oct-23	61.9	22.2	11.4	35.1
Nov-23	90.2	31.8	11.7	30.0
Dec-23	77.2	29.1	12.5	28.1
Jan-24	91.8	38.0	16.7	34.8
Feb-24	59.9	21.8	13.1	20.7
Mar-24	67.0	24.4	14.9	19.6
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>25.8</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by NTPC Shakti Nagar at "Inside Plant."

<b>Table-6: CAAQMS, NTPC Shaktinagar, Township area</b>				
<b>Location-2</b>	<b>PM10</b>	<b>PM2.5</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>
	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>(µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
Apr-23	93.7	14.6	23.1	18.2
May-23	97.6	14.3	17.4	18.0
Jun-23	77.0	11.9	17.6	19.5
Jul-23	30.1	7.6	19.2	24.6
Aug-23	42.8	15.8	15.3	24.8
Sep-23	39.1	17.6	15.1	26.5
Oct-23	82.8	36.0	18.2	20.6
Nov-23	98.7	55.2	20.0	31.5
Dec-23	92.5	52.5	24.1	30.6
Jan-24	95.4	58.0	27.7	33.7
Feb-24	93.9	51.2	19.7	25.1
Mar-24	89.2	44.9	18.7	24.0
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>24.8</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by NTPC Shakti Nagar at "Township area."

Location 1	Table-7: CAAQMS, UPRVUNL, Obra, Coal Handling Area			
	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	PM <sub>10</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	SO <sub>2</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NO <sub>x</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Apr-23	45.14	69.73	30.14	15.15
May-23	45.01	69.71	30.1	15.01
Jun-23	44.47	70.29	30.02	15.12
Jul-23	44.87	69.99	30.18	14.84
Aug-23	44.81	69.57	30.21	15.01
Sep-23	44.81	70.25	29.8	14.88
Oct-23	44.91	69.72	30.06	14.96
Nov-23	44.91	70.24	30.2	15.05
Dec-23	44.79	70.2	29.9	14.89
Jan-24	44.9	71.3	29.66	14.91
Feb-24	44.81	69.57	30.21	15.01
Mar-24	44.81	69.57	30.21	15.01
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>44.85</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>15.0</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by UPRVUNL, Obra at "Coal Handling Area."

Location 2	Table-8: CAAQMS, UPRVUNL, Obra, ETP Area			
	PM2.5 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	PM10 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	SO <sub>2</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	NO <sub>x</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Apr-23	50.16	80.23	12.5	17.475
May-23	50.04	80.16	12.45	17.495
Jun-23	49.72	79.89	12.55	17.49
Jul-23	50.12	79.56	12.5	17.495
Aug-23	50.3	79.9	12.55	17.525
Sep-23	49.71	80.03	12.48	17.505
Oct-23	50.02	79.91	12.52	17.48
Nov-23	49.67	79.78	12.45	17.575
Dec-23	50.1	80.4	12.51	17.515
Jan-24	49.92	79.71	12.56	17.495
Feb-24	50.08	79.37	12.53	17.495
Mar-24	50.68	79.4	12.42	17.42
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>50.04</b>	<b>79.86</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>17.50</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by UPRVUNL, Obra at "ETP Area."

Location 3	Table-9: CAAQMS, UPRVUNL, Obra, VIP Guest House			
	PM2.5 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	PM10 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	SO <sub>2</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	NO <sub>x</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Apr-23	15.79	55.28	25.57	17.54
May-23	14.07	42.36	26.14	18.51
Jun-23	17.53	32.72	26.34	13.43
Jul-23	2.94	73.69	55.54	26.56
Aug-23	44.19	51.99	26.83	16.27
Sep-23	56.76	71.99	26.63	18.45
Oct-23	47.56	72.83	20.45	19.42
Nov-23	47.75	73.02	7.83	18.58
Dec-23	46.33	78.1	9.5	18.88
Jan-24	51.99	76.78	6.93	18.27
Feb-24	63.83	51.99	26.92	18.11
Mar-24	55.72	58.04	55.71	22.61
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>38.71</b>	<b>61.57</b>	<b>26.20</b>	<b>18.89</b>
<b>Annual Standard</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

The above CAAQ monitoring station is operated by NTPC Shakti Nagar at "VIP Guest House."

Item No. 03

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 240/2024

Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti Vahini &amp; Ors.

Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India &amp; Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 15.03.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, Ms. Sanjana Srikumar & Ms. Tara Elizabeth  
Kurien, Advs.

**ORDER**

1. In this original application, residents of Sonbhadra District of Singrauli had claimed the compensation on account of the health issues faced by them due to pollution caused by the industrial units in that area. The plea of the Applicant is that there are 359 industries including highly polluting industries such as thermal power plants, coal mines, etc. and the industries have been set up beyond the carrying capacity as a result of which the residents have faced serious health hazards. Applicant has summarized following five main issues:

- I. The main source of water, the Rihand reservoir is severely polluted with the discharge of fly ash and other effluents from the industries. The water is unfit for consumption.
- II. Detailed environmental studies have concluded that Singrauli was one of the Critically Polluted Areas identified by the Central Pollution Control Board.

- III. There is a high prevalence of fluorosis in the region, in addition to indications of lead and mercury toxicity.
- IV. There is a need to assess the carrying capacity of the region and to halt further industrialization/expansion of existing industries.
- V. There is a need for industries to contribute towards compensation for damage to victims of the pollution in the region as well as restoration of the environment.

2. Further issues which are required to be remediated are stated by the applicant as under:

- I. There is heavy metal pollution in the region including toxic heavy metals such as mercury, chromium, lead and arsenic, which are attributable to the thermal power plants and coal mining in the region.
- II. Singrauli experiences at least 95 days of very poor or critical air quality throughout the year.
- III. The lung function of the residents is severely affected, being on average 42.7% less than the average Indian.
- IV. There is a high prevalence of fluorosis, yellowing of teeth, blue line on gums (indicating exposure of heavy metals) and a higher rate of miscarriages in the region.

3. Learned Counsel for the Applicant has submitted that the Core Committee constituted by the Tribunal had submitted the report in the year 2015, wherein the gravity of the situation and extent of pollution

from various sources and various elements was reflected and that even the basic healthcare facilities are not available in the area concerned to take care of the various health problems faced by the residents due to the industrial pollution.

4. The OA raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms.

5. Issue notice to the respondents. Applicant is directed to serve the respondents and file affidavit of service at least one week before the next date of hearing.

6. Respondent No. 2 will file a comprehensive report disclosing the extent of pollution in the area concerned and its effect on the health of the local residents and also the truthfulness of the allegations made in the present OA. Let the reply/report be filed by the respondents at least one week before the next date of hearing by e-mail at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in) preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

7. List on 22.05.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

March 15, 2024  
Original Application No. 240/2024  
DV