



PROGRESS REPORT II
(VOLUME I)

Of

**The Committee of Experts Constituted by the
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, New Delhi**

Headed by

JUSTICE BROJENDRA PRASAD KATAKEY
Former Judge, Gauhati High Court

Dated
December 10, 2020

**Constituted vide Order dated 24.06.2020 passed in OA 43/2020/EZ & OA 44/2020/EZ to
look into the issues concerning Well Baghjan-5 in Tinsukia District**

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. The blowout of Well Baghjan-5, located in Doomdooma Revenue Circle of the district of Tinsukia on 27.05.2020 and a subsequent explosion on 09.06.2020 has led to filing of O.A No.43/2020/EZ titled Bonani Kakkar -Vs- Oil India Limited & Ors. and O.A No.44/2020/EZ titled Wildlife and Environment Conservation Organisations -Vs- Union of India & Ors before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (hereinafter referred to as Hon'ble NGT). The Applications inter-alia raise allegations of failure and negligence on part of OIL amongst other Respondent Authorities in preventing the blowout and mitigating its impact.

2. In response to the aforesaid Applications, the Hon'ble NGT vide its Order dated 24.06.2020 constituted the present Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice Brojendra Prasad Katakey to examine the following aspects namely:
 - i) *Cause of gas and oil leak ;*
 - ii) *Extent of loss and damage caused to human life, wildlife, environment ;*
 - iii) *Damage and health hazard caused to the public ;*
 - iv) *Whether any contamination has been caused to water, air and soil of the area of the oil well and its vicinity ;*
 - v) *Extent of contamination of water of the Dibru River due to the oil spill ;*
 - vi) *For the purpose of (iv) and (v) above, it may be necessary to get the air quality monitored and, samples of soil and ground water of the area as well as the water of river Dibru downstream of the oil spill tested ;*
 - vii) *Impact on the eco sensitive zone of the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Maguri-Motapung Wetland ;*
 - viii) *Impact on agriculture, Fishery and domestic animals in the area ;*
 - ix) *Whether there were any mitigation measure put in place by OIL to offset the incidents such as the one in question;*
 - x) *Persons responsible for the fire incidents and the cause of failure to prevent the incident ;*
 - xi) *Assessment of compensation for the victims and cost of restitution of the damage caused to property and the environment ;*
 - xii) *Preventive and remedial measures ;*
 - xiii) *Any other incidental or allied issues.*

B. REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE

3. Till date, the Committee has submitted three Reports i.e. a two volume Preliminary Report dated 26.07.2020, an First Interim Report dated 01.08.2020 and a Progress Report dated 31.10.2020. A short summary of the findings and recommendations are stated below and the present status of each of the Reports.

Date	Particulars	Status
26.07.2020	Preliminary Report	Order Passed on 06.08.2020
01.08.2020	First Interim Report	Pending Consideration
31.10.2020	Progress Report	Pending Consideration

(i) Preliminary report dated 26.07.2020

Status	Issues raised/ Interim Measures recommended
Order passed	<p>Issues raised</p> <p>(A) Causes of the blowout</p> <p>(B) Prima Facie violations of Environmental laws, including Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate.</p> <p>Interim Measures</p> <p>(A) Interim compensation</p> <p>(i) Those whose houses have been completely gutted by the fire thereby causing grave injury to life and health, loss of livelihood, cultivable land, livestock, damage to standing crops and horticulture, fisheries etc.</p> <p>(ii) Those whose houses have been severely damaged thereby causing grave injury to life and health, loss of livelihood, cultivable land, livestock, damage to standing crops and horticulture, fisheries etc.</p> <p>(iii) Those whose houses have been moderately/partially damaged or whose standing crops and horticulture have been partially damaged thereby causing injury to life and health, loss of livelihood, cultivable land, livestock, damaged to fisheries etc.</p> <p>The scale of interim compensation was fixed at as follows :</p> <p>Category</p> <p>(i) – Rs.25 Lacs</p> <p>(ii) – Rs.10 Lacs</p> <p>(iii) – Rs.2.5 Lacs</p> <p>(B) Setting up of multidisciplinary team to assess ecological damage and for restoration of Maguri Motapung wetland;</p> <p>(C) Health safeguards for affected families in relief camps</p>

(ii) Interim Report dated 01.08.2020

Status	Issues raised/ Interim Measures recommended
Pending consideration	<p>Revised mechanism for interim compensation.</p> <p>Based on site verifications, assessments and recommendations made by the DC, Tinsukia a two-way compensation mechanism be devised to include;</p> <p>(a) 57 families in addition to the 12 families (already identified and paid) as identified by the DC, Tinsukia to be included in Category (i) and be paid Rs. 25 Lacs each as interim compensation;</p> <p>(b) 543 families as identified by DC, Tinsukia to be included in Category (ii) as having been worst sufferers and be paid as interim compensation to be enhanced to Rs. 15 Lacs.</p>

(iii) Progress Report dated 31.10.2020

Status	Issues raised/ Interim Measures recommended
Pending consideration	<p>(A) Multidisciplinary Committee set up to study ecological impact.</p> <p>Findings</p> <p>(A) Conclusive finding that OIL does not have the mandatory authorizations i.e. either the Consent to Establish / NOC and/or Consent to Operate under the Section 25 and 26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as the Air Act), and Authorization under the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 and the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.</p> <p>Recommended: Directions be issued to the PCB, Assam to take appropriate legal action against OIL and its officials for violation of the mandatory requirements of the aforesaid Acts and the rules</p> <p>(A) OIL has been unable to carry out the Biodiversity Impact Assessment Study either through the Assam State Biodiversity Board, as was mandated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a fact that stands corroborated by the Assam State Biodiversity Board, or by any other agency. Such actions place OIL in continuing contempt of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, specifically its Order dated 07.09.2017 granting conditional approval to OIL to undertake the present extraction of hydrocarbons from the proposed wells.</p> <p>(B) OIL had started the activities in Well Baghjan-5, 5 years prior to grant of EC by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, which is mandatory. The OIL therefore stands in contravention of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 1994 under which it is mandatory to obtain EC for any onshore drilling projects before</p>

commencement of activities on 20.11.2006.

(D) Based on the Reports received by multiple agencies, including PCB, Assam, it is evident that the ambient noise levels in and around Well Baghjan No. 5 are well above the permissible standards. It is therefore recommended that OIL be directed to take immediate and all other urgent measures to bring down the noise level within the limit prescribed under Rule 3(1) and Rule 4(1) of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. Additionally, PCB, Assam may be directed to initiate appropriate legal action against the competent authorities of OIL under the provision of Rule 8 of the aforementioned Rules. Further, in the interim, a health fund may be generated by contributions made available by OIL, to be administered by the DC, Tinsukia, to defray the cost of treatment including any specialized treatment of any person(s) suffering from any ailment/condition/ illness due to the heightened noise levels. Such fund may be replenished from time to time as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by the DC, Tinsukia,

Revised Status of Interim compensation

The Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia being one of the Members of the Committee appointed by the Hon'ble NGT and also the head of the Revenue in the District has re- surveyed the affected families and recommends that an additional 104 families be inducted into Category (i) to the earlier list containing 57 families. He has further recommended that for the disbursement of the final compensation, the affected families of Baghjan Gaon be revised into two categories and the number of affected families would be as follows:

Category (i): (12+57+104 = 173 Nos. of families)

Category (ii): (439 Nos. of families)

The Committee is inclined to accept his recommendation for payment of Rs. 25 Lacs to the identified 173 nos. of families and Rs. 20 Lacs to identified 439 nos. of families, subject to the process being over seen by the Assam State Legal Services Authority. The amount already paid to any of the aforesaid families shall be deducted from the said amount. Hence, the Hon'ble NGT may consider passing necessary order in that regard for payment of interim compensation as suggested.

4. It is pertinent to note here that in the interim and during the pendency of these proceedings, OIL vide its Letter Ref No. RCE: 03-351 dated 02.12.2020 have accepted the aforesaid mechanism for payment of interim compensation to the identified affected families with a reduced compensation amount, as ad interim measure, than as recommended by the Committee as under:

- i) Category A: Rs. 15 Lacs for 161 families each

ii) Category B: Rs. 10 Lacs for 439 families each

5. OIL (vide the same letter) has further intimated the DC, Tinsukia of its intention to earmark Rs. 62.546 crores, presently available, for payment of ad interim compensation to the aforesaid affected 600 affected families of Baghjan village. Copies of the Letters Ref No. RCE: 03-351 dated 02.12.2020 and REF No. ED(HR&A)/ 63 (T)/234 dated 02.12.2020 submitted by OIL to DC, Tinsukia is annexed hereto and marked as **Annexure A Colly**.

C. FIELD VISIT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

6. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Justice B.P Katakey, Former Judge, Hon'ble Gauhati High Court visited Well Baghjan-5 and its neighbouring areas from November 19-21, 2020. The section below provides a brief summary of the site visit, drawing particular reference to the discussions held with the affected families and OIL officials.

Day 1: November 19, 2020

- (i) On the way to Baghjan, the Chairman held detailed discussions with local experts on 19.11.2020. He also conducted a detailed discussion with the Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia (DC), Superintendent of Police, Tinsukia (SP), Additional Deputy Commissioners and Circle Officers relating to the identification of victims and assessment of compensation. This included detailed deliberation on the proper exercise to identify the victims and also to evaluate the nature of damages caused including the loss of livelihood. It was noted that it is essential on the part of the district administration to ensure assessment of compensation payable. This exercise is also to be carried out not only in respect of Baghjan village but also other nearby villages which have been affected and are in close proximity to Well Baghjan-5. Further, the DC, Tinsukia submitted a detailed report of the incident with a chronology and expenditure statement which is appended hereto and marked as **Annexure B**.

Day 2: November 20, 2020

- (i) A meeting was held on 20.11.2020 with the representatives of the affected villages. The Member Secretary, Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) and

Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Tinsukia were also present during the meeting.

- (ii) Further, representations dated 20.11.2020 were submitted by Shri Niranta Gohain, on behalf of the villagers of Brihattar Natun Rongagorah Gaon, Shri Tikhrajyoti Hazarika, Secretary, Baghjan Gaon Milanjyoti Sangha and Shri Jayanta Saurak, Secretary, Rupjyoti Yubak Sangha on behalf of Goriating village to the Chairman of the Committee. Subsequent to the visit, copies of the representation dated 05.11.2020 to OIL India Ltd., dated 04.12.2020 to DC Tinsukia, dated 30.11.2020 to the Chief Minister, Assam and dated 01.12.2020 submitted to OIL by the villagers of Guijan village have been sent to the DC, Tinsukia by the Chairman of the Committee for proper verification. The above representations have reiterated the impact of the blowout which has also been documented previously, such as sound pollution, impact on health, ecological damage to the Maguri-Motapung wetland among others. Most such representations also agitate claims for early payment of compensation and inclusion in the eligible category.
- (iii) The Chairman also had an in-depth and comprehensive discussion with the officials of OIL at Duliajan which included the Resident Chief Executive, Executive Director (HR & A) among others. During this discussion, the officers made a presentation on the activities of OIL in the State of Assam.
- (iv) Subsequently, the Chairman visited the site of incident being Well Baghjan-5 where he had the opportunity to interact with the 12 affected families closest to the site. It appears that the primary grievance of these families is that since they have been the prime sufferers of the blowout, having completely lost their homes and belongings to the fire, they are entitled to full compensation in addition to the interim compensation they have received.

Comprehensive assessment of all affected villages

- (v) Following the site visit, the Committee has requested the DC, Tinsukia to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all the affected villages including Baghjan, Natun Rongagorah, Goriating and Notungaon villages within 2 weeks of receipt of

communication. It has been advised that an assessment is made on the following aspects namely:

1. Impact on agriculture, Fishery and domestic animals in the area.
2. Extent of loss and damage caused to human life.
3. Extent of loss and damages caused to the household.
4. Extent of loss of livelihood.

In this regard, various representations received by the Committee on 20.11.2020 have also been made available to the DC Tinsukia. A copy of the letter addressed to the DC Tinsukia is appended hereto and marked as **Annexure C**.

- (vi) It is pertinent to mention here that since the visit of the Chairman to the site of incident, the Committee has requested the Assam State Legal Services Authority to conduct the identification of victims and assessment of compensation to the families from affected villages. In pursuance to this, the Committee has addressed a letter to the Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority requesting that a cross-institutional Sub-Committee be formed for proper assessment of the amount of compensation payable to the victims of the different villages affected by the incident and for proper compensation payable to them. The Committee is also of the considered opinion that the above-mentioned Sub-Committee **constituted under the leadership of the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Tinsukia** would be able to assist the Committee in addressing the grievances of the affected families of the neighbouring villages, identification of victims and assessment of compensation payable to any such victims.
- (vii) It has also been suggested that the Sub-Committee may be constituted with the following members:
1. A competent Officer from Assam PWD of Tinsukia District
 2. A competent Officer from the Revenue Department of Tinsukia District
 3. A competent Officer of the Veterinary Department of Tinsukia District
 4. A competent officer of Agriculture Department of Tinsukia District
 5. A competent officer of Fisheries Department of Tinsukia District
- (Sl. No. 2-6 to be nominated by the DC, Tinsukia)

6. An officer of OIL India Limited, to be nominated by the Resident Chief Executive, Oil India Limited, Duliajan.

(viii) It has also been suggested that a nominated competent officer of the Revenue Department of Tinsukia district may be made the Member Secretary to convene the meetings of the aforesaid Sub-committee. In this context, it is pertinent to mention here that the DC, Tinsukia has suggested incorporation of the Officers from Forest Department, Handloom and Textile Department, Sericulture Department, Tea Board, APDCL, DICC & PHE Department in the aforesaid Sub-committee. He has further suggested that a time limit be prescribed for the completion of the identification and assessment process.

D. IMPACT OF CONDENSATE ON THE ECOLOGY

7. It has been stated by OIL India Ltd. vide their press release dated 06.11.2020 that diversion of the well at the nearby Early Production Setup (EPS) had been attempted on 13.09.2020, post which a cumulative production of 6960 kilo litres (KL) of high-quality condensate along with 49.01 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter (MMSCM) of natural gas has been achieved till 05.11.2020. This is a clear admission as regards production of condensate from Well Baghjan 5 by OIL India Ltd. A copy of the press release dated 06.11.2020 from OIL India Ltd. is annexed hereto and marked as **Annexure D**.
8. It is also important to note that the detrimental impact of condensate on environment is well-documented by independent experts. The general characteristic of condensate is light, volatile and acutely toxic. Experts have meticulously documented the impact of condensate on marine and aquatic ecosystems and the persistent impact it can have for months on a site. While some of such independent expert opinions may be in regard to offshore gas projects, the discussion on the ecological impact of condensate is general in nature and applies to the incident under review as well.
9. Having regard to the technical aspects which have to be ascertained, the Committee has already constituted (and as discussed above) a Multidisciplinary Committee to ascertain the impact on the eco-sensitive zone of the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Maguri-Motapung Wetland and also assess the impact on agriculture, fishery, aquatic habitat,

domestic animals, grasslands etc. in the neighbouring area. The Multidisciplinary Committee will also verify the ecological impact of the condensate in the site of incident and provide its findings thereto which will be provided in the subsequent report of the Committee of Experts.

E. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO ENABLE THE WORKING OF THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

10. (i) The Multidisciplinary team which has been set up, as indicated in the Progress Report dated 30.10.2020, has placed an estimated cost proposal of Rs. 29,45,800/- (Rupees Twenty-Nine Lacs, Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred only) in order to study the ecological impact of the blowout and the explosion of Well No. 5 Baghjan. The said financial proposal has been sent by the Committee to the Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam vide Letter dated 09.11.2020. In its response dated 05.12.2020, the Government of Assam had directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF, Assam to submit an online Financial proposal for further action. The same proposal has also been submitted to the Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as “CPCB”) for necessary action. However, sanction remains pending till date. Continued unavailability of the fund has posed significant challenge on the working of the multidisciplinary committee. In fact, due to the unavailability of funds, the members, except three of them, have been unable to visit the site till date even after the fire has been controlled and the well has been killed. Copies of the letter dated 09.11.2020 submitted to the Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam along with their response dated 05.12.2020 is annexed hereto and marked as **Annexure E Colly**.

(ii) It is pertinent to mention here that the Director (Scientist E), Divisional Head, IPC-I Division, Central Pollution Control Board vide mail dated 09.12.2020 has informed the Committee that the CPCB has recommended the project “Assessment of Air, Water and Soil Quality in Baghjan Well Blowout Site and its Vicinity, Tinsukia, Assam” which

include assessment of environmental damage with a cost of Rs. 81.40 Lacs to NEIST, Jorhat.

The Committee, however, is yet to take a final decision in that regard.

F. HONORARIUM FOR THE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

11. In this context, it is pertinent to note that the Hon'ble NGT vide its Order dated 24.06.2020 had directed that the initial expenditure for the functioning of the Committee shall be borne by the State of Assam. However, no funds have been allocated for the working of the Committee. In fact, the monthly honorarium and modalities of payment are yet to be specified. Consequently, the non-official members of the Committee, who have since retired from their respective services and three of its Research Associates have been working with utmost sincerity and diligence without any honorarium. The Committee had apprised the Hon'ble NGT of this fact vide its letter dated 06.10.2020. A copy of the Letter dated 06.10.2020 is annexed hereto and marked as **Annexure F**.
12. The Hon'ble NGT, therefore, may be pleased to consider these aspects of the matter and pass necessary order as deemed fit and proper.



(BROJENDRA PRASAD KATAKEY)
Former Judge, Gauhati High Court
Chairperson of the Committee of Experts

Place: Guwahati, Assam
Date : 10.12.2020



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Of

**The Committee of Experts Constituted by the
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Headed by

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ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उद्यम) पंजीकृत कार्यालय : दुलियागान, आसाम

Oil India Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise) Registered Office : Duliajan, Assam

DULIAJAN-788602, ASSAM
TEL : +91-374-2800525
FAX : +91-374-2800433
CABLE : OIL INDIA
e-mail : trce@oilindia.in

Ref No.:RCE:03-351

Date: 02.12.2020

Deputy Commissioner
Tinsukia District
Tinsukia

Sub: Interim compensation to the affected families of Baghjan Blowout

Ref: Your letter no. TRF.3/2017-19/PT-II/422 dated 01.12.2020

Sir,

We write with reference to the above and would like to state that the total amount deposited in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia towards payment of compensation is Rs. 90.796 crores.

2.1 Out of which, as per your above referred letter, an amount of Rs. 28.25 crores has been paid to various groups. Therefore, the net amount available is Rs. 62.546 crores. However, as per your above letter, the total fund requirement towards payment of interim compensation to the 600 affected families of Baghjan involves a total amount of Rs. 68.05 crores.

The break-up is as under:

- i) Category A: Rs 15.00 lakhs x 161 families = Rs. 24.15 crores
- ii) Category B: Rs 10.00 lakhs x 439 families = Rs. 43.90 crores

3.0 In the meanwhile, we are trying to arrange supplementary fund for payment of compensation to the other fringe groups under a separate head and would request you to earmark Rs. 62.546 crores presently available, for payment of interim compensation to the 600 affected families of Baghjan.

4.0 We are also arranging to remit the remaining amount of Rs. 5.504 crores separately and would request you to arrange for disbursement of compensation to the 600 affected families of Baghjan as per the requested terms of references mentioned vide letter no. ED(HR&A)/63(T)/234 dated 02.12.2020

5.0 The above is for your kind information and needful action please.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
OIL INDIA LIMITED

(Dilip Kr Das)
Resident Chief Executive

Copy : SP, Tinsukia



ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उद्योग)
OIL INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

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E-mail : prasanta.borkakoty@oilindia.in

Ref. No.: ED(HR&A)/63(T)/234

Date: 02.12.2020

Deputy Commissioner
Tinsukia District
Tinsukia

Sub: Interim compensation to the families affected by Blowout at Baghjan-5

Sir,

Reference above, we would like to inform you that an amount of Rs. 4712.5 lakhs has been deposited to the account of DC, Tinsukia as per the details given below:

Account No.: 0310016000010
IFSC: UTBI0PBT353

Sl No.	Date	Amount (INR)	UTR No.
1	01.12.2020	47,12,50,000.00	KKBKR2202012010021 9983

(Copy of the payment details is enclosed for your kind reference)

2.0 The amount is paid in connection with payment of interim compensation to the families of Baghjan affected by the fire incident.

3.0 While we have transferred the fund, we request you to consider the following aspects while disbursing the fund to the beneficiaries:

- Since the amount payable to the affected families in Category I & II are in the range of Rs. 15.00 lakhs and Rs. 10.00 lakhs respectively, we request you to kindly impress upon the beneficiaries to use the funds in areas like construction of permanent assets or invest in fixed deposits, Government Bonds etc.
- OIL is committed to pay the compensation as per the orders of NGT.
- In the meanwhile, we request you to impress upon various organizations like Baghjan G. an Milanjyoti Yuba Sangha and others not to resort to any kind of bandhs/ blockades which may ultimately lead to disruption of operational activities. In this regard, we request you to convene a tripartite meeting as per your convenience with various organizations which will be duly attended by senior officials from OIL. You will appreciate that the frequent shutting and opening of producing wells poses serious safety hazard leading to consequential loss in production of oil & gas.

4.0 The above is for your kind information and needful action as deemed fit, please.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully
OIL INDIA LIMITED
Prasanta Borkakoty
(Prasanta Borkakoty)
Executive Director (HR&A)
For Resident Chief Executive

Encl.: As above

Copy : Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India
: The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam

REPORT OF BAGHJAN INCIDENTChronology of the incident of Gas Blowout/Fire breakout in Well No.5 at Baghjan.

Sl. No	Date	Summary of the incident	Action taken	Remarks
1	27/05/2020	A gas blowout took place at Well No. 5(BGN.05) of OIL at Baghjan Gaon under Doomdooma Revenue Circle, PS-Baghjan, District- Tinsukia on 27 th of May, 2020 at 10:30 HRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After the gas blowout on 27th of May, 2020, 4 nos. of relief camps were setup at a distance of about 1.5 km to 2 km from the well. 1610 families were evacuated & 4000(approx) population were shifted to relief camps. GR was distributed accordingly . ➤ Name of relief Camps: (i) Baghjan ME School , (ii) Dighaltarang TE ME School, (iii) St Joseph High School, (iv) No. 1 Baghjan LP School. ➤ Medical teams have been placed in relief camps jointly by District Administration from Jt. Director of Health Services, Tinsukia and by OIL. Ambulances have also been placed at the relief camps. ➤ GR Distributed : Rice(in Qntl)- 421.86, Dal(in Qntl)- 80.6, Salt(in Qntl)- 24.18, M.Oil(in Ltr)- 2417.9. ➤ Oil Indian Ltd is also supporting the relief operation in relief camps by providing mattress, mosquito nets, bed sheets, blankets and hygiene kit including baby care kits and sanitary napkins. ➤ Various meeting had been conducted with affected people of Baghjan led by Baghjan Gaon Milonjyoti Yuba Sangha and other organizations attended by officials of OIL and Police. ➤ Visit of experts to control the gas blowout: A team of 3 experts from ALERT Disaster Control (ASIA) PTE Ltd., Singapore arrived at Duliajan on 8th June,2020. They are namely (i) Mike Allcorn from Canada(Country of origin), (ii) Craig Duncan from Australia, (iii) Ward Macleod from Canada. ➤ Visit of Minister : Sri Jogen Mohan, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue (State) , Assam arrived Tinsukia on 1st June,2020 and visited Baghjan well site and relief camps and took stock of the relief arrangement and also interacted with the camp inmates. ➤ Sri Sanjay Kishan, Hon'ble Minister for TTW(Ind) and Labour (State) Assam was camping at Tinsukia and taking stock of the situation of Baghjan all throughout and he visited at Baghjan and relief camps and reviewed the arrangement on 30th May,2020 and 1st June to 7th June,2020. 	

2	09/05/2020	Suddenly the Well caught fire on 09 th of June, 2020 at 1314 HRS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After the fire breakout in the well on 9th of June, 2020, 12 camps were setup with about 2000 families and 11000 (approx) population. ➤ GR Distributed : Rice(in Qntl)- 394.306, Dal(in Qntl)- 56.254, Salt(in Qntl)- 16.9762, M.Oil(in Ltr)- 1697.62. ➤ As per assessment, 12 houses have been totally burnt and 57 houses have been partially burnt and damaged and 561 families houses partially damaged. ➤ Another team of 3 experts from the same company ALERT Disaster Control (ASIA) PTE Ltd Singapore arrived at Duliajan on 12th June,2020 namely (i) Matt Connors from Canada, (ii) Doug Dallas from USA and (iii) Steve Reynolds from USA. ➤ The teams of expert were working jointly with the Crisis Management Team from ONGCL, Vadodara and Nazira including OIL. <p><u>Visit of Ministers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Industries Etc. Assam arrived Tinsukia on 10/06/2020 and camped at Tinsukia Circuit House till 15/06/2020 for taking stock of the Gas Blowout and Fire breakout and specially the arrangement made for the relief camp. During his stay at Tinsukia, a series of meetings were held with the prominent students organizations and stakeholders. On 10/06/2020 he had meeting with All Moran Students Union, All Assam Matak Yuba Chatra Sanmilon, All Adivashi Student Association, Gorkha Students Union and also with OIL Officials separately. Thereafter he visited relief camps at Baghjan. On 12/06/2020 he attended another meeting with Baghjan Gaon Milonjyoti Yuba Sangha in DC's Office, Tinsukia. Hon'ble Minister had also discussion with OIL Officials and Experts on 12/06/2020. On 14/06/2020 he joined Hon'ble CM during his visit at Baghjan. ➤ Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam and Hon'ble Petroleum Minister, Govt.of India(Sri Dharmendra Pradhan) visited Baghjan site at BGN well no. 5 and also 3(three) relief camps on 14.06.2020. They interacted with OIL officials at the well site and took stock of the preparation for capping the well. Thereafter, they visited the camp no.1 at Baghjan Dighulturrung ME School and HS School. Hon'ble Chief Minsiter of Assam while empathizing with the plight of the camp inmates, declared the Govt. of Assam and Govt. of India commitment to give the maximum compensation available to the affected families and also declared an economic/development package for Baghjan area comprising of protection work and the river Dangori, construction of a 	
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			<p>Model Hospital, a Veterinary Hospital, a HS School, a Skill Development Centre, Special Financial Assistance for handloom sector to SHGs group, construction of roads from Baghjan to Tinsukia etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sri Atul Bora, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Assam arrived Tinsukia on 12/06/2020. On 13/06/2020 he visited the relief camps and on 14/06/2020 he joined Hon'ble CM during his visit at Baghjan. ➤ Sri Rameswar Teli, Hon'ble Union Minister for Food Processing Industries arrived Tinsukia on 10/06/2020 and joined meeting with different organization in the Circuit House chaired by Sri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister and thereafter he visited the relief camps. He also joined with Hon'ble CM during his visit at Baghjan on 14/06/2020. ➤ Sri Sanjay Kishan, Hon'ble Minister for TTW(Ind) and Labour (State) Assam also present at Baghjan during the visit of Hon'ble CM on 14/06/2020. ➤ <u>Senior Officer who have visited Baghjan during the period.</u> ➤ Sri Maninder Singh, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Guwahati Development Department etc. cum One Man Enquiry Committee visited Tinsukia district from 13/06/2020 to 15/06/2020 in connection with the enquiry related to the incident at Baghjan. ➤ Sri M.K. Yadaa, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Wild Life, Chairman of the Expert Committee to assess the impact of the blowout at Well No.5 at Baghjan also visited Tinsukia district and during this period he started his enquiry/assessment and he also joined the meeting with concerned govt. departments on 15/06/2020. ➤ Sri Lalit Gogoi, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Revenue & DM Department visited Tinsukia with effect from 13/06/2020 to 16/06/2020 and visited Baghjan incident site and the relief camps. He also joined the meeting at DC's Office, Tinsukia with all concerned govt. departments on 15/06/2020 regarding the assessment process and also with Baghjan Gaon Milonjyoti Yuba Sangha on 16/06/2020 regarding the issues raised by them. ➤ <u>Injury/Casualty:-</u> As a result of the fire on 9th of June, 2020, two firemen from OIL, namely Tikheswar Gohain and Durlov Gogoi who apparently jumped into the nearby water body were found dead and recovered from the pond by the NDRF on 10th of June, 2020. 	
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3	24/06/2020	<p>Order dated 24th June, 2020, passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, in OA No. 43/2020/EZ (Bonani Kakkar vs. Oil India Limited & Ors.)</p>	<p>➤ Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, has been pleased to constitute a Committee of Experts to look into the issues concerning the Baghjan gas and oil leak incident, consequent damages to lives & property as well as to the environment and biodiversity.</p> <p>➤ Committee of Experts formed by NGT is as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P.Katakey, former Judge of the Gauhati High Court as chairman. • Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board – Member Secretary • Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Member • Dr. Sarbeswar Kalita, Professor and Head of the Department of Environment Science, Guwahati University - Member • Shri. Abhay Kumar Johari, IFS (retired), Former Member Biodiversity Board - Member • Shri Ajit Hazarika, Ex-Chairman, ONGCL - Member • Assam State Pollution Control Board • District Magistrate, Tinsukia District, Assam- Member 	
4	06/08/2020	<p>Order dated 6th August, 2020, passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, in OA No. 43/2020/EZ (Bonani Kakkar vs. Oil India Limited & Ors.)</p>	<p><u>Interim Compensation to the affected families</u></p> <p>The Committee, proposes the formulation of three categories of affected families to assess the question of interim compensation namely ;</p> <p>(i) Those whose houses have been completely gutted by the fire thereby causing grave injury to life and health, loss of livelihood, cultivable land, livestock, damage to standing crops and horticulture, fisheries etc.</p> <p>(ii) Those whose houses have been severely damaged thereby causing grave injury to life and health, loss of livelihood, cultivable land, livestock, damage to standing crops and horticulture, fisheries etc.</p> <p>(iii) Those whose houses have been moderately/partially damaged or whose standing crops and horticulture have been partially damaged thereby causing injury to life and health, loss of livelihood, cultivable land, livestock, damaged to fisheries etc.</p>	

			<p>The scale of interim compensation is as follows :</p> <p>(i) Rs. 25 Lacs Category I</p> <p>(ii) Rs. 10 Lacs Category II</p> <p>(iii) Rs. 2.5 Lacs Category III</p>	
			<p>➤ Compensation:-</p> <p>In a tripartite meeting held with Oil India Ltd, Milanjyoti Yuva Sangha and the District Administration Tinsukia on 05th of June, 2020, it was decided after consensus to give an amount of Rs 30,000/- per affected family staying in the relief camps as an immediate interim relief.</p> <p>Accordingly a onetime compensation @ Rs.30,000/- per family has been credited to 1484 nos. of beneficiaries who were staying in four relief camps after the gas blowout on 27/05/2020.</p> <p>Further one time immediate compensation of an amount of Rs.25,000/- was paid to each 1197 families staying in relief camps after the fire on 09/06/2020.</p> <p>Thus a total amount of Rs. 7.4445 Crore has been disbursed to 2681 families staying in the relief camps.</p> <p>As per order of Hon'ble NGT dtd.06/08/2020 an amount of Rs.25 lakhs as interim compensation to 12 families whose houses were gutted due to fire. A total Rs.3.00 crore, by OIL through DC, Tinsukia has been paid to beneficiaries.</p> <p>An amount of Rs.10.00 Lakhs was paid to NOK of one person namely Sukla Neog who committed suicide apparently due to mental stress because of the blowout as claimed by the villagers. Further an amount of Rs.3.00 Lakhs (Adult Rs.2.00 Lakh & Minor Rs.1.00 Lakh) of NOK of Sukla Neog has been paid.</p>	

			<p>An amount of Rs.20,50 Lakhs has been disbursed to 205 youths of Baghjan area @ Rs.10,000/- per person.</p> <p>Further as per decision taken in tripartite meeting among District Administration, OIL, BGMYS second installment @ Rs.30,000/- per family has been transferred to 606 families of Baghjan staying in Relief Camps amounting to Rs.1.818 crore.</p>	
5	24/08/2020		<p>➤ Villagers of Baghjan led by BGMYS who were staying in relief camp came in front of DC's Office Tinsukia and observed sit-in-strike programme by erecting temporary relief camp.</p>	
6	09/09/2020		<p>➤ Death of one electrical engineer of OIL namely Arnab Kishore Bordoloi died during his duty at well no.5.</p>	
7	18/09/2020	Meeting with Baghjan Gaon Milonjyoti Yuba Sangha regarding House rent, Medical etc.	<p>➤ A tripartite meeting was held on 18/09/2020 and in the meeting OIL has agreed to pay house rent, fooding and medical facilities in the form of compensation @ Rs.50,000/- per family who are staying in relief camps. (Total 612 families).</p> <p>➤ Accordingly affected people of Baghjan led by BGMYS who are camping near the main gate of DC's Office, Tinsukia has withdrawn their sit-in-strike programme and left the place on 19/09/2020 at 1100 hrs.</p> <p>Total expenditure as on date: Rs.21.1600 Crore.</p> <p>Amount received from OIL as on date :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On 11/06/2020 Rs.4.8300 (Crore) 2. On 08/07/2020 Rs.4.1700 (Crore) 3. On 16/07/2020 Rs.2.2000 (Crore) 4. On 07/08/2020 Rs.0.2000 (Crore) 5. On 07/08/2020 Rs.0.1800 (Crore) 6. On 28/08/2020 Rs.0.6000 (Crore) 7. On 14/09/2020 Rs.1.9350 (Crore) 8. On 17/09/2020 Rs.19.7250 (Crore) (Category II&III) 9. On 11/11/2020 Rs.2.2065 (Crore) <p>Total Rs. 36.0465 (Crore)</p> <p>Balance amount : Rs.14.8865 Crore.</p>	<p>Proposal submitted to Hon'ble Chairman.</p> <p>1st category : 57+104+12 =173</p> <p>2nd Category =439</p> <p>Total :612</p>

8	19/09/2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Affected people of Baghjan led by BGMYS who are camping near the main gate of DC's Office, Tinsukia has withdrawn their sit-in-strike programme and left the place on 19/09/2020 at 1100 hrs. 	
9	06/10/2020	DFO Dibrugarh report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assessment /survey report on Biodiversity impact of Maguri-Motapung beel after the fire incident of Well. No.5 of Baghjan submitted by DFO, Dibrugarh. ➤ Report prepared by Dr. Deboshree Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Digboi College and Dr. Ranjita Bania, Fisheries Biologists of Head Aquaculture, Wetland & Livelihood Division, JEEVA, SURAKHA, Sivasagar along with photographs. 	
10	07/10/2020	PCB Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monitoring report of Noise Level near Oil Well No.5 of Baghjan received from Regional Executive Engineer, PCBA, R.O., Dibrugarh. 	
11	19/10/2020	Letter to Justice(Retd. BP Katakey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regarding submission of report on study/assessment on the health status of the persons affected and impact on livestock. 	
12	20/10/2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meeting with OIL on taking up Vocational Skill Training Course for the youth of Baghjan Oil affected area. 	
13	22/10/2020	Meeting with OIL, Principal ITI, EE, T&CP, SP, Tinsukia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A proposal for short term vocational training for the youth of Baghjan Gas blowout/Fire affected area has been prepared by Principal of ITI, Tinsukia. Total expenditure for the course is Rs.6.15 Lakhs. In this connection a discussion was held on 22nd October,2020 with Oil India Ltd., Principal ITI and SP, Tinsukia where OIL has agreed to accept the proposal and entire programme will be sponsored by Oil India Ltd. ➤ An NGO namely "VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT" (VASU), Hatigaon, Guwahati has submitted a proposal for counseling with the victims of Gas Blow out/Fire and sound affected people of Baghjan by a team of physiologists lead by senior experienced person Dr. Bitopi Dutta. The budget cost of the proposal is Rs.5.00 Lakhs. The matter was also discussed with Oil India Ltd., in presence of SP, Tinsukia on 22nd October,2020 and OIL has agreed with the proposal. 	
14	27/10/2020	Letter to Justice(Retd. BP Katakey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Submission of report of compensation thereof provided to the affected people due to Gas blowout/fire incident of Baghjan. The following points were highlighted: 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:-</u> ➤ <u>CM SPECIAL PACKAGE :-</u> ➤ <u>VOCATIONAL TRAINING :-</u> ➤ <u>PHYSIOLOGICAL COUNSELING: -</u> 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the visit of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam to the Gas blowout/fire incident site and Baghajn gaon, he announced certain schemes for the affected people. All schemes/plan & estimate et. prepared by concerned department have been sent to govt. for approval. 	
15	15/11/2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reportedly fire is doused at well no.5 	

STATEMENT SHOWING THE FUND RECEIVED FROM OIL

Sl. No	Invoice/Letter No	Dated	Fund Received (Rupees in Crore)	Fund allotted for
1	1120012677	11/06/2020	4.8300	Fund allotted for one time immediate compensation @ Rs.30,000/- per family and Rs.25,000/- per family after gas blowout and fire incident. (OIL letter No.RCE:03-162 Dtd.09/07/2020)
2	1120020570	08/07/2020	4.1700	
3	RCE-03-167	16/07/2020	2.2000	Fund allotted as compensation for the bunt house vide OIL Letter NO. RCE:03-167 Dated.16/07/2020)
4	ED(HR&A)/63/T/156	07/08/2020	0.2000	Fund allotted as compensation for the bunt house vide OIL Letter NO. ED(HR&A)/63/T/156 Dated.07/08/2020)
5	ED(HR&A)/63/T/155	07/08/2020	0.1800	Fund allotted as compensation to the Next of Kin of deceased person namely Sukla Neog vide OIL Letter No. ED(HR&A)/63/T/155 Dtd.07/08/2020
6	CGM(A)/BGN/907	28/08/2020	0.6000	Fund allotted as compensation towards 12 families whose houses were totally burnt. Already an amount of Rs. 2.40 Crore has been credited to the affected families @ RS.20.00 Lakhs per family. But after the Order passed by Hon'ble NGT this additional amount Rs. 60.00 Lakhs has been credited by OIL @ Rs.5.00 Lakh per family vide OIL letter No.CGM(A)/BGN/907 Dated.28/08/2020 .
7	ED(HR&A)/63(T)/178	14/09/2020	1.9350	Fund allotted as additional one time compensation to the affected families @Rs.30,000/- per family for 645 families vide OIL Letter No. ED(HR&A)/63(T)/178 Dated.14/09/2020.
8	RCE:03-212	17/09/2020	19.7250	Fund allotted for compensation as per Hon'ble NGT order under Category II & III vide OIL Letter No. RCE-03-216 Dated.18/09/2020.
9	RCE:03-300	11/11/2020	2.2065	Fund allotted for one time compensation for Limbuguri, Dhakuwal /Gotong /Dhellakhat/Gellapukhuri etc. as per Hon'ble NGT order under Category II & III vide OIL Letter No. RCE-03-216 Dated.18/09/2020
Total fund received			Rs. 36.0465 Crore.	

EXPENDITURE STATEMENT :: BAGHINA GAS BLOWOUT/FIRE INCIDENT

Sl. No	Rate of Amount	No of beneficiaries	Total (*Crore)	Remarks
1	Rs.30,000/-	1484	4.4520	Beneficiaries after the gas Blowout who took shelter in Relief Camps(4 Relief Camps all under Doomdooma Revenue Circle)
2	Rs.25,000/-	560	1.40	Beneficiaries after the fire who took shelter in Relief Camps(6 Relief Camps all under Doomdooma Revenue Circle)
		637	1.5925	Beneficiaries after the Fire who took shelter in Relief Camp(Natun Rongagora gaon under Tinsukia Revenue Circle)
3	Rs.25,00,000/-	12	3.00	Totally burnt house
4	Rs.10,00,000/-	1	0.10	Death case
5	Rs.10,000/-	205	0.2050	Youth of Baghjan
6	Rs.30,000/-	570	1.7100	Second instalment for Baghjan
7	Rs. 2,00,000/-	1 (Adult)	0.0200	Next of kin of deceased person
8	Rs.1,00,000/-	1(Minor)	0.0100	
9	Rs.50,000/-	612	3.0600	House rent/food/medical etc. till fire is doused.
10	Rs.30,000/-	36	0.1080	Addl. One time compensation
11	Rs.30,000/-	62	0.1860	Addl. One time compensation for Kalisthan.
11	RS.30,000/-	73	0.2190	Addl. One time compensation for St Joseph.
12	Rs.50,000/-	652	3.2600	One time compensation and House rent/food/medical etc. to Natun Rongagora affected people.
13	RS.50,000/-	32	0.1600	Addl. One time compensation for Baghjan ME & High School.
14	Rs.15,000/-	1017	1.5255	One time compensation under Tinsukia Revenue Circle Limbuguri, Dhellkhat, Dhakual, Gotong, Gellapukhuri etc.
15	Rs.30,000/-	34	0.1020	One time compensation to the people of Dighaltarang Baghjan gaon areas near EPS.
Total			21.1600	

Total fund received from OIL till date = Rs.36.0465 (Crore)

Balance amount in hand = Rs. 14.8865(Crore)

To

Shri Diganta Saikia
The Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate
 District of Tinsukia
 Assam 786126

Dated November 25, 2020

Ref: Order dated 24.06.2020 in O.A No. 43/2020/LZ (Bonani Kakkar vs. Oil India Limited) & O.A No. 44/2020/EZ (Wildlife and Environment Conservation Organisation vs. Union of India Board & Ors.) passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi

Sub: Comprehensive assessment of all affected villages.

Dear Shri Saikia,

Greetings.

With regards to the captioned matter, I would like to request you on behalf of the Committee of Experts, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the all the affected vilages including Baghjan, Natun Rongagorah, Goriating and Notungaon villages. It is advised that an assessment is made on the following aspects namely:

1. Impact on agriculture, Fishery and domestic animals in the area.
2. Extent of loss and damage caused to human life.
3. Extent of loss and damages caused to the households.
4. Extent of loss of livelihood.

For this purpose, it is further advised that you may induct expert members from the Fisheries Department, Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Department, PWD, Revenue Department and or any other Department as you may deem fit to undertake the study. Please conduct this study at your earliest convenience and furnish the Report to me to the following address: katakeybp@gmail.com on/before 2 weeks from the date of receipt of this communication.

I am enclosing herewith the scanned copies of the representations all dated 20/11/2020 submitted by Sri Niranta Gohain, on behalf of the villagers of Brihattar Natun Rongagorah Gaon, Sri Fikhrajyoti Hazarika, Secretary Baghjan Gaon Milanjyoti Yuba Sangha and Sri Jayanta Saurak, Secretary Rupjyoti Yubak Sangha on behalf of Goriating village, during my visit to Tinsukia district.

Encls :- As stated.

Yours sincerely,

Justice B.P. Katakey
 Chairman of the Committee of Experts
 constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal

Press Release**Update on Baghjan Blowout as on 06th November, 2020****Well Control Operation**

The team of foreign experts and personnel from OIL have begun all the pre-snubbing operation activities as planned and it is expected that the snubbing operation will begin within a day or two. Assembling of Blowout Preventer (BOP) stack and pressure testing of the same are in progress. Arrangement for placing the snubbing unit in the well plinth is underway. The flow of gas from the well to nearby Early Production Setup (EPS) at Baghjan is maintained with all operating parameters within desired limits under round the clock supervision and monitoring.

It is worth mentioning that after successful capping of the well on 17th August, 2020 followed by subsequent challenges encountered in surface killing operations, it was decided to kill the Baghjan blowout well by deployment of snubbing unit. However considering the long lead time for delivery of snubbing unit from Canada to Baghjan coupled with pandemic crisis and other logistical issues, it was decided by Eastern Asset team of Oil India Limited under the able guidance of Asset Manager – Eastern Asset, Shri J P P Das to explore the possibility of producing the well at nearby Early Production set up (EPS) of OIL in Baghjan.

Gas diversion operation

The main objectives of Well diversion to EPS was well head pressure management so as to ensure integrity of the well head for future snubbing operations; reduce environmental impact associated with uncontrolled flow of hydrocarbon to the atmosphere and also to produce hydrocarbon from the well which will lead to revenue generation and arrest loss due to uncontrolled discharge of natural gas along with condensate from the well.

Application of innovative ideas coupled with proper planning, execution and monitoring has led to diversion of a blowout well through BOP probably for the first time in the oil and gas industry, globally. It is noteworthy that such a job was carried out by in house crew of OIL using available equipment and spares. As a result after successful diversion of the well on 13th September 2020, a cumulative production of 6960 kilo litres (KL) of high quality condensate along with 49.01 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter (MMSCM) of natural gas has been achieved till 5th November 2020 leading to considerable revenue generation and monetisation.

Baghjan well no 5 after successful diversion of flow of gas to nearby Early Production Setup (EPS)



Pre-snubbing operation activities in progress at site, today



ANNEXURE E COLLY

Justice B. P. Katakey,
Former Judge, Gauhati High Court

RESIDENCE

30/30A, Kharghuli (Hillock Side)
Bye Lane No.2, Guwahati-781004
E-mail – katakeybp@gmail.com
Mobile No. 94355-49977

Dated 09th November, 2020.

To

The Principal Secretary,
Environment & Forest Department,
Govt of Assam,
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Sub: Sanction and release of the required fund to the District Magistrate, Tinsukia to be administered by him for meeting the expenditures to be incurred by the Multidisciplinary Committee constituted by the Expert Committee appointed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order No. 24.06.2020.

Ref: Order dated 24.06.2020 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in OA No. 43/2020/EZ (Bonani Kakkar Vs Oil India Limited & Ors) and 44/2020/EZ (Wild Life and Environment Conservation Organisation Vs Union of India Board & Ors).

As you are aware the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide the order dated 24.06.2020 passed in OA No. 43/2020/EZ and 44/2020/EZ has appointed an Expert Committee consisting of the 8 Members, including the District Magistrate, Tinsukia District, Assam headed by the undersigned as Chairman, to look into the matter arising out of the blowout of Well-5 Baghjan of Oil India Limited and to submit the Preliminary Report, within a month. The Expert Committee has also been authorised by the said order to co-opt as member or to seek opinion from any other expert/experts or institution/institutions including Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, if felt necessary. A copy of the said order is enclosed.

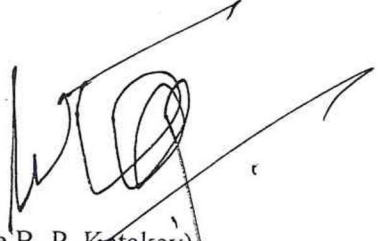
The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal by the said order has also directed that the initial expenditure for functioning of the Committee shall be borne by the State of Assam, which may be reimbursed after the liability for the damage is assessed.

2. The Committee, in terms of the Preliminary Report dated 24.07.2020 submitted by it to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal constituted a Multidisciplinary Committee consisting scientist and other experts, who have submitted the proposal to undertake an impact assessment study to be carried out in terms of the direction issued by the Hon'ble National

Green Tribunal. The said proposal includes specific budgets for each of the areas under study including wildlife and biodiversity, wetland ecology, mapping of affected areas, hydrology, impact on livestock, impact on human health, seismicity, water, air and noise pollution, soil quality, forestry etc.

3. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal having directed the State of Assam to make available the required fund to meet the expenditures to be incurred for conducting various required studies, the estimated cost of Rs. 29,45,800.00 (Rupees twenty-nine lakhs forty-five thousand eight hundred), as per the enclosures hereto may be made available to the District Magistrate, Tinsukia District and to be operated by him with a direction to release the required fund as and when demand of the same is placed before him by the Committee. The aforesaid required fund may be made available urgently as the Expert Committee is expected to submit the report before 15th December, 2020, i.e. the next date fixed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Encl : (i) Copies of the Orders
dated 24.06.2020 passed in
OA Nos. 43/2020/EZ and
44/2020/EZ; and
(ii) the estimates


(Justice B. P. Katakey)
Chairman of the Expert Committee
constituted by the Hon'ble NGT

**URGENT**

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6.**

No.FRP.45/2020/56

Dated Dispur, the 5th December, 2020

From : Shri Sukumar Das
Under Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department

To : The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoF, Assam
Panjabari, Guwahati-37

Sub : Sanction and release of required fund to the District Magistrate, Tinsukia to be administered by him for meeting the expenditure to be incurred by the Multidisciplinary Committee constituted by the Expert Committee appointed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 24.06.2020.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to send herewith a copy of the proposal received from Justice B.P. Katakey, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court and request you kindly to submit online Financial Proposal through Finassam portal for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

[Signature]
Under Secretary to the Government of Assam
Environment and Forest Department

Memo No.FRP.45/2020/56-A.

Dated Dispur, the 5th December, 2020

Copy to:-

1. Justice B.P. Katakey, Former Judge, Gauhati High Court, 30/30A, Kharghuli (Hillock side), Bye Lane No.2, Guwahati-781004
2. P.S. to Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment & Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for information

By order etc.

[Signature]
Under Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment & Forest Department