

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

**EA No. 6/2025  
in  
OA No. 684 of 2023**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Sandeep

...Applicant

Vs

JR Group Power Automobile India Pvt. Ltd & Ors.

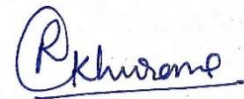
...Respondents

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Date: 21.03.2025  
Place: New Delhi

Filed By



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**Report of the Joint Committee with regard to preparation of Remediation/Restoration/Rejuvenation Plan, in compliance of the directions of Hon'ble NGT in the matter of Execution Application No. 6/2025 in O.A. No. 684/2023; Sandeep Versus JR Group Power Automobile India Pvt. Ltd & ors.**

**1. Preamble:**

In the above matter, Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 21/05/2024, observed as follows:

1. That initially as per the analytical results of the ambient air quality revealed that the industry is emitting carcinogenic Benzene and its associated compounds such as Benzo (a) Pyrene (BaP) together with heavy metal such as Arsenic (As) and Nickel (N). Although, the concentration of the above mentioned compounds found to be within or close to National Ambient Air Quality Standards at outside the premises but it does not rule out any possibility of adverse impact on the human health due to continues exposure of such compound that would have caused neurological disorder and cancer.
2. That Hon'ble Tribunal directed project proponent to submit a compliance report in respect of air quality and discharge of heavy materials in air causing pollution and thereafter, respondent 3 was directed to verify status of such compliance and submit Action Taken Report.
3. That the report dated 17.05.2024 has been filed by Joint Committee stating that Ambient Air Quality is being maintained as per the parameters and for past violations Regional Officer has recommended imposition of environmental compensation of Rs. 12,65,500/- vide its letter dated 15.05.2024.
4. That the observation dated 21.05.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 684/2023 titled as Sandeep Versus JR Group Power Automobile India Pvt. Ltd & ors. is reproduced as under:-

*"The above observations and the results revealed that the industry is emitting Benzene and its associated compounds such as Benzo (a) Pyrene (BaP)*

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*together with heavy metal such as Arsenic (As) and Nickel (N) within the permissible limits inside and the outside the premises of the unit."*

**It was directed by Hon'ble NGT as under:**

*"Accordingly, we direct respondent 3 to complete process of Imposition of environmental compensation for past violation within two months after giving opportunity of hearing to respondent 1 and in accordance with law.*

*The compensation if any realized by respondent 3 shall be utilized for remediation/restoration/rejuvenation of damage already caused to environment in accordance with environmental restoration plan, proposed by a Joint Committee comprising District Magistrate, HSPCB and CPCB who shall be prepare it within two months after deposit of environmental compensation and it shall be utilized within three months thereafter in the same area and compliance report shall be submitted within 15 days after expiry of the above period of five months."*

**2. Compliance of the orders of Hon'ble NGT Order by the Joint Committee:**

- i) The unit has deposited the environment compensation of Rs. 12,62,500/- vide UTR No. SBINR12025012773363014 on 27.01.2025 in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 21.05.2024 in Original Application No. 684 of 2023 titled as Sandeep Versus JR Group Power Automobile India Pvt. Ltd. & Others.
- ii) The meetings of the Joint Committee comprising the following members was held on 11.02.2025 in the office of District Magistrate, Rewari to deliberate on the above issues, in order to prepare an restoration action plan.

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*By 20/3/25*

*[Signature]*

- Sh. Abhishek Meena , IAS, District Magistrate, Rewari
  - Dr. Narender Sharma, Regional Director, CPCB, Regional Directorate, Chandigarh
  - Er. Harish Kumar, Regional Officer, HSPCB, Rewari
- Er. Praveen Kumar, AEE, HSPCB, Rewari has also attended the meeting.

iii) The examination of the previous reports of the Joint Committee constituted in this matter revealed the following issues responsible for affecting the emissions of Benzene and its associated compounds such as Benzo (a) Pyrene (BaP) together with heavy metal such as Arsenic (As) and Nickel (N) in environment:

- Inefficient working of APCM i.e. water scrubber installed on paint booth.
- Unscientific storage of paint sludge and hazardous waste.
- Effluent Treatment Plant Sludge, another hazardous waste.

The above points were considered by the Joint Committee for preparation of **Remediation/Restoration/Rejuvenation Plan**, for utilizing environment compensation of Rs. 12,62,500/= deposited by the project proponent.

### **3. Proposed Remediation/Restoration/Rejuvenation Plan:**

In view of the above and the fact that the restoration of some of the components outside the premises may be initiated only once action on various points, is implemented within the unit premises, it was also deliberated during the meeting of the joint committee that Restoration Plan to provide immediate relief to the public in nearby village, which is implementable within 3-6 months, may be required to address all the issues to the maximum possible extent as suggested by the Joint Committee. Therefore, it is proposed to prepare the plan for both i) Inside the premises and ii) Outside the premises.

#### **3.1. Plan proposed for implementation within the premises:**

The review of the process of wet scrubbing process by the Joint Committee revealed that the Unit is using water as the scrubbing medium for scrubbing VOCs including benzene. The waste water from scrubber is treated in the effluent treatment plant.

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Since in the present matter, the benzene is an area of concern, the following points regarding benzene were considered:

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), including benzene, generally have low solubility in water and high vapor pressure, which makes them prone to rapid evaporation. Benzene, in particular, is highly volatile, meaning it transitions easily from the liquid phase to the gaseous phase at room temperature.
- Benzene has a solubility of about 1.8 g/L in water at 25°C, which is relatively low.
- Due to its high volatility (vapor pressure of 12.8 kPa at 25°C), benzene evaporates quickly when exposed to air.
- Because of its tendency to evaporate, benzene is commonly found as an air pollutant and is a concern for water contamination due to its toxicity.

*Considering the above facts about benzene, relying solely on water as a scrubbing medium may not be the most effective method for controlling benzene emissions. Further, since the wastewater from the scrubber is treated in the ETP, the possibility of undissolved benzene evaporating from the wastewater into the air environment cannot be ruled out.*

***It is therefore recommended that a study be carried out by HSPCB, by involving a reputed institute, using the Environmental Compensation deposited by the Project Proponent, for identifying a suitable and safe scrubbing medium and its implementation should be ensured by including it as a condition in the Consent to Operate.***

### **3.2. Plan proposed for implementation outside the premises:**

In order to address the benzene emissions left after taking appropriate measures proposed in the above section, it was deliberated and proposed by the Joint Committee, as follows:

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- i. Phytoremediation is recognized as an eco-friendly and affordable method for mitigating air pollution. This process relies on plants' metabolic activities to absorb and break down contaminants.
- ii. Certain tree species are particularly efficient at capturing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and benzene from the atmosphere. These trees enhance air quality by filtering pollutants through their leaves and bark. Based on an extensive review of the literature, the Joint Committee has identified some of the most effective tree species for absorbing VOCs and benzene, as follows:
- Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*)
  - Neem (*Azadirachta indica*)
  - Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*)
  - Rubber Plant (*Ficus elastica*)
  - Indian Tulip Tree (*Thespesia populnea*)
  - Ashoka Tree (*Saraca asoca*)
- iii. ***As the ambient air concentrations of benzene in this matter are closely associated with site-specific sources, it is proposed to plant a combination of the tree species mentioned above in layers around the industry in question in consultation with the forest department to help prevent the spread of VOCs and benzene emissions to nearby residential areas.***

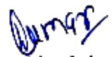
The above Remediation/Restoration/Rejuvenation Plan prepared by the Joint Committee alongwith proposed target dates is summarized in the following **Table 1**.

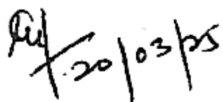
**Table 1: Remediation/Restoration/Rejuvenation Plan**


| S. No. | Action Point  | Responsibility | Target Date    | Remarks |
|--------|---|----------------|----------------|---------|
| 1      | Preparation of Estimate for the Study to be conducted by HSPCB with the involvement of a reputed institute, for identifying a suitable and safe | HSPCB          | April 20, 2025 |         |

|    |  |                            |                |  |
|----|--|----------------------------|----------------|--|
|    | scrubbing medium   |                            |                |  |
| 2  | Conducting a study by HSPCB with the involvement of a reputed Institute, for identifying a suitable and safe scrubbing medium and its implementation by including it as a condition in the Consent to Operate. | HSPCB                      | June 15, 2025  |  |
| 2  | Selection of Tree species from the species suggested by the Joint Committee and Preparation of Cost Estimates.   | HSI IDC, Forest Department | April 30, 2025 |  |
| 3. | Plantation of selected tree species around the Industry under reference.   | HSI IDC, Forest Department | June 30, 2025  |  |

It is recommended by the Joint Committee that the above restoration plan should be implemented under the supervision of a Committee constituted by District Magistrate, Rewari, by preparing a SOP and utilizing environment compensation of Rs. 12,62,500/= deposited by the Unit, in a time bound manner.

  
Er. Harish Kumar  
HSPCB, RO, Rewari

  
Dr. Narender Sharma  
CPCB, RD, Chandigarh

  
Abhisheek Meena, IAS,  
DM, Rewari

Date: March 20, 2025