

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

[THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING (WITH HYBRID OPTION)]

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.222 OF 2023 (WZ)

Mrs. Mangal W/o Vishnu Bodkhe & 4 Ors.

.....Applicants

Versus

M/s Matrix Life Science Pvt. Ltd. & 3 Ors.

....Respondents

Date of hearing: 05.08.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DINESH KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. VIJAY KULKARNI, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicants	:	Mr. Asim Sarode, Advocate along-with Ms. Shriya Awale, Advocate
Respondents	:	Mr. Sachin Gore, Advocate along-with Mr. R.B. Mahabal, Advocate for R-1/PP Ms. Manasi Joshi, Advocate along-with Ms. Pooja Natu, Advocate for R-2/MPCB Mr. Aniruddha Kulkarni, Advocate for R-3/CPCB Mr. Pushkal Mishra, Advocate for R-4/MoEF&CC DSAO Aurangabad, for R5 Mr. Amol Shinde, Advocate h/f Mr. V.V. Gujar, Advocate for R-5/Agri. Deptt.

ORDER

1. In compliance with our previous order dated 18.06.2025, learned counsel for Respondent No.2- MPCB has filed Joint Committee Report on 04.08.2025, which is annexed at page nos.711 to 738 of the paper book, in which following findings and conclusions have been given:-

“21.0 Findings and Conclusion

21.1 During site visit of the Committee, the water in all the visited wells was yellowish in colour and had a mild foul smell which prima-facie indicate about the contamination in the Ground Water (GW) of the area.

21.2 After making an in-depth appraisal of the VNIT report on 'Assessment of Ground Water Contamination and mitigation plan based on detailed assessment of contaminated ground water at Paithan MIDC area, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, the committee is of the opinion that the industrial effluent and sewage generated from the industries located in MIDC Paithan are the main reason for depleting ground water quality of the area.

21.3 As per the reports of the District Agriculture Office, the contaminated ground water is main reason for soil contamination of the agriculture fields and that decrease in the crop yield mainly during last 4-5 years.

21.4. Hence, the committee is of the opinion to calculate compensation for crop loss of the Farmers located in impacted area of Mudhalwadi, Wahegav and Narayangav villages. The crop wise per hectare cost suggested by District Agriculture Office vide letter dated 24.07.2025 can be considered as a reference document for computation of compensation. The district agriculture office may be asked to calculate said compensation for crop loss of the Farmers.

21.5 The committee suggest following measure to deal with ground water contamination in the area

21.5.1 Performance Evaluation and adequacy reports for ZLD System installed by the industries shall be carried out by third party reputed technical institute based on which MPCB shall take appropriate action.

21.5.2 The units located in MIDC Paithan area may be kept under continuous vigilance to eliminate further contamination in the ground water and stringent action may be initiated against the non-complying industries. In addition to this environmental compensation may be imposed on the respondent industry for not having treatment as per Consent/EC and handling the RO reject in illegal manner without installing the treatment units mentioned in EC/CTE/CTO.

21.5.3 The in-depth scientific study may be carried out through the expert technical institute in the field of ground water management under the supervision of CGWA/CGWB to identify

the horizontal and vertical propagation of the contaminants in the groundwater of the area and also to identify the other possible sectors of the industries responsible for the contamination.

21.5.4 Based on findings of this in-depth study, the scientific remediation plan may be prepared and implemented in time frame manner through Reference Organisations as per the provisions of Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025.

21.6 Compensation should be imposed on non-compliant units, including the respondent industry, for past environmental violations, in accordance with the methodologies prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The recovered amount should be allocated as interim compensation for crop losses and to initiate remediation activities. After evaluating the total cost of groundwater remediation, corresponding costs should be recovered from the responsible industries.”

2. Learned counsel for the applicants as well as learned counsel for Respondent No.1- Project Proponent seeks two weeks' time to file objection against the above-mentioned Report. We grant them the said time.
3. We direct the other parties also that if they want to file objection against the above-mentioned Report, the same may be filed within two weeks.
4. Put up this matter for further consideration on 16.10.2025.

Dinesh Kumar Singh, JM

Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, EM

August 05, 2025

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