

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

Original Application No. 134/2020

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

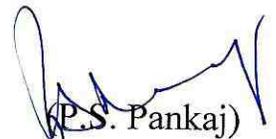
“News item published on 13.07.2020 in daily “India Today” titled  
“Massive fire engulf Vizag chemical plant, explosions heard, injuries  
reported”

**NDOH:- 26.11.2020**

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Filed by



Sr. Environmental Engineer

New Delhi:

Dated: 23.11.2020

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Original Application No. 134/2020

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

“News item published on 13.07.2020 in daily “India Today” titled “Massive fire engulf Vizag chemical plant, explosions heard, injuries reported”

**STATUS REPORT ON BEHALF OF DELHI POLLUTION  
CONTROL COMMITTEE IN TERMS OF THE ORDER DATED  
23.07.2020.**

IT IS MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The Hon`ble National Green Tribunal on the background of massive fire engulfed in the chemical plant of Visakha Solvents Ltd, Vizag (reported on 13.07.2020 in the daily newspapers) has taken up the matter on 23.07.2020 and following directions were issued for compliance:
  - a) The Chief Secretaries of all the States may hold meetings with concerned officers and stakeholders within two weeks
  - b) The preventive action may also include mock-drills as statutory requirement to be performed under the 1989, Rules.
  
2. That, in compliance of the above order, the Chief Secretary, Delhi has taken a meeting on 06.08.2020. Copy of the minutes of the meeting dated 06.08.2020 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-1**. In the meeting it

was decided that the off-site emergency plans are to be prepared by District Magistrates with the help of Chief Inspector of Factories.

3. That, the handling of hazardous chemicals are governed under the "Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989" issued by MoEF&CC, GOI, under which the following authorities are required to act:

**a) The Chief Inspector of Factories under Factories Act-**

- To enforce directions and procedures in respect of industrial installation and isolation storages under Factories Act dealing with hazardous chemicals and pipeline.
- Notification of major accidents as per Rules 5 (1) and 5 (2)
- Notification of site approved under Factories Act dealing in such chemicals
- Preparation of on-site emergency plan
- Preparation of off-site emergency plan in consultation with DM.

**b) CPCB/SPCB –**

- To enforce directions and procedures in respect of isolated storage and import of hazardous chemicals
- Notification of major accidents
- Notification of sites
- Preparation of on-sites

**c) District Collectors/District Emergency Authorities –**

- Preparation of off-site emergency plan containing how emergencies relating to a possible major accident on site will be dealt with – in consultation with occupier in case of industrial activities.

4. That, Major Accident Hazards (MAH) installation exists only in 9 revenue districts out of 11 revenue districts in Delhi. The MAH installations in Delhi are Water Treatment plants, LPG Bottling Plants and Oil storage sites only. All the 9 District Magistrates are in the process of preparation of off-site emergency plans, which will be finalised within 02 months.

The present status report may kindly be taken on record.



(P.S. Pankaj)

Sr. Environmental Engineer

Date: 23/11/2020

Place:

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 06.08.2020 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi through VC to discuss the issues in respect of implementation of Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989.**

1. Meeting was taken up on Video Conferencing. Meeting was attended by Principal Secretary (Environment & Forests), Commissioner (Labour), Chief / Inspector of Factories, all District Magistrates and Chairman as well as Member Secretary, DPCC.
2. Member Secretary, DPCC informed the participants about the order of Hon'ble Green Tribunal dated 23.07.2020 in OA no. 134/2020 entitled as "News item published on 13.07.2020 in daily "India Today" titled "Massive fire engulf Vizag chemical plant, explosions heard, injuries reported" wherein one of the directions was that Chief Secretary of all the states shall hold meetings with all stake holders to oversee that preventive action be taken to avoid and accident in future. The Hon'ble NGT has passed the above directions in reference to major chemical accident occurred in various parts of the country during the unlocking phase. It was highlighted among the participants that under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, various authorities are required to take preventive measures and prepared disaster management plan including preparation of onsite and offsite emergency plans to avoid accidents in such industries handling hazardous chemicals.

(37)

(5)

3. It was further informed that as per the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, as per the schedule-5 read along with rule 2(b) and 3, the District Magistrate has been entrusted the responsibility for the preparation of off-site emergency plan. The list of 16 installation exist in Delhi where these Rules are applicable were intimated to all the District Magistrates as per their respective revenue jurisdiction.
4. The Chief Inspector of factories assured that current revised list along with format of off-site emergency plan as enumerated in the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 shall be delivered to all District Magistrates within a week and requested to all the District Magistrates to prepare off-site emergency plan within one month.
5. Chief Inspector of factories informed that Deputy Inspector of the factories shall be assisting all the District Magistrates in preparation of off-site emergency plan.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

  
Arun Mishra

Member Secretary, DPCC