

REPORT OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, NGT, U.P, LUCKNOW

IN THE MATTER OF:-
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 200/2014

M.C. MEHTA
VERSUS
UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IN O.A. NO. 200 OF 2014: M.C. MEHTA vs. UNION OF INDIA

This matter is being dealt with by the Hon'ble Tribunal in pursuance of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 29.10.2014, requiring the Tribunal to look into the issues of control of pollution of river Ganga and pass appropriate orders for remedial action. The Oversight Committee had submitted its report on 27.04.2022, which could not be considered by the Hon'ble NGT as the case was adjourned. This O.A. is now listed for 19.07.2022, hence, a supplementary report reflecting the progress made during this period is being submitted.

1. Status of tapping of drains in Phase I- Segment B and Phase II:

Phase I:

- 01 drain i.e Hapur drain has been tapped in this period. Now a total of 37 drains have been tapped so far.
- 16 drains were to be tapped by June, 2022 but it has not happened. Neither the reason for delay has been given nor new timelines for tapping them have been informed.
- No further progress has been reported with reference to remaining 24 untapped drains.

Phase II:

- No further progress has been reported towards tapping of drains in this phase.

- The expected date for completion of 07 MLD STP in Mirzapur was 31.03.2022. The latest compliance report mentions the old timeline i.e. 31.03.2022 as the expected date of completion. Neither reasons for delay nor the new date of completion has been mentioned.
- Rehabilitation of old trunk sewer in district Varanasi was to be completed by June 30, 2022, but no information about its completion by the due date has been furnished.

2. Status of Sewage Treatment Plants:

- a. There are total 28 STPs with capacity of 505 MLD under construction. Out of these, 06 were expected to be complete by June, 2022. However, the latest report does not reflect any progress and the old timelines have been mechanically repeated. The reason for delay has also not been mentioned.
- b. The target date for completion of 20 MLD CETP Jajmau was 02.06.2022 which has now been shifted to 31.12.2022 without assigning any reason.
- c. Regarding 15 MLD STP in Unnao it has been informed that its completion was due in June,2022 but the physical progress is just 68%. Neither the reasons for delay nor new expected date of completion has been mentioned.

3. Action against Illegal Sand Mining:

The Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS.) has been installed with facilities of drone surveillance of areas of complaints of illegal mining,

registration of mineral transporting vehicles, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and weigh bridges along with Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) Camera at the exit of mines and their integration with State Command Centre. So far, 80,000 vehicles have been registered under the IMSS. 441 weigh bridges have been installed in the mining areas and 75 hand-held machines have been provided to the Mining Officers to check illegal transportation. Monitoring of illegal mining through Drones is being done on requirement basis. 16 automated check-gates have been installed in collaboration with the nodal agency (UP DESCO)

Details of enforcement work done during the last two years is given below:

No. of raids conducted	No. of FIRs lodged	No. of complaint lodged	Compounding amount (Rs. In crores)
21641 (FY 2020-21)	536	3874	77.55
25837 (FY 2021-22)	357	1863	124.38

4. Demarcation of flood plain zones and preventing encroachments

Floodplain demarcation in Segment B Phase-I is in progress. 12256 pillars have been fixed as flood plain zone boundary pillars till April, 2022.

5. Status of Chromium dump in Kanpur:

The meeting of the Expert Committee constituted by Hon'ble NGT under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary was held on 13.05.2022. The Chief

Secretary, in this meeting, has directed to constitute a Committee and a Sub-Committee. The function of the Committee is to fix the reasonable rates for lifting and safe disposal of dumped chromium waste through existing TSDFs in Kanpur Dehat, while the function of the sub-committee is to monitor the site during the execution of the project work for lifting and safe disposal of dumped chromium waste through existing TSDFs in Kanpur Dehat and submit its physical and financial report to the Committee from time to time. Both the Committee and the Sub-Committee have been constituted by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, UP vide order dated 26.05.2022. The Chief Secretary has also directed the Industrial Development Department to take steps to release the budget which will be utilized through the dedicated ESCROW account operated by DM, Kanpur Dehat for this purpose. However, no timelines for completing these actions have been fixed. An action plan without time-line can hardly be called an action plan.

6. Utilization of treated sewage, use of sludge as a manure and septage management

FSTP plant projects have been completed in 17 more towns viz. Aligarh, Hathras, Mathura, Baraut, Hapur, Khurja, Loni, Modinagar, Moradabad, Pilibhit, Rampur, Raibareilly, Lakhimpur, Ayodhya, Jhansi, Kanpur, Amroha while it is under implementation in 36 AMRUT towns. The project in 03 towns is proposed to start after availability of land.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of the above, the recommendations made by the Oversight Committee in its earlier report dated 27.04.2022 is reiterated with the addition that the

Expert Committee headed by the Chief Secretary may be directed to fix a time-frame for various activities leading to the final and safe disposal of the chromium waste and preventing its discharge into the river Ganga in any way.

The Member Secretary, UPPCB is directed to send this report to the Registrar General, National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi for placing the same before the Hon'ble Tribunal with a copy to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh for necessary action. The report also be uploaded on the website of the Committee.

14-Jul-22

X Anant Kumar Singh

Anant Kumar Singh
Member, Oversight Committee
Signed by: ANANT KUMAR SINGH



Justice SVS Rathore
Chairman, Oversight Committee

July 14, 2022

Please visit our website: oscngt.upsdc.gov.in for more information.