

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI****O.A. NO. 687 OF 2023****IN THE MATTER OF:****IN RE: AIR QUALITY INDEX IN VARIOUS CITIES****INDEX**

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI****O.A. NO. 687 OF 2023****IN THE MATTER OF:****IN RE: AIR QUALITY INDEX IN VARIOUS CITIES****ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(RESPONDENT NO. 4).**

I, Mr. Nallamolu Subrahmanyam, S/o Mr. Narasimharao, aged about 37 Years, presently working as Scientist D in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as MoEF&CC) having office at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi- 110003, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as hereunder:

1. That, I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and competent to swear this affidavit on behalf of MoEF&CC being the Respondent No. 4 in the present Original Application.



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2. That, the Answering Respondent no. 4 is engaged in, *inter alia*, policy formulation for abatement, control and prevention of pollution and prescribing environmental standards to be implemented through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).

Besides, the concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees are empowered to take all such measures as are deemed necessary or expedient for the purpose of protection and improving the quality of environment as well as prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution.

3. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide its order dated 22.11.2023 has passed the following directions for compliance by MoEF&CC.

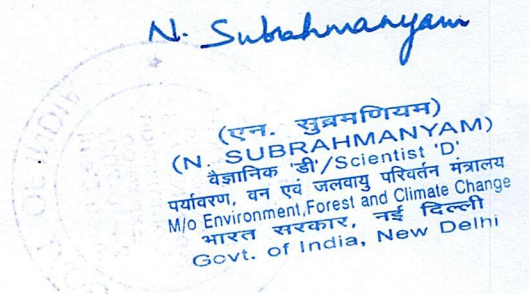
"12. MoEF&CC is also directed to file their response on Monitoring mechanism to oversee the progress of implementation of action plan for each NAC and particularly for 17 cities falling under the 53 cities mentioned in the present matter."



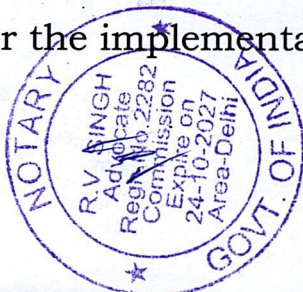
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4. That in compliance to Hon'ble Tribunal vide Order dated 22.11.2023, and in further pursuance, this answering Respondent No. 4 is making the following submissions -
5. That, it is submitted that National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched as a comprehensive plan to address air pollution across the country in a focused manner to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in PM10 levels by 2024 from 2017 levels. The target has been revised to achieve reduction in PM10 level up to 40% or achievement of national standards (60 microgram/cubic meter) by 2025-26. The programme is implemented in 131 cities/ULBs in 24 States/UTs including 123 non-attainment cities. NCAP strategy includes implementation of Clean Air Action Plans at National, State and City levels for source specific mitigation actions, financial incentive structure for targeted cities linked with air quality improvement performance, coordinated actions by Central Ministries and State Governments and their agencies, convergence of resources from schemes of Central Government, State Government and Urban Local Bodies, and organising public outreach activities for awareness generation.



6. That, the national level action plan comprises activities through convergence of scheme/ programmes of 7 line Ministries, i.e. Ministry of Power (MoP), Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Heavy Industry (MHI), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DoAFW) & Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).
7. That, it is submitted that 24 States/UTs and 131 cities/ULBs have prepared State Action Plans and City Action Plans, respectively to address various sources of air pollution under National Clean Air Programme.
8. That, it is submitted that Annual Action Plans are prepared by cities to prioritise and implement the measures to improve air quality based on the allocation of funds under NCAP as well under various Schemes of Union Government made available during the financial year.
9. That, it is submitted an amount of Rs. 19,615 crore has been allocated under NCAP during FY 2019-20 till 2025-26, out of which Rs. 9944 crore has been released till date to 131 cities for the implementation of the city action plans.



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10. That, it is submitted that Answering Respondent No. 4 has put in place the following mechanism to monitor the implementation of action plans to control air pollution in all non-attainment cities.

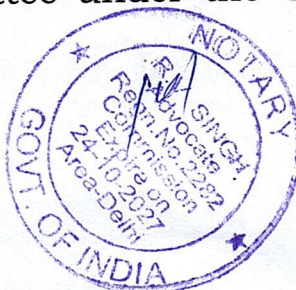
11. That, it is submitted that the Committees have been set up at national, state and city level for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of progress on action plans by various stakeholder agencies/Departments/Ministries and are discussed as follows:

a. National Level

- i. Apex Committee under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, MOEFCC
- ii. Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, EFCC
- iii. Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, MoEFCC
- iv. Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CPCB

b. State Level

- i. Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary



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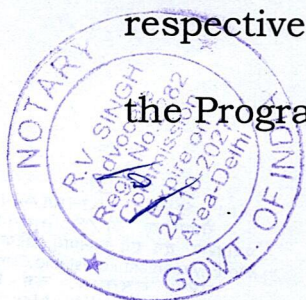
- ii. Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, Environment

c. **City Level**

- i. City level Implementation and Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector/Municipal Commissioner.

12. That, it is submitted that 3 (three) Apex Committee meetings, 6 (six) Steering Committee meetings, 12 (twelve) Monitoring Committee Meetings and 14 (fourteen) Implementation Committee meetings have been convened till date to monitor the progress of implementation of NCAP.

13. It is submitted that PRANA – “Portal for Regulation of Air-Pollution in Non-Attainment cities”, a comprehensive online portal has been developed and made operational for monitoring of implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The portal facilitates and mandates uploading of State and City Action Plans, Annual Action Plans, details of various Committees and its meetings, minutes of meetings by respective States/Cities for regular review of activities under the Programme. The portal also facilitates the transfer of funds



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to the Cities, updating and tracking of physical as well as financial progress, and generation of utilisation certificates. Various guidelines and best practices have been uploaded on PRANA portal for dissemination of information on air quality management efforts.

14. That, it is submitted that Nodal Officers at CPCB, respective SPCB and 131 Cities have been deputed to monitor the various air quality improvement measures under NCAP.
15. That, it is submitted that Nodal Officers of CPCB have been mandated to carryout field visits to verify the physical activities of City action plans in NACs and provide feedback on programme implementation.
16. That, it is submitted that out of 53 cities mentioned in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 22.11.2023, 19 cities have been categorized as Non-attainment cities (NACs) and have been included under the NCAP. City action plans in these cities have been prepared and an amount of Rs. 1644.4025 crores has been released for implementation of the city action plans.



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17. That, it is submitted that District/City level Monitoring and Implementation Committees (DLMIC) in these 19 NACs for implementation of action plans. So far 41 meetings of DLMIC were held in 19 NACs. The information regarding status of release of funds, preparation of one-time City Action Plan, preparation of Annual Action Plan for FY 2023-24, number of Air Quality Monitoring Committee meetings and District/City level Monitoring & Implementation Committee meetings held, are provided at **Annexure -1**.

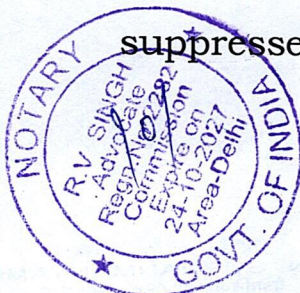
18. In view of the above submissions, this Hon'ble Court may pass such order(s) as deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

N. Subrahmanyam
16/02/24

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified at New Delhi on the 16 FEB 2024 of February, 2024 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.



solemnly affirmed before me, read over & explained to the deponent

[Signature]
Notary Public, DELHI

16 FEB 2024

N. Subrahmanyam
16/02/24

DEPONENT

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ANNEXURE-1

S. No.	State	City	Fund Released During FY 2023-24 (till 14.02.2024) In Rs crores	Preparation of one-time City Action Plan	Preparation of Annual Action Plan FY 2023-24	No. of AQMC/SLMIC Meetings Conducted FY 2023-24	No. of DL MIC Meetings Conducted FY 2023-24
1	Bihar	Patna	298.6	Prepared	Prepared	3	6
2	Delhi	Delhi	42.687	Prepared	Prepared	3	7
3	Haryana	Faridabad	73.53	Prepared	Prepared	0	1
4	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi	2.9975	Prepared	Prepared	0	3
5	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	69.09	Prepared	Prepared	5	1
6	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	183.85	Prepared	Prepared	2	2
7		Gwalior	102.64	Prepared	Prepared		2
8	Maharashtra	Navi Mumbai	9.45	Prepared	Prepared	4	2
9		Thane	-	Prepared	Prepared		3
10	Meghalaya	Byrnihat	6.15	Prepared	Prepared	2	2
11	Punjab	Amritsar	73.25	Prepared	Prepared	3	1
12		Ludhiana	97.75	Prepared	Prepared		1
13		Mandi Gobindgarh	0.738	Prepared	Prepared		0
14	Rajasthan	Kota	101.25	Prepared	Prepared	3	0
15	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	136.25	Prepared	Prepared	2	0
16		Jhansi	11.08	Prepared	Prepared		6
17		Khurja	18.37	Prepared	Yet to be prepared		0
18		Lucknow	385.83	Prepared	Prepared		4
19		Noida	30.89	Prepared	Prepared		0
		Total	1644.4025	-			



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