

1456

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

No.FOR/CC/24/2023/51 Dated: Shillong, the 29th February, 2024.

From : Shri S.S. Syiemlieh, MCS.,
Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Forest & Environment Department.

To : ✓ The Deputy Registrar,
National Green Tribunal,
Principal Bench, New Delhi.

Subject : Order passed in O.A. No. 687/2023
In re: Air Quality Index in various cities.

Sir/ Madam,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith an affidavit on behalf of the Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya for the purpose of filing before the Hon'ble NGT.

This is for favour of your information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Forest & Environment Department

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH,
NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 687/2023

In re: Air Quality Index in various Cities

IN THE MATTER OF:-

An Affidavit on behalf of the Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya to bring on record the status of Air Quality Index.

AN AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA.

I, **Shri. Sibhi Chakravarthy Sadhu**, IAS, Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Forest and Environment Department, aged about ___ years, S/o Chunna Appalaswamy R/o Rilbong Meghalaya do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-

1. That I am the Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Forest and Environment Department and am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case. I am duly authorized and competent to swear and affirm this Affidavit.
2. That the instant Original Application was registered in suo moto exercise of powers by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in wake of degradation of air quality particularly during the month of November-December. The degradation of the air quality particularly in these months specifically owns to the festival season as well as due to sowing season(stubble burning) and otherwise due to other polluting factors.
3. It is submitted that the suo moto action was taken by Hon'ble NGT on the basis of Air Quality Bulletin of CPCB posted on their website in respect of Air Quality Index for different cities from 20.10.2023 to 01.11.2023. It is

submitted that as per CPCB Air Quality Bulletin, it is stated that the city of 'Byrnihat' (Meghalaya) was consistently to be at 'very poor' or 'severe' stage.

4. It is submitted that in compliance with the order dated 03.11.2023 of the Hon'ble NGT, the State of Meghalaya has taken following steps to monitor the air quality of the city of Byrnihat:

a. The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) regularly monitors the the air quality of the Byrnihat through its Manual Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations. The Air Quality Monitoring Stations are stationed at the following location:

- i. Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP)
- ii. 15th Mile
- iii. 17th Mile
- iv. Khasi Killing

b. The monitoring of the air quality through above mention stations is done twice a week and the data generated is uploaded in the Environment Air Quality Data Entry System (EADES) of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi.

c. It is submitted that the MSPCB has monitored the Air Quality of Byrnihat during the above mentioned period (20.10.2023 to 01.11.2023) too and AQI of the said period is found to be 'Satisfactory' to 'Moderate'. It is further submitted that throughout the said period, the AQI of the Byrnihat did not at any time dipped to the stage of 'poor' or 'severe' as reported. A copy of the Table 1 showing

Secretary
to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forest & Environment Deptt.

S. S. S.

the AQI during said period is marked and annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE 1.**

d. It is submitted that the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board has been monitoring the air quality of Byrnihat from the month of April to October, 2023 through its Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations. The AQI of this period also reveals the AQI to be at 'Satisfactory' to 'Moderate' stage. A copy of the Table 2 showing the AQI of April to October 2023 is marked and annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE 2.**

e. It is further submitted that the State of Meghalaya has already constituted a Steering, Monitoring and Implementation Committee headed by Chief Secretary for effective monitoring and implementation of approved action plans. A copy of the notification dated 21.08.2019 is marked and annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE 3.**

5. It is submitted that as per the assessments made by MSPCB, it appears that the Air Quality Index of the Byrnihat ranges from 'Satisfactory' to 'Moderate'. It is further submitted that even the AQI appears to be Satisfactory to Moderate, the State of Meghalaya considering the overall well being of the people of the State, is already taking above mentioned steps to improve the air quality including action plan and the committee already in place to monitor the situation regularly.

Secretary
to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forest & Environment Deptt.

S. S. S.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, Shri. Sibhi Chakravarthy Sadhu, aged about 42 years, s/o Chunna Appalaswamy R/o Rilbong, Meghalaya do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath that the statements made above in this affidavit in para 1 to 5 are true and correct to my knowledge, belief, information received and as borne by records, and I sign this affidavit on this the ____ day of February, 2024 at Shillong.

Identified by:-
Solemnly affirmed before me this day on The deponent is identified by I certify that the contents of the affidavit are read over and explained to the deponent who verified the same before me.

()
Advocate, Shillong

Commissioner of Affidavit
High Court of Meghalaya,
Shillong.

[Signature]
DEPONENT
Secretary
to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forest & Environment Deptt.

Report on action taken by the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board with respect to the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Byrnihat (Non-attainment city/town)

It is to be mentioned that the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Byrnihat from 20.10.2023 to 01.11.2023 was found to be 'satisfactory' to 'moderate' (table enclosed – Table 1). In fact, throughout the period mentioned, the AQI at Byrnihat did not, at any time, dipped to the stage of 'poor' to 'severe' as reported in various cities of the country. Further, the AQI at Byrnihat from April to October, 2023 (table enclosed – Table 2), reveals the same to be from 'satisfactory' to 'moderate' (based on monthly rating). The AQI rating as mentioned above is based on data generated from the Board's manual Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations in Byrnihat.

The Board regularly monitors the air quality of Byrnihat through its manual ambient air quality monitoring stations located at Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP), 15th Mile, 17th Mile, and Khasi Killing. The monitoring is conducted twice a week and the data generated is uploaded in the Environmental Air Quality Data Entry System (EAQDES) of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi.

In order to control/mitigate the air pollution in Byrnihat, the Meghalaya Government has constituted the Steering, Monitoring and Implementation Committee at various levels (copy of notifications enclosed) for effective monitoring and implementation of approved action plan of Byrnihat. The action plan involves the participation of various stakeholders/departments for implementing various works/activities as laid out in the plan in order to effectively mitigate/control air pollution in Byrnihat.


S. Swer 28/11/2023

Senior Scientist
MSPCB, Shillong

Table 1: Air Quality Index (AQI) of Byrnihat from 20-10-2023 to 01-11-2023

Sl. No.	Location	24/10/23		25/10/23		1/11/23	
		AQI	Rating	AQI	Rating	AQI	Rating
1.	EPIP, Byrnihat	124	Moderate	127	Moderate	134	Moderate
2.	15 th Mile, Byrnihat	63	Satisfactory	69	Satisfactory	75	Satisfactory
3.	17 th Mile, Byrnihat	62	Satisfactory	68	Satisfactory	72	Satisfactory
4.	Khasi Kiling	60	Satisfactory	65	Satisfactory	64	Satisfactory
5.	Average data of Byrnihat town	77	Satisfactory	82	Satisfactory	86	Satisfactory


Scientist B
MSPCB, Shillong

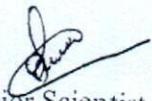

Senior Scientist
MSPCB, Shillong

Table 2: Air Quality Index (AQI) at Byrnihat from April to October 2023

AQ Station	EPIP, Byrnihat		15 th Mile, Byrnihat		17 th Mile, Byrnihat		Kiling, Byrnihat		Average of 4 sampling location in Byrnihat town	
	AQI	Rating	AQI	Rating	AQI	Rating	AQI	Rating	AQI	Rating
April-2023	140	Moderate	86	Satisfactory	81	Satisfactory		-	106	Moderate
May -2023	153	Moderate	86	Satisfactory	80	Satisfactory		-	110	Moderate
June -2023	132	Moderate	75	Satisfactory	71	Satisfactory		-	98	Satisfactory
July -2023	118	Moderate	81	Satisfactory	76	Satisfactory		-	95	Satisfactory
August-23	141	Moderate	74	Satisfactory	70	Satisfactory	59	Satisfactory	85	Satisfactory
September-23	122	Moderate	71	Satisfactory	68	Satisfactory	59	Satisfactory	83	Satisfactory
October-23	123	Moderate	55	Satisfactory	66	Satisfactory	59	Satisfactory	79	Satisfactory



Scientist B
MSPCB, Shillong



Senior Scientist
MSPCB, Shillong

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

ANNEXURE - D

**NOTIFICATION
ORDERS BY GOVERNOR**

Dated Shillong, the 21st August, 2019.

No. ENV.2/2018/187: The Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to constitute the following committees for implementation of National Clean air Programme (NCAP) launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), Government of India, to address the air pollution problem in non-attainment city with respect to Byrnihat.

I. Steering Committee: -

The Committee shall consist of the following Members, namely: -

The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya	-	Chairman
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF	-	Member
The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment Department	-	Member
The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Urban Affairs Department	-	Member
The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Transport Department	-	Member
The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department	-	Member
The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department	-	Member
The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Planning Department	-	Member
Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, Regional	-	Expert Member
The Chairman, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board		Expert Member
The Secretary, Forests & Environment Department		Member Secretary

Terms of reference of committee: -

- a) To provide overall guidance and directions for effective implementation of NCAP for each financial year.
- b) To approve the action plan prepared under NCAP.
- c) To review the overall progress of the components/activities of NCAP on quarterly basis.
- d) To approve the budget for NCAP and also approve the annual action plan for NCAP submitted by implementation committee.
- e) To ensure inter-departmental cooperation and sharing of information.
- f) To meet at least once in every quarter.

II. Monitoring Committee: -

The Committee shall consist of the following Members, namely: -

The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment Department	-	Chairman
Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry & Env)	-	Member
Commissioner of Transport	-	Member
Director, Urban Affairs Department	-	Member
Director, Agriculture	-	Member
Director, Commerce and Industries Department	-	Member
Representative from Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate North East, Shillong	-	Member
Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board	-	Member Secretary

Terms of reference of committee: -

- a) To review the draft action plans under NCAP for long term and short term actions submitted by State Governments and forward them to the Steering Committee
- b) To monitor the progress of components/ activities under NCAP to ensure strict implementation of the programme.
- c) To oversee that all interventions under NCAP are in line with the programme document/ operational guidelines and that the city/ component-wise implementing agencies/ partners are appropriately tasked to deliver the results expected.
- d) To review any other matter referred to them by the Steering Committee and make recommendations to this committee on these matters as and when required.
- e) To stimulate collaboration between the organizations involved with city specific components / activities under NCAP.
- f) To monitor the programme closely and meet on a monthly basis.

III. Implementation Committee:

The Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District	-	Chairman
The Superintendent of Police, Ri-Bhoi District	-	Member
The Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Nongpoh	-	Member
The Town Planning Officer, MUDA, Shillong	-	Member
The District Transport Officer, Ri-Bhoi District	-	Member
The Executive Engineer PWD (Rds), Nongpoh Division	-	Member
District Agriculture Officer, Ri-Bhoi District	-	Member
District Horticulture Officer, Ri-Bhoi District	-	Member

General Manager Commerce and Industries, Ri-Bhoi District	-	Member
Environmental Engineer, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board	-	Member Secretary

Terms of reference of committee: -

- a) Implementation of action plan and interventions under NCAP to address the air pollution problem in non-attainment city with respect to Byrnihat.
- b) Preparation of Annual Action and submission to monitoring committee.
- c) Day-to-day monitoring and implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- d) To review the progress of Action Taken by different agencies in implementation of the Action Plan.
- e) Submit progress report to monitoring committee periodically.

Sd/-

(C.P. Marak, IFS)

Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department

Memo. No.ENV.2/2018/187-A

Dated Shillong, the 21st August, 2019

Copy to:

- 1) The P.S. to the Minister i/c Forest and Environment Department of Meghalaya for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister.
- 2) The P.S. to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya for information of the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
- 3) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 4) The Addl. Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Forest & Environment Department.
- 5) The Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Urban Affairs Department.
- 6) The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Transport Department.
- 7) The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Agriculture Department.
- 8) The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Commerce & Industries Department.
- 9) The Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Planning Department.
- 10) The Regional Director, CPCB, Regional Directorate, North East Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 11) The Chairman, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 12) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry & Environment, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 13) Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District, Nongpoh.
- 14) Commissioner of Transport, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 15) Director of Agriculture, Meghalaya, Shillong.

- 16) Director of Urban Affairs Department, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 17) Director of Commerce and Industries Department, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 18) The Chief Executive Officer, Shillong/ Jowai/ Tura Municipal Board.
- 19) The Executive Engineer PWD (Rds), Nongpoh Division.
- 20) The Superintendent of Police, Ri-Bhoi District.
- 21) The Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Nongpoh.
- 22) The Town Planning Officer, MUDA, Shillong.
- 23) The District Transport Officer, Ri-Bhoi District.
- 24) District Agriculture Officer, Ri-Bhoi District.
- 25) District Horticulture Officer, Ri-Bhoi District.
- 26) General Manager Commerce and Industries, Ri-Bhoi District.
- 27) Environmental Engineer, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board.

By Orders etc.,

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Forests and Environment Department.