

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

I.A No 437 OF 2024

Original Application No. 240 OF 2024

In the matter of:

Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti Vahini

Applicant

Vs.

Union of India & Ors.

Respondents

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**Filed by Adv. Amit Singh Chauhan
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board**

Place: Delhi

Dated: 04.03.2025

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

I.A No 437 OF 2024

Original Application No. 240 OF 2024

In the matter of:

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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 2 (CENTRAL POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD) IN THE ABOVE CAPTIONED O.A.**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the aforesaid I.A. has been filed by the Applicant in response to an Interim Report dated 20.05.2024 filed by the Respondent No. 2, i.e Central Pollution Control Board in compliance of the direction passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal vide its Order dated 15.03.2024 in the captioned Original Application. The instant Original Application dealt with allegations regarding highly polluting industries such as thermal power plants, coal mines, etc. and the industries, which have been set up beyond the carrying capacity as a result of which the residents have allegedly faced serious health hazards in Sonbhadra District of Singrauli.
2. That the Applicant has made several comments on the Interim Report dated 20.05.2024 filed by the Respondent No. 2 along with the prayer to issue directions including to "*Set up a representative sub-committee to examine the 'Long-Terms Health Impacts of the Residents of the Singrauli Region' including assessment of the prevalence of diseases as a result of emission of fluoride,*



mercury and heavy metals, assessment of the health facilities provided by the District Administration as well as set up of appropriate Standard Toxicological Testing and Analysis Laboratory.”

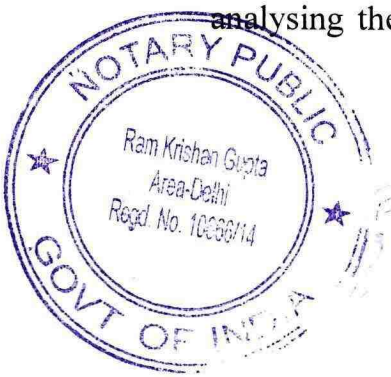
3. That the points mentioned in the I.A. filed by the Applicant have already been addressed in the Respondent No. 2's and UPPCB's reports dated **10.09.2024** and **09.11.2024**, respectively.

Para-wise reply on the I.A. are given as below:

4. That it is humbly submitted that the contents stated under paragraph 1 and 2 are matters of record and hence need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
5. That it is humbly submitted that the contents under Para 3 of the instant application pertain to health impact on the residents due to pollution in the area, which has been covered in the Respondent No. 2's report dated 10.09.2024 (from Page no. 29 onwards). It is submitted that the Interim Report of the Respondent No. 2 dated 20.05.2024 under Para 11 submitted that-

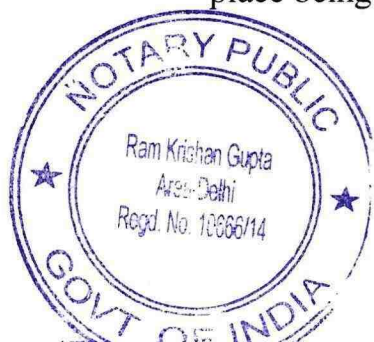
'In compliance to the NGT order a site visit has been carried out by a team from CPCB Regional Directorate, Lucknow and sampling has been carried out and analysis of the samples collected is in progress. Further available environmental and health data is being collected in respect of the grievance made in the present application'.

Thereafter, the Report of the Respondent No. 2 dated 10.09.2024 discusses the *Health Status of Community Health Centre Mayorpur, Sonbhadra for the year 2023-2024, after covering a total population of 41,000.* It is stated that after analysing the health data collected from this area it was found that the *total*



number of patients related to lung disease were 14 and the highest number of cases were observed in Fluorosis being 48. Further, the health status of the locality surrounding Duddhi and Nearby areas in the District Sonbhadra for the year 2023-2024 was also collected, which provided that the total number of patients found to be affected by lung disease was 271 in the year 2022-2023 and 102 for the year 2023-2024 and by Fluorosis was 95 in the year 2022-2023 and 96 in the year 2023-2024. Thereafter another health study was conducted in the locality surrounding Birla Carbon Industry Murdhawa, Renukoot District Sonbhadra for the year 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 which covered a population of 30,000. On the basis of this health study it was known that in the year 2022-2023, 06 people and in the year 2023-2024, 04 people suffered from lung disease. The cases of Fluorosis for the year 2022-2023 was 02. It is stated that another table has been annexed in the Report dated 10.09.2024 which states the number of patients found with Acute Respiratory Illness for the District Combined Hospital Sonbhadra from April 2022 to April 2024 was a total of 1692 patients and for Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for the year 2022-2023 was 13 patients and for the year 2023-2024 during March and April 2024 was a total of 118 and 56 cases.

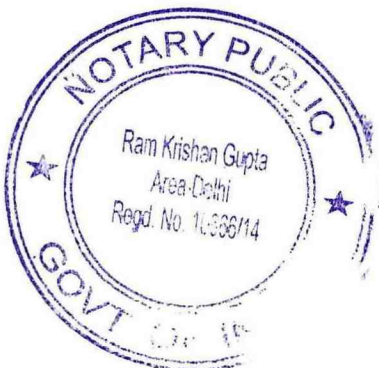
6. That it is submitted that with respect to the submissions made under Para 4 of the instant application, it is humbly submitted that the data pertaining to the groundwater and surface water sampling and analysis is duly recorded from Para 3 to Para 5 of the Report of the Respondent No. 2 dated 10.09.2024 and the relevant pages in this regard is from internal page 6 to internal page 16 of the Report. It is stated that the Respondent No. 2 herein collected ground water from 11 locations, which were analysed at the CPCB and SPCB laboratories for physico-chemical and metal analysis. The analysis of the ground water samples in comparison with BIS Drinking water specifications showed Flouride at one place being NTPC Rihand Market, was higher than the permissible limit and at



two other places being Audi More, Anpara and Anpara Nagar Palika-01, it was found between the requirement limit of 1.0mg/l and permissible limit of 1.5mg/l. The analysis further reflected that Nitrate was higher than the permissible limit of 45 mg/l at 2 places, i.e Krishnashila/Bina mines and NTPC Rihand Market. Total Hardness, Total Alkanity, Total Dissolved Solids and other analysed parameters were all within the specified limits in BIS Drinking water specification.

It is further stated that the analysis result of the metals in ground water samples revealed that the concentration of Iron in ground water samples exceeded the limited specified, the Arsenic Metal was in conformity and Mercury was found to be slightly higher exceeding the specified limits in two samples being Anpara Nagar Palika-01 and near Kakari Pariyojna.

It is stated that surface water sampling and analysis was also carried out and the Report dated 10.09.2024 of the Respondent No. 2 reveals that when surface water samples were collected from 7 locations for the physico-chemical parameters including metals from different locations of Sonbhadra covering the Industrial area, Flouride was found in between the Requirement Limit and Permissible Limit at the Son River area, near Chopan Bridge and pH levels slightly exceeded in the Rihand Reservoir, Near Khadia Ash Dyke and at the Rihand Reservoir, near NTPC Rihand Ash Dyke. With respect to the results of metals in surface water samples, it was revealed that the concentration of Iron exceeded the limits specified at Son River, near Chopan Bridge, Rihand Reservoir Near Khadia Ash Dyke and Rihand Reservoir near NTPC Rihand Ash Dyke. It is also stated that Arsenic and Mercury were found to be within the specified limits and the other metals were not detected in any samples. Samples were also collected

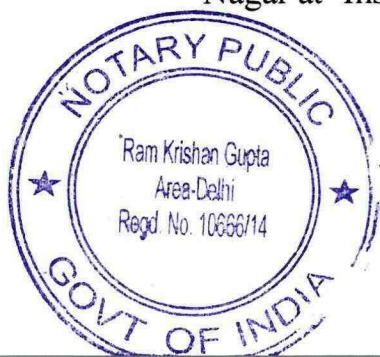


from Ballia Drain, Singrauli which revealed that it was high in BOD and COD.

7. That it is submitted that with respect to the submissions made under Para 5 and 6 of the instant application, it is humbly submitted that the data pertaining to the Carrying Capacity is duly recorded from Para 3 to Para 4 of the Report of UPPCB dated 09.11.2024 and the relevant pages in this regard is from internal page 2 of the Report.
8. That it is submitted that with respect to the submissions made under Para 7 and 8 of the instant application, it is humbly stated that the data pertaining to the air pollution and monitoring in the area is duly recorded in the Respondent No. 2's report dated 10.09.2024 at internal page no. 17 and the UPPCB's report dated 09.11.2024 at Paras 6 & 7, the relevant internal page from the same being Page 4.

It is stated that in the Report dated 10.09.2024 of the Respondent No. 2, it was revealed that for Ambient Air Quality, data samples have been collected from UPPCB, Regional office, Sonbhadra for the period of April 2023 to March 2024. The two stations are installed at Nagar Pallike Parishad, Anpara and Renusagar and upon analysis it has been concluded that the average value of PM10 exceeded the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Annual standards for Industrial Area, however the average value of SO2 and NO2 were within the prescribed limits.

It is further stated that the Continuous Air Ambient Quality Monitoring System, *hereinafter referred to as 'CAAQMS'*, data has been collected from 8 locations in the Sonbhadra area, out of which, it was analysed that the CAAQ monitoring station by NTPC Rihand at Purneras, NTPC Shakti Nagar at 'Inside Plant', NTPC Shakti Nagar at 'Township area' and NTPC

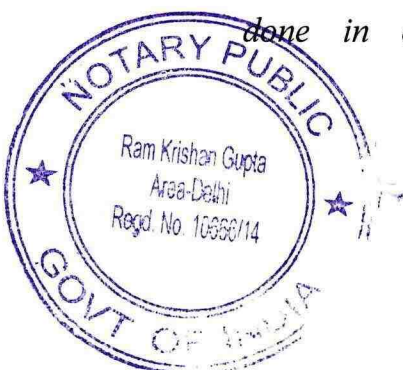


Shaakti Nagar 'VIP Guest House' exceeded the annual average value of PM10. It is further stated that the CAAQMS monitoring station operated by UPRVUNL, Obra at 'Coal Handling Area', and UPRUNL, Obra at ETP Area exceeded the annual average value of PM10 and PM25.

9. That it is submitted that with respect to the contents under Paras 9 to 16 of the instant application which pertain to the alleged health impacts on the residents due to pollution in the area and monitoring, it is humbly submitted that the data for the same has been covered in the CPCB's report dated 10.09.2024 from Page no. 29 onwards to Page No. 39.

10. That it is submitted that the Respondent No. 2 herein in its Report dated 10.09.2024, after analysing all the issues pertaining to the instant Original Application, as provided their suggestions/recommendations, which are as follows-

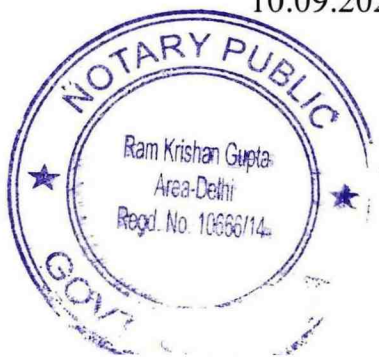
- a. *The ground water quality of the area needs to be extensively and regularly monitored by the ground water department and investigation be carried out about the causes of occurrences of elements being Iron, Flouride, Nitrates and Mercury in concentration higher than BIS drinking water quality specifications.*
- b. *The concerned department must provide safe drinking water in area where water quality is not fit for drinking, either through water treatment plants or by supplying from other sources.*
- c. *To control the emission in air through industries, SPCBs should periodically check and ensure the compliance of stipulated emission norms. To reduce dust pollution caused by transportation of coal and ash, the concerned industries should ensure that transportation is done in environmentally safe manner by their contractor*



transporters and the transport authorities also need to strengthen enforcement in this regard.

- d. The Ballia drain which joins Rihand reservoir must be trapped for effluent being discharged and the tapped effluents be subjected to adequate treatment.*
- e. The health department should ensure periodic health checks in the area specifically in respect of health impacts of air pollution and disease related to higher concentration of Flouride, Nitrate and Iron in drinking water.*
- f. Under National Clean Air Program (NCAP), pollution control plan is being implemented in Nagar Panchayat, Anpara area. Similar plans be prepared and implemented for entire Severely Polluted Area. Source apportionment study for the area may be conducted from a reputed technical institute by the concerned SPCBs and the same be taken into account for preparation of the said air pollution control plans.*
- g. SPCBs to expeditiously complete the implementation of CEPI action points prepared and submitted by them and identify additional action points to mitigate the air pollution due to reduce the CEPI scores.*
- h. SPCBs to organise inter-state meetings with the District Administrations and other concerned stakeholders like RTO, mining department etc. to address and resolve the interstate issues and share the minutes of the inter- state as well as intra state meetings on the CEPI Portal.*

11. That it is humbly submitted that the directions rendered by the Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant Original Application vide order dated 15.03.2024 has been duly complied with by the Respondent No. 2 herein, and accordingly a report dated 10.09.2024 has been submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal for kind



consideration. It is humbly submitted that the Respondent No. 2 is duty bound to comply with any further direction too which will be passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the interest of justice in the instant Original Application.

12. That, the answering Respondent No. 2 craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply, if required, in future.

P. Gargava

(Prasoon Gargava)
Scientist 'F'

Central Pollution Control Board



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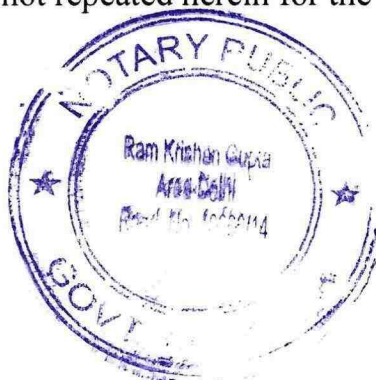
Union Of India & Ors

Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Prasoon Gargava** working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 2 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state 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 reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during 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.



P. Gargava
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this day of 04 MAR 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.



P. G. Jmm
DEPONENT

ATTESTED

[Signature]
**NOTARY
DELHI (INDIA)**

04 MAR 2025

Item No. 24

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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(IA No 437/2024)

Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti Vahini & Ors.

Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 12.11.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Ms. Srishti Agnihotri & Ms. Sanjana Srikumar, Advs. for Applicant

Respondents: Mr. Pradeep Misra & Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Advs. for UPPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan, Ms. Tejaswini Chandra Sekhar & Ms. Shaima Masood, Advs. for CPCB (Through VC)

ORDER

1. In pursuance to the earlier direction, report dated 10.09.2024 by CPCB and report dated 09.11.2024 by UPPCB have been filed.
2. Learned Counsel for the applicant seeks three weeks' time to file rejoinder/objection to these reports.
3. Learned Counsel for the respondents are also granted three weeks' time to file reply to IA No.437/2024.
4. Though, State of UP is served but not represented. Learned Counsel for the applicant is permitted to serve a copy of OA and IA to Counsel who normally appears before the Tribunal for State of UP.

5. List on 05.03.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

November 12, 2024
Original Application No. 240/2024
(IA No 437/2024)
JG..