

Item No. 01

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
CENTRAL ZONE BENCH, BHOPAL
(Through Video Conferencing)**

Original Application No. 86/2025(CZ)

Drupad Malik

Applicant (s)

Vs.

State of Rajasthan & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of Hearing: **04.07.2025**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant (s):

Mr. Drupad Malik, Applicant - in
Person

For Respondent(s):

ORDER

1. The grievance of the applicant is unscientific and hazardous dumping of marble slurry waste at the Kishangarh dumping site in Ajmer District, Rajasthan. The site, spread over approximately 82 acres, receives more than 5,500 metric tonnes of marble slurry daily from over 1,200 marble processing units operating in the region, making it one of the largest slurry disposal sites in Asia. Despite its scale and impact, the dumping yard is being operated in flagrant violation of basic environmental safeguards. There is no engineered liner system, no decanting wells, no dust suppression mechanisms, no monitoring of air or groundwater, and no protective green belt. These failures have led to severe contamination of groundwater, degradation of agricultural land, and high levels of fugitive dust pollution, thereby endangering public health and violating the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

2. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued only a Draft Guideline (2023) for the management of marble slurry, which remains unnotified and non-binding till date. Scientific studies conducted by the Department of Environmental Science, Central University of Rajasthan, have documented the health and ecological impacts of this unregulated dumping. However, these insights have not been utilized by regulatory authorities, nor have technical experts from academia been involved in mitigation efforts. Alarming, the dumping yard has also become a location for public recreation and photography, further exposing civilians to toxic airborne marble dust without any public warnings or access restrictions.
3. According to WHO in 2016, approximately 24% of all global deaths were related to environmental factors and 4.2 million deaths occur due to exposure from fine particulate matters, in this marble industry is one of the most contributor.
4. Marble is one of the most popular, beautiful and adapted stones in the world, a natural metamorphic rock which is commonly used by humans due to its beautiful colours, long lifetime & easy maintenance. But marble also has a different side & very dangerous for the environment & hazardous for the living things nowadays, the waste generated by marble industries is considered one of the biggest environmental issues in the world (Alyamaç et al., 2015, Corinaldesi et al. 2005). It is high waste producing industries (El- Gammal et al. 2011, Gazi et al. 2012, Kore et al. 2016) that generates huge amount of liquid slurry (Torres et al., 2004) and, by leaching contaminate ground water bodies (Sabouri et al., 2011, Davies-Colley et al., 2001, Rizzo et al., 2008, Dubey, Dr. 2022). Liquid waste slurry of marble, has high composition of CaCO₃, Cao (lime), Loss of Ignition (LoI),

limited amount of SiO₂ (silica), Fe₂O₃ (iron oxide), MgO (magnesia), nickel, copper (Shah et al. 2021), high concentration of calcium can cause of hypercalciuria (Sulaiman et al., 2020). In 1997 marble dust, heavy metals & crystalline classified as carcinogens by International Agency for Research on cancer (IARC) (Khalid et al., 2022).

Marble waste can become a possible source of dust exposure to employed workers that perform their duties to the marble factories in manufacturing, finishing, installing, transportation, mining & cutting, and by inhalation these dust particles cause of lung cancer, silicosis, tuberculosis, associated with silica exposure (Leso V et al. 2019, Angotzi et al. 2005), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) over a long period time, highly irritating & allergenics, cause of respiratory diseases affect upper and lower tracts which leads to decreasing respiratory functions, hyper responsiveness of bronchial mucosa, dry cough, etching, skin irritation & visualization weakness etc. (Ahmed Q R et al., 2011; Azizah 2019; Borup et al., 2017), risk of nasal inflammation, bronchitis, alveoli inflammation, reduced lung function (Leung et al. 2012), tissue necrosis (Saha et al., 2011), chlorosis symptoms (Bergman, 1983), affect the air quality and create toxic environment to every living organism (Sutcu et al., 2015).

5. A substantial issue of environmental has been raised. Issue notice to the respondents. Returnable within four weeks.
6. Applicant is directed to take necessary steps for service to the respondents by both ways and also on available email.
7. Respondents are directed to submit their reply within six weeks through E-filing portal, preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

8. We deem it just and proper to call a report on the matter in issue, in present application, from a Joint Committee consisting of:
- (i) One Representative from the Central Pollution Control Board
 - (ii) One Representative from the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, (Rajasthan)
9. The Committee is directed to visit the site and submit the factual and action taken report within six weeks. The State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and logistic support.
10. Applicant is directed to supply the required documents and copy of the application to the committee and the respondents within a week and after compliance of service, the Applicant has to submit an affidavit that notices and copy of the application have been served upon the committee and respondents.
11. The report in the matter be filed by the Committee by email at ngtczbbho-mp@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.
12. Learned Counsel for the CPCB Mr. Yadvendra Yadav has submitted that the issues raised in this application were also raised in O.A. No. 81/2025(CZ) and after taking cognizance of the Original Application No. 217/2024 (PB) the same has been transferred to this Bench. Office is directed to list this matter with O.A. No. 81/2025(CZ) on **21st July, 2025** the date already fixed.

Sheo Kumar Singh, JM

Dr. A Senthil Vel, EM

4th July, 2025
O.A. No. 86/2025(CZ)
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