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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 137 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

Aakash Ranison

...Applicant

Vs.

Central Pollution Control Board & Ors.

...Respondents

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1.	Response on behalf of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) respondent no. 01 in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 20.02.2026 in O.A No. 137 of 2026.	



Filed by Advocate Atif Suhrawardy
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

Place: Delhi

Dated: 19.05.2026

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
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IN THE MATTER OF:

Aakash Ranison

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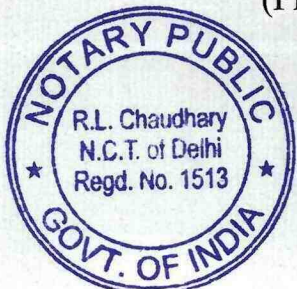
Central Pollution Control Board & Ors.

...Respondents

**RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT No. 01:
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench (PB), New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "Hon'ble NGT") vide its order dated 20.02.2026 in Original Application No. 137/2026 (PB) has sought the response /reply from the Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB") in the instant matter thereby the response on behalf of answering respondent is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, at the outset, in respect of the averments made by Applicant in the Original Application under reply, it is respectfully submitted that all averments made therein are denied unless specifically admitted by the Answering Respondent.
3. That, CPCB is constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Water Act, 1974"). It performs the functions under the Water Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as



"Air Act, 1981"), and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as "E(P) Act, 1986").

4. That, the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred to as "SPCBs/PCCs") in every State / Union Territory have been constituted in States/UTs under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 to perform their functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of their respective State / Union Territory.

5. That, the Original Application (OA) pertains to the applicant's grievance regarding plastic pollution arising from **detachable plastic bottle caps**, which are alleged to be not collected, and seeks directions for mandating tethered caps on plastic beverage bottles. The applicant has further submitted that in several other countries, bottle caps are attached to the bottles, commonly referred to as '**tethered caps**', to ensure that they are collected along with the bottles.

6. That, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereafter referred to as "MoEF&CC"), in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the PWM Rules, 2016) vide Gazette Notification No. GSR 320(E) dated March 18, 2016.

The said rules provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for the generation, segregation, collection, processing and disposal of plastic waste, involving waste pickers and waste processors in collection of plastic waste fraction either from households or any other source of its generation or intermediate material recovery facility and adopt polluter's pay principle

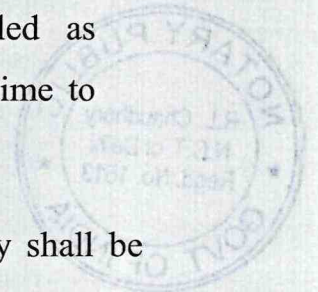


through Extended Producer Responsibility Guidelines for a sustainable waste management system.

7. That, the PWM Rules delineate the duties and responsibilities of various stakeholders including the CPCB, SPCB/PCC, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), State Governments, and other agencies entrusted with the management of plastic waste. These obligations are designated to ensure environmentally sound and legally compliant mechanisms for plastic waste management.
8. That, the Rule 3(w) of the PWM Rules, defines that local body means urban local body or authority with different nomenclature such as municipal corporation, municipality, nagarpalika, nagarnigam, nagarpanchayat, municipal council including notified area committee (NAC) and not limited to or any other local body or local authority or other authority constituted under the relevant statutes such as gram panchayat, where the management of plastic waste is entrusted to such agency.
9. That, as per Rule 5(1) of PWM Rules, the plastic waste management by the local bodies in their respective jurisdiction shall be as under:

- I. plastic waste, which can be recycled, shall be channelised to a registered plastic waste recycler, and recycling of plastic shall conform to the Indian Standard: IS 14534:1998 titled as Guidelines for Recycling of Plastics, as amended from time to time.

10. That, as per Rule 6 (1) of the PWM Rules, every local body shall be responsible for the development and setting up of infrastructure for

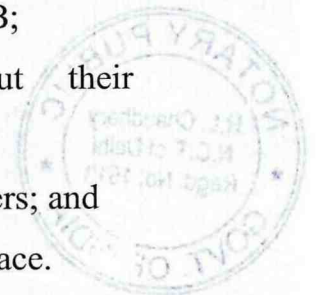


segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of the plastic waste either on its own or by engaging agencies.

11. That, as per Rule 6 (1A) of the PWM Rules, every manufacturer, producer, importer, brand owner, manufacturer of commodities made from compostable plastics or biodegradable plastics may engage with the local body on a voluntary basis, as per mutually agreed terms and conditions entered into by them and the local body.

12. That, as per Rule 6 (2) of the PWM Rules, the local body shall be responsible for setting up, operationalisation and co-ordination of the waste management system and for performing the associated functions, namely:

- a. ensuring segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of plastic waste;
- b. ensuring that the provisions of these rules, as amended, are adhered to
- c. ensuring that no damage is caused to the environment during this process;
- d. ensuring channelization of recyclable plastic waste fraction to recyclers
- e. ensuring processing and disposal on non-recyclable fraction of plastic waste in accordance with the guidelines issued by the CPCB;
- f. creating awareness among all stakeholders about their responsibilities;
- g. engaging civil societies or groups working with waste pickers; and
- h. ensuring that open burning of plastic waste does not take place.
- i. That, as per Rule 6 of the PWM Rules, the responsibilities of the local body also include setting up a plastic waste management system with the assistance of producers, framing bye-laws for incorporating the

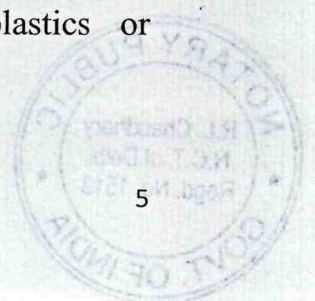


rule provisions, assessment of plastic waste generated and plastic waste management infrastructure for collection, segregation and processing.

13. That, as per Rule 9 of PWM Rules, 2016, it is the responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners who introduce any plastic packaging in the market to collect such plastic packaging. And such Producers, Importers and Brand Owners who fulfils his extended producer responsibility, he is deemed to have complied with their responsibility.

14. That, as per Clause 4 of Schedule II: Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for Plastic Packaging (hereinafter referred to as "EPR Guideline") the following entities shall be covered under the Extended Producer Responsibility obligations, namely:

- a. Producer of plastic packaging, other than micro and small enterprises as defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 (27 of 2006);
- b. Importer of plastic packaging, including intermediate material used for manufacturing plastic packaging, such as films and preforms and plastic packaging of imported products;
- c. Brand Owners, including online platforms/marketplaces and supermarkets/retail chains other than micro and small enterprises as defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 (27 of 2006);
- d. Plastic Waste Processors;
- e. Manufacturers and importers of plastic raw material;
- f. Manufacturers of items made from compostable plastics or biodegradable plastics



15. That, as per clause 5 of EPR Guidelines, the following plastic packaging categories are covered under Extended Producer Responsibility:

- i. Category I: Rigid plastic packaging;
- ii. Category II: Flexible plastic packaging of single layer or multilayer (more than one layer with different types of plastic), plastic sheets or like and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags, plastic sachet or pouches;
- iii. Category III: Multilayered plastic packaging (at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic);
- iv. Category IV: Plastic sheet or like used for packaging as well as carry bags and commodities made of compostable plastics.
- v. Category V: Plastic sheet or like used for packaging as well as carry bags and commodities made of biodegradable plastics.

16. That, as per clause 13(2) of the PWM Rules, 2016 as mentioned in rule provision *every producer or importer or brand owner shall, for the purpose of one-time registration, make an application in Form I through the Centralised online port specified in Schedule I to the SPCB/PCC, if operating in one or two States or Union Territories. Whereas, to the CPCB, if operating in more than two States or Union Territories.*

REPLY TO THE APPLICANT'S GRIEVANCE OF MANDATING TETHERED PLASTIC CAPS:

17. That, it is humbly submitted that plastic bottles as well as their caps, being **rigid in nature**, are already covered under Category I: Rigid plastic packaging under the PWM Rules.



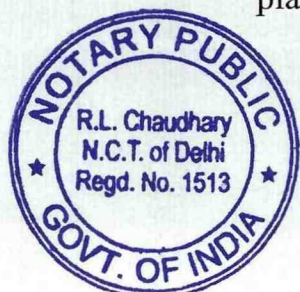
18. That, it is humbly submitted that since 2022, 58,174 number of PIBOs and 3,040 number of Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) have been registered on the centralized EPR portal. The year-wise PIBOs target and its fulfillment of their EPR obligations of Category –I: Rigid plastic packaging are as follows:

All in Lakhs Tonnes

Category	FY 2022 - 2023		FY 2023 - 2024		FY 2024 - 2025	
	Target	Fulfilment	Target	Fulfilment	Target	Fulfilment
Category I	9.05	8.47	20.22	18.51	29.4	17.66

The above table indicates that, over the last three years, the overall EPR target for Category I (rigid plastic) was 58.67 lakh tonnes, of which 44.64 lakh tonnes have been fulfilled, reflecting a compliance level of approx. 76%. Whereas, the Annual Return filing for the 2025-26 is in progress.


19. That, it is humbly submitted that the implementation of the provisions of the PWM Rules, 2016 (as amended from time to time), including infrastructure development for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of plastic waste is a collective mandated responsibility under the aforesaid Rules. It is further submitted that the concerned State / UT shall ensure enforcement of the provisions of the PWM Rules, 2016 (as amended) through the local bodies which include urban local bodies such as municipal corporation, municipality, nagarpalika, nagarnigam, nagarpanchayat, municipal council including notified area committee (NAC) or any other local body constituted under the relevant statutes such as gram panchayat, where the management of plastic waste is entrusted to such agency.



20. That, the answering respondent (CPCB) craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file an additional reply, if required, in future.

21. That, in view of the above and of the facts indicated in earlier paras, it is respectfully prayed that necessary directions may be passed, and the answering Respondent No.1 submits that it shall abide by any order or direction passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant matter.




(G. Thirumurthy)
Scientist 'F'
Central Pollution Control Board
18.05.2026



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AFFIDAVIT

I, **G. Thirumurthy**, working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 01 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, and sincerely state on oath as under:

1. That I, the deponent herein, is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying response may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.
3. That the accompanying response has been drafted and filed under my instructions, the contents thereof are true and correct based on the record maintained during the ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



11.7.24
DEPONENT

जी. थिरुमूर्ति / G. Thirumurthy
वैज्ञानिक 'च' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
M/o Env. Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

VERIFICATION

Verified at Delhi on this day of 19 MAY 2026 M a y, 2026, that the contents above are correct and true based on the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or misstated.



1.7.26
DEPONENT

जी. थिरुमूर्ति / G. Thirumurthy
वैज्ञानिक 'ब' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
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Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

ATTESTED
NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA

19 MAY 2026

