

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,

NEW DELHI

O.A. NO. 262 OF 2022

IN THE MATTER OF

SANJAY SHARMA

....APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

.... RESPONDENTS

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(1)

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REPORT ON BEHALF OF BIHAR STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD/RESPONDENT NO. 8.

I, S. Chandrasekhar, aged about 44 years, Son of Mr. S. Subramani, residing at B-202, Amarkunj Apartment, Vivekanand Marg-Patna-800013, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am posted as Member Secretary, Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Patna and as such I am well aware of the facts and circumstances of the present matter. I am competent and duly authorized to swear the present affidavit.
2. That the instant original application has been filed to ensure that proper Covid-19 protocol is followed for the disposal of the Covid-19 impacted human corpses and the respondents be directed to devise a permanent mechanism to regulate disposal of dead bodies into the rivers and the respondents be further directed to incentivize crematorium to give effect to the fundamental right to decent burial and cremation.

3. That it is humbly submitted that the answering respondent routinely monitors the quality of water of River Ganga in district of Bihar. Previously, such monitoring was being done fortnightly but after the report in May, 2021, to the effect that Covid-19 infected bodies are being dumped/found in Ganga River especially in Buxar district, it was decided to monitor the water quality of river Ganga from Buxar to Patna on weekly basis. Ganga water samples were collected from four (4) locations in Buxar district. On comparatively analysis of the data collected before the report of dumping of dead bodies and after the said report it was observed that there was marginal difference in the quality of water of Ganga river. However the parameters were within the prescribed **limit for bathing.**

(i) The pH level of water at all four (4) locations was found to be within prescribed limit. **(Standard 6.5-8.5);**

(ii) Dissolved Oxygen mg/L was found to above 5 at all locations. **(Standard Minimum 5);**

(iii) BOD mg/L was found below 3 at all locations except at Chausa karmnasa on 13th, May, 2021, when it was found to be 3.5. **(Standard Maximum 3);**

From above, it can be seen that the water quality of Ganga river in Buxar District post dumping of dead bodies has not deteriorated and has been similar to the quality as it was before dumping of dead bodies.

A copy of the water analysis report of four locations of District Buxar of period 1,

(3)

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April'2021 to 20, May' 2021 is annexed and
marked as Annexure-1.

4. That the answering respondent is a statutory body established under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, for the prevention and control of water pollution and the maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water. In this background it is humbly submitted that for maintaining the wholesomeness of water dead bodies ought not to be dumped in river/water bodies.

5. That I have read the contents of the affidavit and have understood the same.


DEPONENT
(S. CHANDRASEKAR)

Water Analysis Report of Ganga River					
Location:- Ganga at Chausa karmnasa D/S Confluence , Buxar					
GPS Location :- 25.5323509, 83.91025	Sampling Date				
Parameter	01-Apr	22-Apr	05-May	13-May	20-May
pH	7.95	7.98	7.79	7.94	8.12
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	9.6	9.4	8.4	8.1	8.3
BOD (mg/L)	1.6	1.2	1.2	3.5	2.2
TSS (mg/L)	32	42	46	54	58

Location:- Ganga River at Jail Ghat, Buxar					
GPS Location :- 25.5628469, 83.9506048	Sampling Date				
Parameter	01-Apr	22-Apr	05-May	13-May	20-May
pH	7.97	7.94	7.41	7.56	7.76
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	8.3	8.3	7.2	7.2	7.8
BOD (mg/L)	1.9	1.5	1.9	2.3	1.8
TSS (mg/L)	44	76	82	116	82

Location:- Ganga at Ramrekha ghat, Buxar. Dist.- Buxar					
GPS Location :- 25.5765544, 83.9716685	Sampling Date				
Parameter	01-Apr	22-Apr	05-May	13-May	20-May
pH	7.87	7.71	7.51	7.72	7.63
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	8.1	8.1	6.8	7.7	7.6
BOD (mg/L)	2.3	1.7	1.7	2.5	2.1
TSS (mg/L)	26	46	54	86	60

Location:- Ganga at D/S Buxar near Road Bridge. Dist. - Buxar					
GPS Location :- 25.5879325, 83.988151	Sampling Date				
Parameter	01-Apr	22-Apr	05-May	13-May	20-May
pH	7.82	7.75	7.55	7.57	7.49
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	7.9	7.6	6.6	7.4	7.9
BOD (mg/L)	2.1	1.9	1.8	2	2.1
TSS (mg/L)	32	54	48	68	48