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उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

UTTAR PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Ref. No: 115846 /WMD/NGT/OA497/2024

Dated: 16/8/24

To,

The Registrar General,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi.

Sub: Response on behalf of Respondent No-41 Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board in Compliance to order dated 06.05.2024 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in O.A. No. 497/2024 News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024

Sir,

In compliance of order dated 06.05.2024 passed by Hon'ble Tribunal in O.A. No. 497/2024 News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024 response on behalf of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board is enclosed.

It is requested that the said response may be presented before the Hon'ble Tribunal for kind consideration.

Encl: As above

Your's Sincerely,

Atulesh Yadav
(Atulesh Yadav)

Chief Environmental Officer,
U.P. Pollution Control Board

Copy to: The Following for information and necessary action:

- 1-Shri Pradeep Mishra Advocate, Hon'ble NGT
- 2-Chief Law Officer (Incharge), UPPCB, Lucknow

Chief Environmental Officer,
U.P. Pollution Control Board

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

Original Application No. 497/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024

Response on behalf of the State of Uttar Pradesh in Original Application No. 497/2024 in re: News item titled "Impact of Pharmaceutical toxicity on the environment and its regulatory aspects" appearing in Current Science dated 25.02.2024

That, vide its order dated 06.05.2024 this Hon'ble Tribunal has passed the following directions:

"...10. Since, it is a PAN India issue, therefore, we deem it proper to implead the following as respondents in the matter:

.....(5). Chief Secretary, State of Uttar Pradesh.....

(41). Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board....

11. Let notice be issued to the above respondents, except the CPCB who is already represented through the Counsel, for filing their response at least one

week before the next date of hearing disclosing the compliance of the norms by the pharmaceutical company, the regulatory guidelines in force, number of pharmaceutical companies in each of the State and number of such companies complying with norms and number of companies against whom action is taken for violation of the norms as also the proposed action for prevention of environment from pharmaceutical toxicity...”

1. That vides its direction, this Hon'ble Tribunal addressed the concerns related to the environmental impact of pharmaceutical toxicity and regulatory measures discussed in the referenced news article. The news item discloses that pharmaceutical-induced environmental contamination needs urgent attention because around 43% of global rivers are facing risks from Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). The continuous emissions are posing potential hazards to the environment and human health. It also states that discussions on chemical waste reduction face limitations due to incomplete knowledge about their toxicity to humans. It discloses that pharmacies sometimes cannot filter all the chemicals used in pharmaceutical production

(e.g. solvents, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), excipients, additives, by-products, intermediates, etc.). These chemicals cause ecosystem imbalances that give rise to chemical pollution in the environment.

2. Regulatory guidelines and Compliance Norms:

- i. The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, in Schedule-I, Effluent and Emission Standards for Bulk Drug and Formulation (Pharmaceutical) are already in force and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board is monitoring on a monthly/quarterly basis.
- ii. Environmental Clearance for the Synthetic organic chemicals industry (dyes & dye intermediates; bulk drugs and intermediates excluding drug formulations; synthetic rubbers; basic organic chemicals, other synthetic organic chemicals, and chemical intermediates) has been notified in Activity 5 (f) of EIA Notification, 2006 and its compliance is ensured by the Directorate of Environment, U.P..

3. Status of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) units:

There are 22 Operational Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) units in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, 20 units are complying with norms and 02 units are non-complying. Action is being taken by UPPCB against

non-complying units. Details of the action taken are highlighted below:

District	Total no. of industries	No. of industries closed by their own	No. of industries operational	No. of Industries having valid CTO	No. of industries complying with environmental standards	No. of industries non-complying with environmental standards	No. of industries against which action is taken for non-complying with environmental standards	
							Show cause notice issued	Closure directions issued
Ghaziabad	6	0	6	6	6	0	0	0
Greater Noida	7	0	7	7	7	0	0	0
Meerut	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
Muzaffarnagar	3	0	3	3	1	2	2	0
Bulandshahar	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Varanasi	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Amroha	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Gorakhpur	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Total	23	1	22	22	20	2	2	0

4. Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board does regular inspections and if found complying, CTO is granted. If any unit is found non complying actions is taken as per Air & Water act.

5. The Pharmaceutical companies obtain NOC from the Pollution Control Board regarding Pollution control and submit the same along with their applications.

6. Prior Environmental Clearance from the Directorate of Environment, U.P. has to be obtained by the Project Proponent interested in setting up of such units.

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Therefore, the response of the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board is submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal for perusal and kind consideration.

Dated : 14.08.2024


(Atulesh Yadav)

Chief Environmental Officer
U.P. Pollution Control Board