

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

Original Application No. 528/2023

In re: news report published in **Dainik Jagran dated 14.08.2023**
“highlights a growing concern regarding industrial pollution in
the Godhrauli village”

Date of hearing: 21.08.2023

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. The matter was taken up by this Tribunal on a News Report dated 14.08.2023 published in Dainik Jagran, Kanpur which highlighted a growing concern regarding industrial pollution in the Godhrauli village. The pollution stems from the discharge of chromium into the groundwater by industrial units, severally impacting the water sources in the area.

2. The issue of pollution by chromium contaminated water of Godhrauli village of Malwan block which is situated nearby the Kanpur – Prayagraj highway has also put eight other neighboring villages namely, Aung, Baniyan Khera, Rawatpur, Rampur, Pahur, Shukla Nagar, Akbar Khera, Kchakpur – Gadi, Housing a population of over 20,000 people at risk. The infiltration of chromium into the groundwater has reached alarming depths of 150-200 feet in the village, necessitating the use of water tankers to meet the community’s water needs.

3. Moreover, a significant concern arises regarding the potential contamination of crops by the chromium-laden groundwater. The

villagers are worried about the safety of crops. It has come to light that factories are recklessly discharging untreated effluents into the ground through boreholes. Villagers are frustrated due to inaction of authorities in pollution control of such factories.

4. As per the statement of SDM, Bindki, Sh. Manish Kumar (news report), it is stated that no report of pollution has been received. Water from a few handpumps has a yellow hue, for which the villagers are being cautioned against consuming. Services of water tankers is being provided in the area and officials of pollution control department have been informed. Adding to the severity of the situation is the compromised state of the Gram Samuh Peyajal Yojana, which caters to 40% of Godhruauli village. The water supply infrastructure's weakness necessitates the administration's intervention through water tanker deliveries. The news report highlights the pressing need for immediate and comprehensive action by relevant authorities to address the escalating pollution crisis caused by the discharge of chromium into the groundwater in the region, safeguarding both water sources and the well-being of the affected communities.

5. The effect of the chromium on human health was considered by this Tribunal vide order dated 15.11.2019 in OA No. 985/2019, *In Re : Water Pollution by Tanneries at Jajmau, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh* and it was observed that:

"11. ... Chromium is considered to be an environmentally hazardous element and classified as class-A human carcinogen.¹ Hexavalent Chromium Cr (VI) is toxic and the World Health Organization (WHO) has classified it as carcinogenic and can cause stomach ulcers and cancers and severe damage to kidneys and liver²."

¹ <http://www.isca.in/rjcs/Archives/v7/i7/7.%20ISCA-RJCS-2017-024.pdf>

² https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/waterquality/guidelines/chemicals/chromium.pdf?ua=1

6. In view of the above, following steps are required to be taken by the statutory authorities:

- i. Assess the ground water quality of the villages in question.
- ii. Ascertain the cause of ground water contamination and the reasons including ignoring the cause.
- iii. Actions taken against defaulting agencies – industries and other.
- iv. Reporting on ill health effects on villagers/agriculture, if any.
- v. Medical facilities/test by medical camp in the villages.
- vi. Availability of drinking water in the affected areas, persons, family/villagers.
- vii. Inspection of the industrial unit and the investigation of reverse boring as reported and taking further necessary punitive legal actions.
- viii. Remedial action taken and to be taken.

7. In the light of above, we deem it just and proper to call a report on the matter in issue in present Original Application, from a Joint Committee consisting of:-

- i. Integrated Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- ii. Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- iii. One representative from State Ground Water Authority (SGWA).
- iv. One representative from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
- v. One representative from State Health/Health Engineering Department.

vi. One representative from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).

8. The Committee is directed to visit the place and submit the factual and action taken report within two months. The State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and logistic support.

9. The Committee is further directed to

- (i) examine the ground water profile in terms of chromium in the areas under question and taking action for installation of pilot project on chromium removal by nano-filtration or other available methods.
- (ii) Execution of plan with timelines on ground water remediation.
- (iii) Taking action as per para 6 above including treatment of chromium and submit report within two months by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

10. List the matter for further consideration on 29.11.2023 alongwith OA No. 985/2019.

11. A copy of this order be forwarded to MoEF&CC, CPCB, SGWA, CGWA, State Health/Health Engineering Department and State PCB by e-mail for compliance.

Sheo Kumar Singh, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

August 21, 2023
Original Application No. 528/2023
DV