

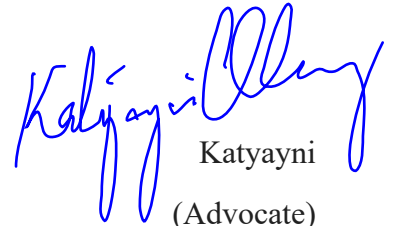
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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 200 OF 2014  
(C.W.P. No. 3727 of 1985)**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India & ors.**

Dated 12.10.2024



Katyayni  
(Advocate)

9871741764

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**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That vide order dated on 1.05.2024, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to permit advocate for the Applicant to place on record certain news articles

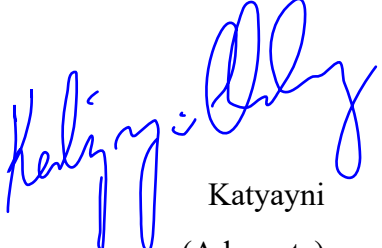
*“4. Learned Counsel appearing for the Applicant has pointed out that in the State of Bihar, there are inadequate Sewage Treatment Plants (STP's) and almost entire untreated sewage is flowing to river Ganga and its tributaries. She has further referred to the news item published on 19.01.2024 in 'The Economic Times' titled “4737 private healthcare facilities in Bihar flouted biomedical waste disposal norms: official” which reveals that 4737 private healthcare facilities have failed to comply with the norms of biomedical waste disposal. Hence, the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) has decided to take action. She has further submitted that the non-compliance is to the extent that even NHRC has initiated action. She has also referred to another report published on 02.03.2022 in 'The Economic Times' titled “Massive groundwater contamination in 31 of 38the districts in Bihar: Economic Survey”. This news report discloses that there is massive chemical contamination in groundwater in large parts of rural Bihar where drinking water sources are unsafe for consumption and they pose a health risk. It further refers to the 16th Bihar Economic Survey Report 2021-22 revealing that the groundwater in rural areas in 31 out of 38 districts is affected by arsenic fluoride and iron contamination and that there is chemical contamination in groundwater in 30,272 rural wards and that a total of 4,742*

*rural wards in 14 districts situated along the Ganga are particularly affected by arsenic contamination. It further reveals that drinking water sources in 3,791 rural wards in 11 districts are affected by fluoride contamination and there is presence of excess iron in nine Kosi basin districts and few areas in other districts. Counsel for the Applicant is permitted to place these news items on record by a proper affidavit.”*

2. That the news article dated 12.10.2024 titled “4737 pvt healthcare facilities in Bihar flouted bio-medical waste disposal norms: official”, published by The Economic Times is annexed herewith as **Annexure A1**.
3. That the news article dated 02.03.2022 titled “Massive groundwater contamination in 31 of 38 districts in Bihar: Economic Survey”, published by The Economic Times is annexed herewith as **Annexure A2**.
4. That vide publication dated 04.03.2022 on the NHRC website, it is informed that the NHRC has taken a serious view of the groundwater contamination in 31 of 38 districts in Bihar and issued notice to the State Government calling for a report within six weeks. The information published by NHRC is annexed hereunder as **Annexure A3**.
5. According to the aforementioned submission, there is a serious risk to the environment and public health as a result of river pollution, fast rising levels of water contamination, and careless solid waste disposal.

That an urgent and kind intervention of this Hon’ble Tribunal is sought considering the facts and circumstances as stated hereinabove.

Dated 12.10.2024



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# 4737 pvt healthcare facilities in Bihar flouted bio-medical waste disposal norms: official

## Synopsis

Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) plans to issue notices to 4737 private healthcare facilities in the state for non-compliance with bio-medical waste disposal norms. Adverse effects on health and the environment can result from improper disposal of such waste. Facilities failing to adhere to storage, transportation, and treatment norms within 15 days will be closed down.



PATNA: The [Bihar State Pollution Control Board](#) (BSPCB) has decided to issue notices to 4737 private healthcare facilities in the state, which allegedly failed to comply with the norms for [bio-medical waste](#) disposal. Such waste materials can have adverse effects on the health of a person or the environment if not disposed of properly, [BSPCB](#) Chairman [Devendra Kumar Shukla](#) said.





If these healthcare facilities fail to adhere to the norms pertaining to scientific storage, transportation and treatment of medical waste, within 15 days, they will be closed down, he said.

"The BSPCB is in the process of sending proposed closure direction to 4737 private healthcare facilities/centres in the state as they have failed to comply with the laid down norms for bio-medical waste disposal," Shukla told PTI.

**SECTIONS** 4737 pvt healthcare facilities in Bihar flouted bio-medical waste disposal norms: official

(260), Siwan (253), Gaya (157) and Patna (115).

"Bio-medical waste means any waste, which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biological or in health camps," said the Chairman.

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Of these 4737 private healthcare facilities, 915 centres are being issued closure notices.

"These 915 centres fail to adhere to the norms pertaining to the treatment of medical waste at Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facilities (**CBWTF**) in the state. Despite repeated reminders, these centres did not follow the norms", Shukla said.

A CBWTF is a set-up where biomedical waste from health care facilities is imparted necessary treatment to reduce adverse effects that it may pose on human health and the environment, the scientist explained.

District Magistrates concerned are also being informed by the BSPCB about the closure notices, he said.

These centres are located in Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur, Nalanda, Patna, Rohtas, Vaishali, Saran, West Chmaparan etc.

"The board keeps instructing hospitals, nursing homes and other medical establishments across the state to get their biomedical waste treated at authorised CBWTFs in Patna, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Gaya", the BSPCB added.

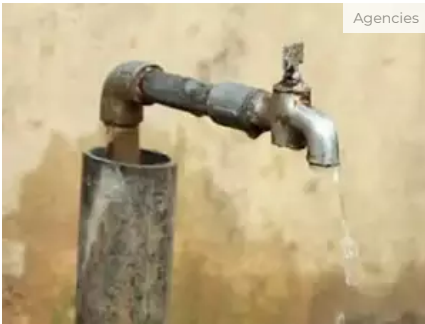
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# Massive groundwater contamination in 31 of 38 districts in Bihar: Economic Survey

PTI Last Updated: Mar 02, 2022, 10:46:00 AM IST

## Synopsis

"The high concentration of arsenic, fluoride, and iron in groundwater in rural areas in 31 of 38 districts is posing a major health hazard. There is chemical contamination in groundwater in 30,272 rural wards. A total of 4,742 rural wards in 14 districts situated along the Ganga are particularly affected by arsenic contamination," the report said.



The state government has also launched 'Har-Char-Jal-Nal-Yojna' to provide safe drinking water to people residing in rural areas, he added.

There is massive chemical contamination in [groundwater](#) in large parts of rural Bihar, where [drinking water](#) sources are unsafe for consumption and pose a health risk to the population, the state [Economic Survey](#) 2021-22 has revealed. The 16th [Bihar](#) Economic Survey Report 2021-22, recently tabled in the assembly by Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad, stated that groundwater in rural areas in 31 of the 38 districts is affected by arsenic, fluoride and iron contamination.

"The high concentration of arsenic, fluoride, and iron in groundwater in rural areas in 31 of 38 districts is posing a major health hazard. There is chemical contamination in groundwater in 30,272 rural wards. A total of 4,742 rural wards in 14 districts situated along the Ganga are particularly affected by arsenic contamination," the report said.

It said that drinking water sources in 3,791 rural wards in 11 districts are affected by fluoride contamination. There is presence of excess iron in nine Kosi basin districts, and a few areas in other districts.

The consumption of contaminated water causes skin, liver, kidney and other water-borne diseases.

The affected districts include Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, Katihar, Khagaria, Lakhisarai, Munger,

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 Samastipur, Saran, Sitamarhi, Patna, Vaishali, Aurangabad, Banka, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jamui, Kaimur, Munger, Nalanda, Rohtas, Sheikhpura, Nawada and Araria.

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The report referred to the internal assessment and findings pertaining to the water quality mapping of Bihar by the [Public Health Engineering Department](#) (PHED).

The department, which is responsible for ensuring safe drinking water to people in these affected districts, has started drilling deepwater bore wells.

PHED Secretary Jitendra Srivastava told PTI, "We understand the gravity of the situation, because of which the department has gone for a mix of surface water and groundwater-based schemes."

"Besides commissioning a piped water supply scheme, the department has also strengthened water quality monitoring and surveillance through a state-level National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL)," he said.

The state government has also launched 'Har-Ghar-Jal-Nal-Yojna' to provide safe drinking water to people residing in rural areas, he added.

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## NHRC takes a serious view of the groundwater contamination in 31 of 38 districts in Bihar; issues notice to the State Government calling for a report within six weeks

New Delhi, 4th March, 2022

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report quoting the recent Bihar Economic Survey report 2021-22, tabled in the Assembly, that in 31 of 38 districts of the State the groundwater is contaminated with Arsenic, Fluoride and excessive Iron. These may be causing serious health hazards including, among others, liver and kidney related problems. According to the media report, in all these districts, the rural areas in particular are more impacted.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of human rights violation. Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Govt. of Bihar calling for a report within six weeks. It should include safety measures taken to provide potable water in those districts and also the implementation of the scheme under "Har-Ghar-Jal-Nal-Yojana". The Commission has also asked the State Pollution Control Board to submit the report on the random sampling of groundwater.

The media report, carried on 3rd March, 2022, also revealed that the groundwater in 30,272 rural wards is chemically contaminated. 4,742 rural wards of 14 districts situated along the Ganges are particularly affected by arsenic, 3791 rural wards of 11 districts are affected by fluoride and 09 Koshi basin districts and a few areas in other districts have excessive iron.

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