



KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ., തിരുവനന്തപുരം - 695 004

PCB/HO/OA No.22/2020/10/2020

Date: 02/11/2020

From

The Member Secretary

To

The Registrar
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, Faridkot House
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110001

Sub: Original Application No. 134/2020 and OA 22/2020–report-forwarding of – reg.

Ref: Order dated 23.07.2020 in Original Application No. 134/2020 and Order dated 08.06.2020 in Original Application No. 22/2020 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi

Sir,

Kind attention is invited to the Hon'ble NGT orders referred above. The action taken report sent to CPCB, Delhi is submitted herewith.

Yours faithfully

MEMBER SECRETARY

Encl: As above

Copy to: CPCB ,Bangalore



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PCB/HO/OA No.22/2020/10/2020

Date: 02/11/2020

From
The Member Secretary

To
The Member Secretary
Central Pollution Control Board
Parivesh Bhawan , East Arjun Nagar
Delhi-110032

Sub: Original Application No. 134/2020 and OA 22/2020–report-
forwarding of – reg.

Ref: Order dated 23.07.2020 in Original Application No. 134/2020 and
Order dated 08.06.2020 in Original Application No. 22/2020 of the
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi

Sir,

The action taken report as per Order dated 23.07.2020 in Original
Application No. 134/2020 and Order dated 08.06.2020 in Original Application
No. 22/2020 is submitted herewith for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


MEMBER SECRETARY

Encl: As above

Copy to: CPCB , Bangalore

**ACTION TAKEN BY SPCB AS PER ORDER DATED
23.07.2020 IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 134/2020**

Followed by the news on the styrene gas leak that occurred in the plant of M/s. LG Polymers India LTD., Visakhapatnam on 07.05.2020, Kerala State PCB released press note in the leading news papers and its website <https://www.keralapcb.nic.in> under the head 'Notifications' on 09.05.2020 on safety precautions to be taken before resuming operation of industries after the lockdown in view of COVID-19 pandemic. The press release stated that "all chemical and other industries handling toxic chemicals/materials closed , due to lock down, shall resume their operation only after taking necessary safety/pollution control measures and the industries which presently are in operation also shall be vigilant in maintaining their safety/pollution control measures."

As per letter dated 08.05.2020, 16.06.2020 and 01.07.2020, CPCB had given certain instructions to be complied with by the industries and SPCB. Copy of this letter of CPCB and the NGT Order (hearing dated 23.07.2020) in OA No.134/2020 were forwarded to Board's field level offices for urgent necessary action.

As per the report of the District Offices, a minor incident of Chlorine gas leakage were reported in Kerala. It was from M/s The Travancore Cochin Chemicals Limited, Eloor reported on 31.05.2020. There was no casualty. As per the company's report, the leak was noted from the sight glass of HCL synthesis unit no. 3 of the unit, which was in service. The leak persisted even after tightening. Hence, the shift engineer shut down the unit No.3 and lighted another unit No.6. The company earlier received complaint from nearby industry Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) regarding chlorine leak.

The company informed the Board that they had immediately verified the operation and could not trace any source of leakage. All pollution control measures were in operation and company denied the possibility of any leakage.

Another fire hazard incident was reported in M/s. Hindustan Latex Limited, Peroorkkada, Thiruvananthapuram on 12/6/2020. It was not due to any chemical or gas leakage. The fire hazard incident broke out in the rubber waste stored in the factory premises and lasted only half an hour and was extinguished immediately; no casualty was reported.

Other than the above, no incidents were reported in Kerala.

All the Major Accident Hazard (MAH) installations in Kerala shall have onsite and offsite emergency plans and they are conducting mock drills. Safety aspects of industries come under the purview of Dept. of Factories and Boilers. In MAH units the units themselves conduct onsite mock drills and officials from various outside Departments including the SPCB participate in that as observers. The units' HR/ safety department gives training to the labourers. In order to handle chemical accident hazards there is a crisis group in all Districts. The District Collector is the Chairman of this group and the officer of the Dept. of Factories and Boilers is the convener. The State PCB official is a member of the group and it looks in to the pollution aspects of the industries. The State administration conducts offsite mock drills, which is coordinated by the Dept. of Factories and Boilers. The State PCB also participates in that. The Labour Department and Labour Commissioner are authorized for registering of labourers, forming of groups, induction and training to list of workers involved in recycling, preprocessing and other utilization activities of Hazardous Wastes as per OA 804/2017. All the Major Accident Hazard (MAH) installations in Kerala shall obtain license of Dept. of Factories and Boilers. Safety of workers are taken care of by them. With regard

to the safety of residents, the Board shall ensure the compliance of siting criteria while issuing "Consent to Establish" of new industries and insist stringent pollution control measures in case of existing industrial units.

The SPCB issues consents to such units only after ensuring adequate pollution control measures & compliance with the prevailing Rules and ensures that all such units operate only with the valid consent to operate. Periodical inspections are also being conducted by the Board in those industries and the pollution control measures adopted by them are being verified. The Board ensures connectivity of OCEMS of industries with the Board's portal by personal verification. In case of any defect/non-compliance adequate actions are also taken to rectify the same. Effluent water quality is also monitored periodically to check whether the effluent treatment plants are working properly and the effluent discharge standards are met with. The SPCB shall further closely monitor the situation and ensure that the environmental norms are not violated by any unit. The Board issues directions to such industries dealing with the hazardous chemicals to take adequate measures to prevent accidents and comply with all the provisions of E(P) Act,1986, Air Act,1981 and Water Act,1974, comply with the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 and The Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 199, duly undertake risk studies, to make their on- site and off-site plans operational for prompt and effective response and mock drills are carried out for testing the same. In case of any unfortunate accident releasing pollutants in the environment the SPCB shall monitor environmental quality for relevant parameters & assess environmental impacts and damage in and around the unit and shall also recover environmental compensation towards damage and restoration.