

L-25012(11)/19/2024-LME NMCG
National Mission for Clean Ganga
Department of WR, RD&GR
Ministry of Jal Shakti

Major Dhyanchand National Stadium
Near India Gate, New Delhi
Date: 01. 05. 2024

Subject: - Response of the NMCG in compliance of the Notice dated 24.04.2024, issued by the Hon'ble NGT in the matter of OA 491/2024 under the caption "Ganga water unsafe even for bathing says Bihar Government report on river pollution".

Sir,

This is with reference to the above matter before the Hon'ble NGT. The response of the NMCG in compliance of the Notice dated 24.04.2024, issued by the Hon'ble NGT is attached herewith. The same may kindly be placed before the Hon'ble NGT for consideration.

2. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl: As above

Your faithfully

Anup Kumar Srivastava
Executive Director (Tech)

To

The Registrar,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(PB), Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

Copy for information to:

- (1) PPS to the Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (2) PS to the DG, NMCG

L-25012(11)/19/2024-LME NMCG

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

Response of the NMCG in compliance of the Notice dated 24.04.2024 in matter of OA 491/2024 under the caption "Ganga water unsafe even for bathing says Bihar Government report on river pollution".

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), in the aforesaid matter, has issued notice on 24.04.2024 to the CPCB, Bihar Pollution Control Board and the NMCG has directed to submit report with regard to Ganga water alleged to be unsafe even for bathing.

2. That in the above context it is submitted that the State Government of Bihar has been furnishing reports before this Hon'ble Tribunal on various aspects including construction & status of the STPs, quality of water in river Ganga etc. in the matter of OA no 200/2014- M.C.Mehta vs UoI & Ors.

3. The NMCG in the first instance has, therefore, sought a report from concerned agencies, such as CPCB and others. Vide letter dated 29.04.2024, we have requested Project Director, State Mission for Clean Ganga, Bihar and the District Magistrate Patna, the authorities at the State level in Bihar, in terms of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 to submit a report in the matter. The copies of the communication sent to the above said authorities are attached as Annexure.

Anup Kumar Srivastava
Executive Director(Tech)

MOST URGENT /COURT MATTER

L-25012(11)/19/2024-LME NMCG-
National Mission for Clean Ganga
Department of Water Resources, River Development
& Ganga Rejuvenation
Ministry of Jal Shakti

Major Dhyanchand National Stadium,
Near India Gate, New Delhi-110002

Dated: 29.04.2024

Subject: Report in a Suo-moto matter, OA no 491/2024- "Ganga water unsafe even for bathing says Bihar Government report on river pollution" before the Hon'ble NGT(PB)

Sir,

The Hon'ble NGT has taken suo-moto cognizance of a matter, based on the news item under the caption "Ganga water unsafe even for bathing says Bihar Government report on river pollution". A copy of the Notice is enclosed.

2.. Therefore, it is requested that a Report in the matter may be arranged to be furnished URGENTLY so that the Hon'ble NGT may be apprised of the status in the matter.

3.The matter is listed before the Hon'ble NGT on 02.05.2024

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully


Anup Kumar Srivastava
Executive Director(Tech)

To

1. Project Director,SMCG Group(Secretary Urban Development), Government of Bihar
Vikash Bhawan,Bailey Road, Patna
Bihar – 800001

2. The District Magistrate Patna - cum Chairperson District Ganga Committee (DGC), Patna (Bihar)

Copy for information to:

- (i)PS to the DG, NMCG,
- (ii) Enforcement Coordinator NMCG

By Email

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH
FARIDKOT HOUSE, COPERNICUS MARG
NEW DELHI- 110001

Date: - 24.04.2024

To,

- Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary,
(011-22303655, msecb.cpcb@nic.in)
- Bihar Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary,
(0612-2261709, mbspcb-bihar@gov.in & bspcb@yahoo.com)
- National Mission for Clean Ganga, Through its Director General,
(011-23049528, adm.nmcg@nic.in & dg@nmcg.nic.in)

Subject: - Notice of hearing in Suo Motu matter In re: News item appearing in Hindustan Times dated: 26.02.2024 titled "Ganga water unsafe even for bathing, says Bihar govt report on river pollution".

NOTICE


Take notice that OA No. 491/2024 (Copy enclosed) titled "Ganga water unsafe even for bathing, says Bihar govt report on river pollution" will be listed before the Hon'ble Tribunal at Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110001 on 02nd May, 2024 through Physical Hearing (With Hybrid Option), when you may appear before the Hon'ble Tribunal either in person or by a pleader duly instructed, with your report.

Take further notice that in default of your appearance on the date above mentioned, the said Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal, on this 24th April, 2024.

Note: (For Orders, Cause Lists & other information, please visit our website www.ngttribunal.gov.in)

Encl. As Above


(Arvind Kumar)
Deputy Registrar
National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, New Delhi





The report, based on sample checks at 98 points of several rivers including Ganga, Sone and Kosi in 27 districts showed excessive presence of faecal coliform bacteria in water. (Representative image)

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The report, based on sample checks at 98 points of the rivers, including Ganga, Sone, Kosi, Bagmati, etc. in 27 districts showed excessive presence of faecal coliform bacteria in water. Water sample of Sirasia river at Raxaul yielded presence of around 2,40,000 most probable number (MPN)/100ml.

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The World Health Organisation (WHO) norms stipulate that river water with more than 1000MPN/100ml faecal coliform bacteria should not be used even for irrigating crops, as uncooked agricultural produce could make people vulnerable to various kinds of diseases.

UC Samal, a internal medicine specialist and former Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) cardiology department head, said that swimming in water with high level of faecal coliform bacteria increases the chance of developing illness like fever, nausea or stomach cramps, if they entered through mouth, ears, nose or wounds. "Access intake of such water may also lead to typhoid, hepatitis, gastroenteritis and ear infection," Samal said.

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According to the BSPCB report, based on sample survey conducted until last December, samples of Ganga water carried 92,000 MPN/100ml faecal coliform bacteria (FCB) across its stretch from Buxar to Bhagalpur, barring Lakhisarai, where FCB count was recorded at 28,000. Likewise, some river water contained 35,000 FCB at Rohtas and 3,500 FCB at Arwal, while Gandak water had presence of 92,000 FCB at Saran and Vaishali, 54,000 at Munzaffarpur and 13,000 at Gopalganj.

Also Read: [Bihar govt report on river pollution: Ganga water unsafe even for bathing](#)

Water samples of other rivers like Burhi Gandak, Punpun, Kosi, Kamla, Bagmati, Ghaghra, Duhra, Mahanandi, Sikaharna, Ram Rekha, Harbora, Lakhandei, Parmar and Harha were found to be heavily contaminated by FCB. Samples of these rivers carried FCB in the range of 92,000 to 13,000 at different stretches.

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The state government has taken various initiatives to stop flow of untreated sewage and drain water directly in to the river Ganga and its tributaries in the state. Sewage treatment

BSPCB had been told to identify major sources of river pollution and prepare the next round of action plan. "The state government has allocated ₹4,000 crore, which was levied by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on the state for its failure in scientifically managing liquid and solid waste, for the purpose of setting up more STPs," said the officer.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Subhash Pathak

Subhash Pathak is special correspondent of Hindustan Times with over 15 years of experience in journalism covering issues related to governance, legislature, police, Maoism, urban and road infrastructure of Bihar at hand.

Patna Bihar