

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.1227/2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Ramwati Soni & Ors

Vs

...Applicant(s)

NCT of Delhi & Ors.

...Respondents

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

O.A. NO. 1227 Of 2024

RAM WATI SONI & ORS.

..... APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

NCT OF DELHI & ORS.

..... RESPONDENTS

WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 5/DM (SOUTH WEST)

The under-mentioned facts are submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal:

1. That the applicant, wife of deceased Lt. Sh. Mangat Ram, R/o B-43, Nand Ram Park, near Sharma Dairy, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, vide her OA No. 1227 of 2024, has alleged the her husband died in a fire/explosion/blast which occurred in the toilet area of the residential house on 04.04.2024, due to gas leak from the sewer pipeline into the toilet through reverse pressure and the gas accumulated in large quantity in toilet area caught fire when the deceased had switched on the motor plug.
2. That the sewer line had been laid and maintained by the Answering Respondent No. 2 / Delhi Jal Board and a counter affidavit has also been filed by DJB on 03.02.2025 vide which the contentions, allegations, claims and averments of the applicant has been disputed and denied.
3. That the matter pertains to Respondent No. 2/Delhi Jal Board, and the GNCTD/District Magistrate (South-west)/SDM (Dwarka) has no role in it other than payment of compensation due to fire, against a claim application.
4. That as per available office records, no such claim for compensation for death due to fire/explosion has been filed by the applicant before the undersigned, SDM (Dwarka) or District Magistrate (South-West).
5. That it is further submitted that the undersigned has only recently assumed the charge of SDM (Dwarka) w.e.f. 30.11.2024 and engaged in election related duties since then.



6. That the undersigned i.e. SDM (Dwarka) has also been designated as the Returning Officer for Assembly Constituency-33 for the Delhi Legislative Assembly Elections, 2025 (DLAE 2025), and is preoccupied with election-related duties until the conclusion of the Assembly Elections 2025
7. That the District Magistrate (South-West), GNCTD, is designated as District Electoral Officer for District South-West for Delhi Legislative Assembly Elections, 2025 (DLAE 2025).
8. That the other revenue staff i.e. Tehsildar/NaibTehsildar have also been attached with General Observers / Expenditure Observers as Liaison Officers for the Assembly Elections 2025.
9. That due to Assembly Elections, 2025, the answering respondent could not appear or file response before the Hon'ble NGT on the last date of hearing i.e. 07.02.2025 and the non appearance was not intentional or deliberate. I deeply regret any inconvenience caused to the Court. The undersigned assures the Hon'ble Court that this was an exceptional circumstance and not a reflection of commitment to the case. The undersigned and District Magistrate (SW), being responsible officers of GNCTD, has highest regards for the Hon'ble Courts/Tribunals and the various directions or orders are complied with in letter and spirit.

In view of the above, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may kindly and most humbly requested to exempt the Answering Respondent 5/DM (SW) from personal appearance and also requested to waive the costs of Rs. 10,000/- imposed due to non appearance / filing of response.

The undersigned hereby will ensure future appearances before the Hon'ble Court and submission will be punctual and in compliance with the Hon'ble Court's directions.

(Harshit Saini)

(Dwarka)

