

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1340/2024

In the matter of:

News Item titled "Revealed: Real reason behind high pollution in Delhi and its not stubble burning or vehicles the main culprit is" appearing in India Today dated 19.11.2024.

INDEX

NDOH:- 19.03.2025

S.I. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Reply on behalf of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee with respect to order dated 27.11.2024.	1-3

Filed by

Beenu
(Delhi Pollution Control Committee)

Dated: 02 01.2025

Place: *Delhi*

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1340/2024

In the matter of:

News Item titled "Revealed: Real reason behind high pollution in Delhi and its not stubble burning or vehicles the main culprit is" appearing in India Today dated 19.11.2024



**REPLY ON BEHALF OF DELHI POLLUTON CONTROL
COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO THE ORDER DATED
27.11.2024.**

I, Dr BMS Reddy, Sr. Environmental Engineer, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 2nd Floor, Vikas Bhawan – II, Civil Lines, Delhi- 110054, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

That, I am working as Sr. Environmental Engineer, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and am conversant with the facts of the present case on the basis of record maintained by Delhi Pollution Control Committee in its ordinary course.

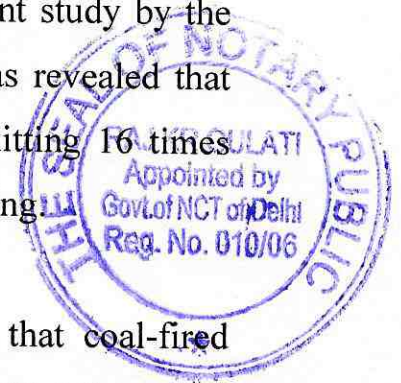
2. That Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 27.11.2024 issued notice and pleased to direct to file response / reply.
3. That the matter is related to Delhi's persistent air pollution crisis, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) in the capital reaching an alarming 488, falling

BMS Reddy



2

under the 'severe plus' category. As per the article, a recent study by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) has revealed that thermal power plants in the region are responsible for emitting 16 times more air pollution than the pollution caused by stubble burning.



The news item highlights that the study estimates that coal-fired thermal power plants in the NCR released a staggering 281 kilotons of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) annually. In comparison, crop burning, which is often cited as a major source of pollution, emitted 17.8 kilotons of SO₂ from the burning of 8.9 million tons of stubble. Furthermore, the weather conditions in Delhi are exacerbating the pollution crisis. Calm winds and dropping temperatures have hindered the dispersal of pollutants, trapping dust, smoke, and other harmful particles in the air. These conditions, often referred to as "cold air traps," cause pollutants like stubble smoke to linger over Delhi and surrounding areas, significantly worsening air quality.

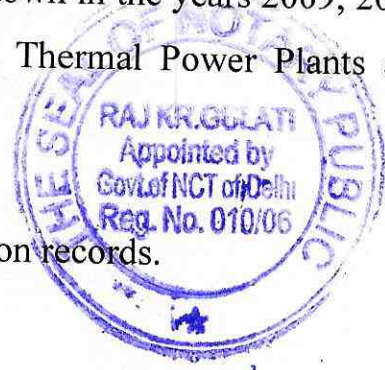
4. That, the Appellant herein has challenged the impugned order dated 12.2.2020 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in Original Application No.102 of 2014, wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal inter-alia has ordered, that, coal based Thermal Power Plants, may take prompt steps, for scientific disposal of fly ash in accordance with the statutory notification issued by the MoEF & CC, GoI under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 requiring 100% utilization and disposal of fly ash.



Rajkr. Gulati

3

5. That, in NCT of Delhi, all the three coal based [3] Power Plants situated at ITO, Rajghat and Badarpur have been closed down in the years 2009, 2015 and 2018 respectively. Thus, no Coal based Thermal Power Plants are operating in Delhi.



6. That the present response may kindly be taken on records.

[Handwritten Signature]

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this ___ day of January, 2024 that contents of the counter affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information derived from the records of the case which I belief to be true.

[Handwritten Signature]

DEPONENT



ATTESTED
NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
- 3 FEB 2025