

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

Original Application No.- 687/2023

In The Matter of:

In re: Air Quality Index in Various Cities

**Action Taken Report on Behalf of Government of Jharkhand in
compliance of order dated 22.11.2023.**

I, John Kerketta, son of Late Tej Kumar Kerketta, residing at Kokar, P.O-Sadar, P.S-Bariyatu, Ranchi do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows :-

1. That I am posted as Officer on Special Duty in Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the present matter. I am duly authorized by the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Jharkhand to file the present Action Taken Report.
2. That the answering respondent craves leave before this Hon'ble Tribunal to file further affidavit as and when required and/ or directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
3. That the instant matter was last heard on 22.11.2023 when the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to direct the State to disclose in their next report the non-compliant cities for which the funds have been received, the extent of the funds received and the details of their utilization. The States are also directed to ensure that the air quality does not dip in this cities under consideration any further but it shows a positive trend of improvement and therefore humbly submitted that the instant affidavit is being filed in compliance of order dated 22.11.2023 passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

4. That, the AQI of Dhanbad City has not been found up to the mark. The reason is that during the night hours, after the no-entry period for heavy vehicles, the intensity of loaded vehicles from the Coal Industry and others increases after 10 p.m. This time coincides with the lowering of temperature at night, further trapping pollutants near the ground and reducing dispersion.
5. That, now is the onset of winter in Dhanbad causing the phenomenon of thermal inversion, a winter season occurrence, which is a probable reason for the consistent spike in air quality. Temperature inversion is a meteorological phenomenon that occurs when cool air is trapped at the ground under a layer of warm air. In a temperature inversion, the warmer air acts as a lid, trapping pollutants near the ground and preventing them from dispersing until the weather changes.
6. That, several steps have already been taken, such as issuing advisories and engaging with vehicle owners and transporters, to ensure that vehicles carrying minerals and other materials are covered.
7. That, Water sprinkling and mechanical sweeping operations are ongoing during the night hours to settle dust emissions at an interval of 4 hours. This is especially important during the dry season/decrease temperature when there is more dust in the air. The corporation has taken steps for purchasing 03 new mechanical road sweeping machines to maintain the pollution in air besides the continuing use of existing 07 mechanical sweeping machines, 07 water sprinklers and other allied tools and plants of the corporation and a command control centre has been set up at Dhanbad Nagar Nigam head quarter to track and maintain the record for controlling the daily level of air pollution by taking appropriate measures.
8. That many initiatives, such as urban greening, pave- mentation and public awareness programs have already been undertaken.
9. That, the steps have been taken to fix more paver blocks beside the roads over the remaining road flank to minimize the spreading of dust particles for controlling the pollution and maintaining better Air Quality Index in the locality.
10. That the advisories for construction and demolition activities within the rules and installation of the C&D Plant is under construction process.
11. That, The City Level Monitoring Committee, comprising representatives from BCCL, Forest Department, IIT-ISM, District Mining Department, JSPCB (Regional Office), the District Transport Office among its members, has been established with a specific mandate to address the declining Air Quality Index (AQI) situation in Dhanbad city.

12. Details of the Funds received and their breakdown for various activities for Ambient Air Quality by the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation (DMC)

Sl. No.	Fund Allotment		Amount	Letter No. and Date
1	NCAP	2019-20	3 Crore	B-77/31.03.2021
2	15 th Finance	2020-21	26 Crore	261/31.03.2021
			26 Crore	265/31.03.2021
3	15 th Finance	2021-22	6.5 Crore	340/31.03.2022
	NCAP		3 Crore	RTGS form JSPCB (31.03.2022)
4	15 th Finance	2022-23	4.59 Crore	27/10.06.2022
Total			69.09 Crore	

HLMC Approved		No. of approved projects (Clean Air)	Complete Project	Ongoing	Not Started
1	Letter No. 210, Dated 23.03.2021	13	11	..	02
2	Letter No. 127, Dated 08.10.2021	01	..	01	
3	Letter No. 295, Dated 21.03.2021	41	28	09	04
Total		55	39	10	06

Expenditure	
2020 – 2021	3 Crore
2021 – 2022	9.41 Crore
2022 – 2023	31.12 Crore
2023 – 2024	13.09 Crore
Total	56.62 Crore

Present progress details:				
Sl. No.	Activities approved by HLMC	Physical Status	Financial Status	Financial Year
A.	Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality			
1	Installation of Continuous Air Quality Monitoring System with O&M	100%	737.55 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
B.	Abatement of pollution at hotspots (Suppression of Road Dust and Vehicular Pollution)			
1	Mechanical Sweeping Machine With O&M	100%	450 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
2	Mechanical street sweepers	100%	50 Lakh (O&M)	2022-23

3	Water sprinkling system (WSS) (9000 Ltr.) with ante smog gun	100%	160 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
4	Water sprinkling system (WSS) (5000 Ltr.)	100%	60 Lakh	2022-23
5	Water sprinkler	100%	81 Lakh (3 NOS)	2022-23
6	Cold Fogging Machine with O&M	100%	169 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
7	Fitting paver blocks in different locations of Katras Anchal	100%	116.61 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
8	Fitting paver blocks in different locations of Chhatatad Anchal	100%	104.68 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
9	Fitting paver blocks in different locations of Dhanbad Anchal	100%	261.41 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
10	Fitting paver blocks in different locations of Jharia Anchal	100%	123.36 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
11	Desludging Machine with O&M	100%	303 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
12	Crematorium, Mohalbani Samshan Ghat	100%	155.80 Lakh	2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24
13	Electric Crematorium (Matkuria)	25%	17.28 Lakh	2023-24
14	Fixing of Paver Block along Road at Different Location in ward No. 3	100%	47.30 Lakh	2022-23
15	Fixing of Paver Block from CISF Camp to Bhelatand Road in ward no. 6	100%	49.34 Lakh	2022-23
16	Fixing of Paver Block from Loyabad Chowk to Loyabad Railway Fatak in ward No. 8	100%	41.55 Lakh	2022-23
17	Fixing of Paver Block from Putki Hospital to Khatal in ward No. 9	100%	19.45 Lakh	2022-23
18	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 12	100%	31.82 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
19	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 13	100%	43.41 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
20	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location of Kamarmakdumi Road in ward No. 14	100%	31.31 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
21	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location of Aam Bagan Road in ward No. 15	100%	36.77 Lakh	2022-23
22	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location of Kabadi Basti Road and Bhuli More in ward No. 19	100%	51.47 Lakh	2022-23
23	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 20	100%	33.75 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
24	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 21	100%	35.76 Lakh	2022-23

25	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 24	100%	48.01 Lakh	2022-23
26	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 25	100%	32.88 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
27	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location of Housing Colony in ward No. 28	82%	36.71 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
28	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location of Football Maidan Barmasia Road in ward No. 29	100%	47.96 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
29	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 31	100%	44.90 Lakh	2022-23
30	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 32	100%	29.68 Lakh	2023-24
31	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 20	100%	33.75 Lakh	2023-24
32	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 34	100%	22.14 Lakh	2023-24
33	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 35	100%	62.88 Lakh	2021-22 & 2022-23
34	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 48	100%	29.18 Lakh	2023-24
35	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 47	50%	44.06 Lakh	2023-24
36	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 49	100%	65.60 Lakh	2023-24
37	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 50	100%	81.58 Lakh	2023-24
38	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 52	100%	22.46 Lakh	2023-24
39	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 53	100%	16.77 Lakh	2022-23
40	Fixing of Paver Block Difference Location in ward No. 34	100%	22.14 Lakh	2023-24
41	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no.17	0%	Tender published	
42	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no.20 & 21	0%	Tender published	
43	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no.25	100%	119.76 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
44	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no. 29	100%	77.99 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
45	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no. 30	100%	103.08 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
46	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no. 30	0%	Tender published	
47	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no. 31 & 32	70%	116.37 Lakh	2023-24

48	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no. 33	100%	122.58 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
49	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no. 54	100%	166.67 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
50	Repair of blacktop roads in various locations in Ward no. 54	100%	205.77 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
C	Development of green patch			
1	Greening and Paving activities	100%	137 Lakh	2023-24
2	Urban Greening and Vertical Garden	100%	247.51 Lakh	2023-24
3	Green Patch Const. work from Howrah Motor to Joraphatak chowk & Kala Bhawan to Hirapur via Golf Ground around Bekar Bandh under DMC	50%	44.86 Lakh	2023-24
4	Construction Of Proposed Play Ground With Green Patch And Multi Sports Activity At Dhuatand, Barmasia Maidan In Ward No.30 Under DMC Dhanbad.	60%	104.43 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
5	Construction Of Proposed Play Ground With Green Patch And Multi Sports Activity At Patrakulhi Maidan In Ward No. 30 Under DMC Dhanbad.	60%	62.48 Lakh	2023-24
6	Construction Of Proposed Play Ground With Green Patch And Multi Sports Activity At Birsa Samiti Football Ground In Ward No.55 Under DMC Dhanbad.	65%	172.94 Lakh	2022-23 & 2023-24
7	Construction Of Proposed Play Ground With Green Patch And Multi Sports Activity At Telipada In Ward No. 25 Under DMC Dhanbad.	40%	38.32 Lakh	2023-24
D	Public Awareness, Capacity building, and Installation of manual monitoring stations	100%	31.73 Lakh	2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24
	TOTAL		5662 Lakhs Or 56.62 Crore	

13. That, it is humbly stated and submitted that the municipal corporation is actively taking various initiatives towards implementation of the measures outlined in the Clean Air Action Plan/Emergency Action Plan as per the standard specified for the same. It is further important to mention here that the annual action plan for the current financial year 2023-24 has been got prepared with consultation with Indian Institute of Technology, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and the same has also been approved by the Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi on 04.10.2023.

14. Dhanbad Nagar Nigam in association with JSPCB is diligently implementing stringent measures to address environmental concerns associated with the 29 red-flag industries currently operational within the city. The proactive actions taken by the municipal authorities underscore their commitment to regulating and mitigating potential adverse impacts on the environment and public health posed by these specific industrial activities.

15. That the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) and other allied activities for reducing Air Pollution are being communicated and circulated for the people of the locality at large. The Citizen Volunteer Program 'Vayu Mitra' has been launched and is being implemented through rounds of Citizen Dialogues to empower and sensitize the citizens at the ward level to maintain the level of clean air.

16. That, it is most humbly submitted that from the facts stated above it is evident that the State Government has taken several steps for prevention and control of air pollution and is regularly monitoring the compliance and enforcement of the steps so taken through various committees constituted at all levels.

17. That I have read and understood the contents of the accompanying the Action taken Report, I say and submit that the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

18. That I have read the contents of the report of Dhanbad Municipal Corporation and have understood the same and nothing material has been concealed there from.

John Kurkula
04/12/2023
DEPONENT