

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

Original Application No. 200/2014
(IA No. 340/2022, IA No. 872/2018, IA No. 875/2014 & IA No.
480/2018)

MC Mehta Applicant

Versus

Union of India Respondent

Date of hearing: 05.02.2024

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE DR.A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER
HON’BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Ms. Katyayni, Adv. for Applicant
Respondent: Ms. Garima Prashad, AAG with Ms. Priyanka Swami, Ms. Simran Sehgal
& Ms. Nidhi Singh, Advs. for the State of UP
Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Adv. for UPPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Raj Kumar, Adv. for CPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Gigi. C. George, Adv. for NMCG (Through VC)

ORDER

1. Issue under consideration today relates to prevention and control and abatement of pollution of River Ganga in the **State of Uttar Pradesh** (U.P.)
2. Tribunal in the previous order dated 24.01.2024 had mentioned the tabular formats on which the requisite information was sought. Said information by five districts of State of Uttar Pradesh namely Bijnor, Mujaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur and Amroha has been placed on record.
3. We have examined the status reports filed for five districts namely Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Hapur, Bijnor and Amroha. Tabulation of data has been done to assess the status in respect of sewage generation,

installed treatment capacities, extent of utilisation of sewage treatment plants and the gap. Sewage sullage being discharged through drains has also been computed. The collated information is given below :

S. No.	District	No. of Local Bodies	Sewage Generation (MLD)	Existing treatment capacity (MLD)	Utilised capacity (MLD)	Gap (MLD)
1.	Meerut ULBs	14	359.40	179.0	134.20	225.20
2.	Muzaffarnagar	10	78.0	32.5	32.5	45.5
3.	Hapur	4	44.28	42.0	18.5	25.78
4.	Bijnor	18	110.34	24.0	22.0	88.34
5.	Amroha	9	58.73	Nil	Nil	58.73

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S. No.	District	No. of drains discharging effluents to River Ganag and Tributaries	No. of industries discharging effluents
1.	Meerut	7	59
2.	Muzaffarnagar	16	60
3.	Hapur	6	36
4.	Bijnor	8	21
5.	Amroha	2	13

4. We find the following:-

- (i) The five districts represent the upper stretches of river Ganga's catchment of the state of Uttar Pradesh;
- (ii) Total of 650.75 MLD of sewage is generated by five districts (Meerut-359.40 MLD, Muzaffarnagar-78.0 MLD; Hapur-44.28 MLD, Bijnor-110.34 MLD, Amroha-58.73 MLD) and the gap in treatment is 443.50 MLD (Meerut-225.20 MLD, Muzaffarnagar-45.5 MLD, Hapur-25.78 MLD, Bijnor-88.34 MLD, Amroha-58.73 MLD);
- (iii) Sewage generated from five districts is being discharged through 39 drains (Meerut-07, Muzaffarnagar-16; Hapur-06, Bijnor-08, Amroha-02 into Tributaries of river Ganga such as river Kali – (East), Kali – (West), Ramganga, Hindon, Malan and Gagan;
- (iv) We find that STPs installed, are underutilized and that treated effluents are discharged into the drains carrying untreated waste water thereby defeating the very purpose of efficacy of STP.
- (v) Furthermore, quantification and estimation of sewage entering to each STP through sewer network or through interception and diversion of drains, is not given. The objective should be to reduce hydraulic and pollution load from drains meeting rivers and the purpose of storm water drains to carry storm/flood waters should be maintained. Similarly, sanctity of Tributaries is also important to balance catchment hydrological conditions.

- (vi) We direct that the further reports of DMs should clearly depict breakup of quantity of sewage fed to each STP through sewerage and drains, indicating location of STP (with geo coordinates) and quality and quantity of discharged sewage and its disposal location.
- (vii) We also find that there are Nagar Palikas and Nagar Parishads with Nagar Panchayats discharging sewage. For such Bodies, cost-effective methods of sewage management be adopted. But, in no case these Bodies should discharge sewage into river Ganga or Tributaries. NMCG should come out with practical executable action plan with financial tie up before the next date of hearing. District Magistrates should get such plan incorporated in their District Action Plans.
- (viii) There are 184 Industries discharging effluents into river Ganga through River Kali (East) and Ramganga. Whereas, effluents from other industries goes to River Yamuna through River Hindon via river Malan and Gagan. These identified industries should be imposed with the Consent conditions to adopt ZLD system or maximize recycling/ reuse of treated effluents rather than consenting them to discharge into drains with no burden on them. Actions taken to this effect should be filed before the next hearing by UP PCB.
- (ix) Water quality results for River Kali (East), Kali (West) and Hindon shows dire state of these rivers not fit for even irrigation.

- (x) Flood plain zones have been notified and Regulatory FPZ pillars are installed.
 - (xi) We make it clear that these proceedings before the NGT will not come in the way of the State Authorities constituted under Ganga Rejuvenation Order and NMCG from reviewing District Wise status reports at their end and taking corrective measures.
5. Learned AAG appearing for State of UP has prayed for time to place on record the information in respect of all the districts and in respect of the tabular formats no.1. We are of the view that additional columns are to be included reflecting the drain, position of STP with capacity, their geo-coordinates, discharge quantity from the STP in the drain and total per day discharge from the drain into river.
6. Learned Counsel appearing for the State is also directed to mention heavy metals analysis in respect of discharge from each of the drain in the report.
7. Learned Counsel appearing for the Applicant is also directed to summarize the information received from each of the district.
8. Let needful in terms of the above order be done within a period of eight weeks.
9. List on 16.04.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

February 05, 2024
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IA No. 875/2014 & IA No. 480/2018)
JG.