

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI**

OA No. 279 of 2024

In

OA No. 1097 of 2024 (PB)

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM TITLED 17 KILLED 20 INJURED IN REACTOR BLAST AT
PHARMA COMPANY IN ANDHRA PRADESH S ANAKAPALLI APPEARING**

IN THE HINDU DATED 22.08.2024

..... APPLICANT

VERSUS

**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD THROUGH ITS MEMBER
SECRETARY AND OTHERS**

..... RESPONDENTS

REPORT FILED BY COLLECTOR 4TH RESPONDENT

DATE: 29.04.2025



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ADVOCATE

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**ACTION TAKEN REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
ANAKAPALLI & 4TH RESPONDENT IN O.A.No. 1097 OF 2024**

1. It is respectfully submitted that, the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi has registered suo-motu case based on the News Item titled "17 killed 20 injured in reactor blast at pharma company in Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalli" published in The Hindu News Paper dated 22.08.2024, which caused, due to the eruption of a major fire reportedly after a reactor blast at Escientia pharmaceutical company, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam.
2. It is respectfully submitted that, the Hon'ble NGT, Delhi has issued orders on 22.08.2024 in Original Application No. 1097/2024(PB), transferring the matter to the Southern Zonal Bench at Chennai and impleaded the District Magistrate, Anakapalli as respondent No.4 and posted the matter to 30-09-2024".
3. In this connection, it is respectfully submitted that, the accident took place at about 02:15 PM on 21.08.2024 in M/s. Escientia Advanced Sciences Pvt., Ltd., Plot No.11, 11 A, 12 & 12 A, APSEZ, Atchutapuram & Rambilli (M), Anakapalli District of Andhrapradesh in production block and on receipt of the information, the District Collector, Anakapalli along with the Superintendent of Police, Anakapalli, Revenue Divisional Officer, Anakapalli, District Medical & Health Officer, Anakapalli, Dy. Inspector of Factories, Anakapalli and District Fire Officer, Anakapalli have rushed to spot and monitored the situation with the help of the fire department and other line departments.
4. It is respectfully submitted that, 381 employees are being worked in the said factory in two shifts, out of which, 17 persons were reported as died, 39 persons who sustained major and minor injuries, are being treated at various hospitals in Visakhapatnam and discharged from the respective hospitals.

5. It is respectfully submitted that, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs.1,00,00,000/- (Rupees 1 crore only) to each deceased family, Rs.50,00,000/- (Fifty Lakhs) to severely injured persons and Rs.25,00,000/- (Twenty Five Lakhs) to minor injuries persons, with a view to provide immediate relief to the victims.
6. Accordingly, the Management of M/s. Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited has paid the amount of one Crore rupees to each for 17 deceased employees/workers, 50 lakhs to 21 severely injured employees/workers and 25 lakhs to 18 employees/workers with minor injuries after obtaining the report from the Medical department.
7. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the data of the deceased and severally injured persons has been uploaded in online portal, launched by the Prime Minister`s Office for providing immediate relief to the victims / victims` families by transferring ex-gratia directly to their bank accounts under Prime Minister`s National Relief Fund.
8. It is respectfully submitted that, the Environmental Engineer, AP Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Visakhapatnam, has reported as follows:
 - That M/s.Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited has established in a total area of 40 acres at Plot No.11, 11 A, 12 & 12 A, APIIC, APSEZ, Atchuthapuram and the industry has obtained CTO (CPM) vide order dated 25.05.2024 to manufacture bulk drugs with a maximum production capacity of 2600 Kg/Day.
 - That the accident took place at about 02:15 PM on 21.08.2024 in M/s. Escientia Advanced Sciences Pvt., Ltd., Plot No.11, 11 A, 12 & 12 A, APSEZ, Atchutapuram & Rambilli (M), Anakapalli District.
 - That the APPCB Regional Office, Visakhapatnam Officials inspected the industry on 21.08.2024 and submitted preliminary report to Head Office, APPCB on 22.08.2024.

- That the APPCB has carried out monitoring from 21.08.2024 to 22.08.2024 and collected samples from the contaminated firefighting water at front side of the production block & back side of the production block and a detailed report was submitted to Head Office, APPCB on 23.08.2024 for taking further necessary action.

- That the APPCB, Vijayawada has issued orders to stop the production to the industry on 23.08.2024 and also to stop further discharges of air and water pollutants into surrounding environment, since operational status of the industry is not suitable to continue further operations and potential to cause pollution problems.

- That the Collector & District Magistrate, Anakapalli District vide proceedings dated 24.08.2024 constituted a committee consisting the District Roads & Buildings Officer, Anakapalli, Deputy chief Inspector of Factories, Visakhapatnam, Assistant Director, DIC, Anakapalli, District Disaster Response & Fire Officer, Anakapalli, Deputy Chief Inspector of Boilers, Anakapalli, District Drug Control Officer, Anakapalli, EE, APEPDCL, Anakapalli to examine the safe disposal of the solvents in the premises and post corrective measures and directed to submit the report and the Joint Committee inspected on 27.08.2024 and the APPCB has submitted report to the Collector & District Magistrate on 28.08.2024.

- That the Collector & District Magistrate, Anakapalli District vide proceedings dated 27.08.2024 further added the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, AP Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam, District In-Charge, Labour Department, Anakapalli and Deputy Chief Electrical Inspector, Visakhapatnam to the committee already constituted to submit specific recommendations for shifting of the solvents and other materials from the damaged building in M/s. Escientia Advanced Sciences (P) Ltd.

- That the APPCB has submitted report to the Collector & District Magistrate, Anakapalli District on 06.09.2024.

- That the Joint Committee submitted its report on 06.09.2024 to the Collector & District Magistrate, Anakapalli District.

- That the causes of the incident and reasons for the failure of the safety systems have been investigated by the Factories Department, who is prescribed authority.

9. It is respectfully submitted that, a committee has been constituted to examine the safe disposal of solvents in M/s Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited Company premises, for necessary post corrective measures and the committee has conducted joint inspection at Company premises and submitted their recommendations and in pursuance of the request of the firm and as per the recommendations of the Joint Committee, safe disposal of all the solvents and other materials from the production block has been made under the supervision of the Joint Committee members as per the SoPs and an undertaking was obtained from the management of M/S. Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited, APSEZ, Atchutapuram.

10. It is respectfully submitted that the Govt. of AP vide G.O.MS.No.51 dated 13.09.2024 constituted of High-Level Committee to suggest measures for increasing the industrial safety in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The High-Level Committee consists of the following members:

1.	Smt. Vasudha Mishra, IAS (Retd).	Chairperson
2.	Special Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest, Science & Technology Department	Member
3.	Principal Secretary, Home Department	Member
4.	Secretary, Labour Factories Boilers & Insurance Medical Services Department	Member
5.	Secretary, Industry and Commerce Department	Member

6.	Development Commissioner, VSEZ, Government of India	Member
7.	Director General, Fire services.	Member
8.	Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board	Member
9.	Director of Boilers	Member
10.	Director of Industries	Member
11.	Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, APIIC	Member
12.	Director of Factories	Convener

11. The committee which has been constituted vide G.O.MS.No.51 dated 13.09.2024 has visited the accident site on 26.09.2024.

12. It is respectfully submitted that, the Superintendent of Police, Anakapalli has reported that according to the evidence of witnesses, opinions of the expert, some lapses which were led to tragic mishap have been observed.

In the circumstances stated supra, it is humbly prayed that, this Honourable Tribunal may kindly be pleased to record this report and dismiss the above O.A. No.279 of 2024 and pass such order or other orders as this Honourable Tribunal, may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.


Collector &
District Magistrate
Anakapalli District
Andhra Pradesh State
DISTRICT COLLECTOR
ANAKAPALLI