

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 728 OF 2023 (PB)

IN THE MATTER OF :

***“IN RE: News item appearing in Hindustan dated
30.11.2023 titled “Arsenic found in groundwater in 25
States, fluoride in 27 States: Govt.”***

I N D E X

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Date: 12.02.2024

Place: Bhopal

R Bobde

**COUNSEL FOR
STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH**

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

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***“IN RE: News item appearing in Hindustan dated
30.11.2023 titled “Arsenic found in groundwater in 25
States, fluoride in 27 States: Govt.”***

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 13, STATE OF
MADHYA PRADESH THROUGH CHIEF SECRETARY**

IT IS MOST RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED HEREINUNDER :

1. That the present original application under Section 14 and 15 of National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (hereinafter referred to as “NGT Act, 2010”) has been registered by exercising suo moto jurisdiction based on the newspaper report published in Business Standard under the heading “Arsenic found in groundwater in 25 States, fluoride in 27 States: Govt.”. The report alleges that Arsenic has been detected in ground water in parts of 230 Districts and 25 States and fluoride in 469 Districts and 27 States and statement to this effect was made by Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Rajya Sabha. It is also stated that ground water contamination reported by Central Ground Water Board (hereinafter referred to as „CGWB“) is mostly geogenic in nature and does not show significant change over the years. The newspaper item states that studies indicate occurrence of arsenic and fluoride in ground water beyond permissible limits set by the Bureau of Indian

Standards for human consumption in isolated pockets of various States and Union Territories.

2. That the primary prerogative of the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh is to ensure the supply of clean drinking water in the rural areas within the state. That the maximum permissible limit of fluoride in drinking water is 1.5 mg per litre and consumption of water with fluoride levels exceeding the said limit can be harmful to health. It is pertinent to note here that based on tests conducted in previous years, excessive fluoride was observed in the groundwater of 6746 hand pumps in the 27 districts of the state and that alternative arrangements for drinking water have already been made. The list of districts is attached enumerating the habitations affected with excessive Fluoride content is marked and annexed herewith as **Annexure R13/1**.
3. It is pertinent to note here that, post identifying the Fluoride affected water sources, the State Administration immediately sealed / capped the affected water sources and thereafter the residents of the area have been advised to obtain drinking water from other safe sources. That to ensure the availability of safe and clean drinking water.
4. It is further pertinent to note here that that State Administration taking cognizance of the issue of Fluoride in ground water, has sealed the aforementioned affected contaminated sources, and therefore as of 2023-2024

there are no active fluoride affected groundwater sources within the State of Madhya Pradesh. That a copy of J.J.M Portal of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India is marked and annexed herewith as **Annexure R13/2**.

5. It is stated that in the year 2010, as per the survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (hereinafter referred as “**CGWB**”), wherein the Arsenic content was observed within the maximum permissible limit for 48 groundwater sources of 8 districts in the state namely; Betul, Burhanpur, Chhindwara, Dhar, Khandwa, Mandsaur, Neemuch, and Umaria. It is further pertinent to note here that in the year 2019-2020, another inspection / survey was undertaken by CGWB wherein it was further observed that the Arsenic content of the aforementioned Districts is within the permissible limit. A copy of CGWB Report is marked and annexed herewith as **Annexure R13/3**.
6. It is stated that at present there is neither excessive Fluoride nor excessive Arsenic has been observed in groundwater levels within the State of Madhya Pradesh.
7. It is submitted that the Government of Madhya Pradesh is conducting regular spot inspections on random groundwater sources within the State of Madhya Pradesh to ensure that the quality of groundwater is within the permissible limit and the same is not hazardous to the residents of Madhya Pradesh.

8. Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to take the aforesaid reply on record. An Affidavit in support is filed herewith.

Date: 12.02.2024

Place: Bhopal



**COUNSEL FOR
STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH**

Annexure R13/1**List of Fluoride affected habitations in Madhya Pradesh**

S.No.	District	No. of affected habitations
1	2	3
1	Raisen	142
2	Sehore	176
3	Rajgarh	488
4	Vidisha	335
5	Betul	84
6	Indore	9
7	Dhar	1002
8	Jhabua	590
9	Alirajpur	554
10	Khargone	55
11	Ujjain	29
12	Ratlam	263
13	Neemuch	5
14	Dewas	8
15	Shajapur	122
16	Morena	6
17	Shivpuri	89
18	Datia	21
19	Guna	126
20	Sheopur	5
21	Sagar	74
22	Jabalpur	7
23	Balaghat	131
24	Mandla	645
25	Dindori	308
26	Seoni	809
27	Chhindwara	663
		6746
		27 Distt.

(Signature)
 Executive Engineer
 Capital Project Dn. No.2
 P H E Deptt BHOPAL

Format C17 A- No Of Quality Affected Habitations & Population As On 07/02/2024

Annexure R13/2

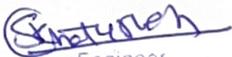
State : Madhya Pradesh

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No.	District	Contamination Wise Number Of Habitations & Population													
		Total		Fluoride		Arsenic		Iron		Salinity		Nitrate		Heavy Metal	
		Habs	Covered with CWPP / IHP	Habs	Covered with CWPP / IHP	Habs	Covered with CWPP / IHP	Habs	Covered with CWPP / IHP	Habs	Covered with CWPP / IHP	Habs	Covered with CWPP / IHP	Habs	Covered with CWPP / IHP
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Agar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Alirajpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Anuppur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Ashoknagar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Balaghat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Barwani	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Betul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Bhind	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Bhopal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Burhanpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Chhatarpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Chhindwara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Damoh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Datu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Dewas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Dhar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Dindori	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Guna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Gwalior	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Hardwa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Hoshangabad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Indore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Jabalpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Jhabua	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Katni	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Khandwa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Khargone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Mandla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Mandsaur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Morena	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Narsinghpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Neemuch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Niwari	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Panna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Raisen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Signature)
 Capital Project D. to H.O.
 P.H.E. Dept. BHOPAL

6	Rajgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Ratlam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	Rewa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	Sagar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Satna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Sehore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Seoni	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Shahdol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Shajapur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Sheepur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Shivpuri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	Sidhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	Singrauli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	Tikamgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Ujjain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51	Umaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52	Vidisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0


 Executive Engineer
 Capital Project Dn. No.2
 PHE Deptt BHOPAL

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महोदय,

पत्र क्रमांक 1004/ प्र.अ./ज. जी. नि./ लो. स्वा. यां. वि./2024, भोपाल दिनांक 31/01/2024 के अंतर्गत उल्लेखित किया जाता है कि संदर्भित रिपोर्ट में उल्लेखित स्थानों (Locations) में वर्ष 2019-20 के दौरान पुनः भूजल के नमूने एकत्रित करके उन्हें आर्सेनिक की सांद्रता के लिए विश्लेषित किया गया था। विश्लेषण के पश्चात् आर्सेनिक की सांद्रता संग्रहित सारणी में उपलब्ध है। वर्ष 2019-20 के दौरान, खापा (छिंदवाड़ा जिला, हरई ब्लॉक) और जमुनिया कलां (नीमच जिला, नीमच ब्लॉक) नामक दो स्थानों से भूजल के नमूने एकत्र नहीं किए जा सके।

भवदीय
केंद्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड
उत्तर मध्य क्षेत्र
भोपाल

Executive Engineer
Capital Project Dn. No.2
P.H.E Deptt Bhopal

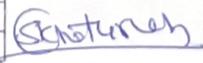
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<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mgopi#inbox/OgrcJHrshHshGTQNmkrRLRPvSnncpxPLHB>



Arsenic Concentration in NHS 2019-20

S. No.	District	Block	Location	Arsenic (ppb)_BIS Limit (10 ppb)	Arsenic (ppm) BIS Limit_ (0.01 ppm)
1	Betul	Betul	Betul I	0.326	0.00032607
2	Betul	Shahpur	Bhonra	0.093	0.00009329
3	Betul	Chicholi	Chirapatala	0.246	0.00024566
4	Betul	Multai	Ghatpiparia	0.082	0.00008191
5	Betul	Ghoradongri	Ghoradongri	0.071	0.00007053
6	Betul	Bhainsdehi	Gudagaon	0.095	0.00009476
7	Betul	Bhainsdehi	Jhallar	0.036	0.00003638
8	Betul	Multai	Junapani	0.089	0.00008852
9	Betul	Chicholi	Khokharkheda	0.079	0.00007861
10	Betul	Bhainsdehi	Kotal Kund	0.118	0.00011826
11	Betul	Prabhat Pattam	Masod New	0.167	0.00016672
12	Betul	Multai	Multaiddw	0.805	0.00080487
13	Betul	Chicholi	Nimpani	0.035	0.00003455
14	Betul	Prabhat Pattam	Pattan	0.323	0.00032313
15	Betul	Bhainsdehi	Sanwal Medha	0.165	0.00016452
16	Betul	Ghoradongri	Sarni	0.017	0.00001693
17	Betul	Shahpur	Shahpur	0.041	0.00004079
18	Burhanpur	Burhanpur	Nachankheda	0.808	0.00080811
19	Burhanpur	Khaknar	Nepa Nagar	0.511	0.00051097
20	Burhanpur	Burhanpur	Bahadurpur I	0.331	0.00033124
21	Burhanpur	Khaknar	Karkheda	0.295	0.00029516
22	Burhanpur	Khaknar	Khaknardw	0.216	0.00021645
23	Burhanpur	Khaknar	Dedtalai	0.100	0.00010035
24	Chhindwara	Amarwara	Amarwara	0.081	0.00008050
25	Chhindwara	Pandhurana	Bangaon I	0.106	0.00010601
26	Chhindwara	Amarwara	Banjari	0.110	0.00010981
27	Chhindwara	Chaurai	Chaurai I	0.350	0.00035012
28	Chhindwara	Tamia	Chhindi	0.045	0.00004499
29	Chhindwara	Pandhurana	Chinchkheda	0.210	0.00021014
30	Chhindwara	Harai	Harraidw	0.054	0.00005430
31	Chhindwara	Chhindwara	Jamunia Ner	0.103	0.00010291
32	Chhindwara	Harai	Kundali	0.083	0.00008326
33	Chhindwara	Parasia	Lahgudna	0.062	0.00006188
34	Chhindwara	Mohkhed	Linga Rly. Stn.	0.162	0.00016187
35	Chhindwara	Tamia	Mahaljhir	0.087	0.00008705
36	Chhindwara	Chaurai	Marka Handi	0.166	0.00016566
37	Chhindwara	Pandhurana	Mohi	0.389	0.00038893
38	Chhindwara	Pandhurana	Pandurna	0.258	0.00025818
39	Chhindwara	Pandhurana	Piplanarayanwar	0.456	0.00045644
40	Chhindwara	Pandhurana	Rajna	0.407	0.00040737
41	Chhindwara	Sausat	Ramakona New	0.158	0.00015840
42	Dhar	Dharampuri	Gujril	0.391	0.00039121
43	Khandwa	Punasa	Gujar Khedi	0.926	0.00092593
44	Khandwa	Punasa	Thapana	0.314	0.00031424
45	Mandsaur	Garoth	Shamgarh I	0.188	0.00018846
46	Umaria	Manpur	Manpur New	0.235	0.00023540


 Executive Engineer
 Capital Project Dn. No 2
 PHE Deptt BHOPAL

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***"IN RE: News item appearing in Hindustan dated
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States, fluoride in 27 States: Govt."***

I/ We/ Appellant/ Claimant/ Petitioner or Defendant/ Respondent/ non-applicant named below do hereby appoint, engage and authorize advocate(s) named below to appear, act and plead in aforesaid case / proceedings, which shall include applications for restoration, setting aside of ex-parte orders, corrections, modifications, review and recall of orders passed in these proceedings, in this Court or in any other Court in which the same may be tried / heard / proceeded with and also in the appellate, revisional or executing Court in respect of proceedings arising from this case / proceedings as per agreed terms and conditions and authorize him / them to sign and file pleadings, appeals, cross objections, petitions, applications, affidavits or other documents as may be deemed necessary or proper for the prosecution / defence of the said case in all its stage and also agree to ratify and confirm acts done by him / them as if done by me / us.

In witness whereof I / we do hereunto set my / our hand to these presents, the contents of which have been **duly** understood by me / us, this.

Particulars (In block letters) of each party executing Vakalatnama

Name & Father's / Husband's Name	Registered Address	E-mail Address (if any)	Telephone Number (if any)	Status in the Case	Full Signature / Thumb Impression
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sunil Kumar Chaturvedi, S/o Shri M.L. Chaturvedi, Aged about 53 years, presently working as Executive Engineer, Capital Project Division - 2, Public Health Engineering Department Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh			98262 - 14495	Respondent No. 13	

Particulars (In block letters) of each advocate Accepting Vakalatnama

S.N.	Names	Address for service & Email Add. (if any)	Telephone No. (if any)	Full Sign.
1.	Rukmani Bobde	D-366, Ground Floor, Defence Colony, Block D, New Delhi- 110024		

*Score out whichever is not applicable.