

- 1 -

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

O.A. NO. 491 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF

NEWS ITEM TITLED "GANGA WATER UNSAFE EVEN FOR BATHING SAYS BIHAR GOVT REPORT ON RIVER POLLUTION" APPEARING IN HINDUSTAN TIMES DATED 26.02.2024.

REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE BIHAR STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.

I, S. Chandrasekar, Male, aged about 46 years, Son of Mr. S. Subramani, residing at No. 03, Aranya Awas, Shaheed Peer Ali Khan Marg, Patna, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am presently posted as Member Secretary in Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Patna. I am authorized to file the factual report on behalf of Respondent no. 01. I am aware of the facts of the present case on the basis of the official records maintained at Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Patna (herein after referred to as BSPCB), that I believe to be true. As such, I am competent to depose the present factual report.

2. That the instant matter has been registered 'Suo Moto' based on a News item published in Hindustan Times Titled "GANGA WATER UNSAFE EVEN FOR BATHING SAYS BIHAR GOVT REPORT ON RIVER POLLUTION" APPEARING IN HINDUSTAN TIMES DATED 26.02.2024".
3. That it is humbly submitted that the State Board in discharge of its duties collects water samples from 34 locations of River Ganga; 74 locations of its tributaries; 70 locations of ground water; 24 wetlands; 133 drainage lines and discharges from industrial units. The samples so collected are analyzed in the laboratory of the State Board and based on findings of the analysis further appropriate action is taken by the State Board. In analysis the parameters which are analysed are pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Coliform (TC), Fecal Coliform (FC), Total Suspended Solid (TSS), Total Solid (TS), Total Dissolved Solid (TDS), Chloride, Fluoride, and Phosphate. The standards of water is produced in table below:-

Primary Water Quality Criteria for Various Uses

Designated-Best-Use	Class of Water	Parameter			
		pH	Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) mg/L Min.	Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (B.O.D.) mg/L Max.	Total Coliform MPN/100ml Max.
Drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfections.	A	6.5-8.5	6 or more	2 or less	50 or less
Outdoor bathing organized.	B	6.5-8.5	5 or more	3 or less	500 or less
Drinking water source with conventional (treatment followed by disinfections).	C	6.0-9.0	4 or more	3 or less	5000 or less
Propagation of Wild life, fisheries.	D	6.5-8.5	4 or more	Free Ammonia (as N) 1.2 mg/l or less	
Irrigation, Industrial Cooling, Controlled Waste Disposal	E	6.5-8.5	Electrical Conductivity at 25°C micro mhos/cm, max. 2250. Sodium Absorption Ratio, Max. 26. Boron Max. 2 mg/l.		

Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing


pH	6.5 to 8.5
Dissolved Oxygen (DO) mg/L	5 or more
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) mg/L	3 or less
Fecal Coliform (FC) MPN/100mL	500 (desirable) 2500 (Maximum Permissible)
Fecal Streptococci (MPN/100mL)	100 (desirable) 500 (Maximum Permissible)

4. That from the water quality analysis carried out for the River Ganga and its tributaries during the financial year 2023-2024 (till December) excluding monsoon season (August-October) it was found that the water of River Ganga is within the prescribed limit with respect to other parameters but beyond the prescribed limit for Fecal Coliform. Fecal Coliform denotes that untreated sewage waste is entering into river Ganga without any treatment. In this regard it is further stated that, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Bihar, is constructing Effluent

-4-

Treatment Plants (ETPs) in various drainages in several districts under the Namami Ganga Project in the State.

5. That at present a brief report is being filed and a detailed report containing actions taken to control the water pollution in River Ganga will be filed at a later stage of the proceedings.
6. That I have read the contents of the report and have understood the same.


DEPONENT
(S. CHANDRASEKAR)