

Item No. 08

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 06/2023

Priyank Karnatak

Applicant

Versus

State of Uttarakhand

Respondent

Date of hearing: 11.01.2024

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

Respondent: Mr. Rahul Verma, AAG for the State of Uttarakhand

ORDER

1. In this Original Application, the grievance is about improper functioning of the Sewage Treatment Plants at Badrinath and discharge of untreated water in river Alakananda, which ultimately forms part of river Ganga, thereby polluting the main river, in violation of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order 2016.

2. In terms of the direction of the Tribunal, the report dated 22.11.2023 by UKPCB has been filed and the said report discloses the status of Sewage Management and Solid Waste Management as under:-

“II. OBSERVATION

1. Sewage Management:

For liquid waste management, 03 STPs are established at Badrinath. STP of 1.0 MLD capacity is located near suspension bridge (left bank of river Alaknanda) and receives sewer from hotels, ashrams and other

establishments located along with 4 drains. 0.26 MLD STP is located near Bamani Gaon and receives sewer from Bamani Gaon and nearby market places along with one open drain. Both STPs are based on SBR technology and were found operation during site visit. STPs inlet and outlet samples were collected and analyzed at Central Lab, UKPCB, Dehradun for performance testing. Analysis report are as given below:

S.N.	Capacity of STP	Inlet of STPs			Outlet of STPs			
		pH	BOD	TSS	pH	BOD	TSS	Fecal Coliform
1.	1.0 MLD STP located near Suspension bridge.	6.58	175	179	7.23	10	13	210
2.	0.26 MLD STP located near Bamani Gaon.	6.73	165	167	7.15	9.2	10	170
Standards notified by MoEF&CC (G.S.R. 1265(E) dated 13.10.2017)					6.5-9.0	30	<100	<1000
Standards prescribed by Hon'ble NGT					5.5-9.0	10	20	230

As per above analysis report, both STPs are complying with outlet discharge norms prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 (as amended) and discharge norms prescribed by the Hon'ble NGT. Treated water is being discharge in to river Alaknanda.

STP located near Badrinath (0.01 MLD capacity) was not in operation as the only feeding common public toilet to this STP is completely dismantled under the work of Badrinath Re-development activities.

Badrinath Re-development Project activities are under construction which includes river front development and construction of allied activities including two lakes. In case of damage of sewerage network, repairing of damaged line is done at the earliest with close co-ordination among executing agencies.

2. Solid Waste Management:

The Nagar Panchayat Badrinath consist of 4 wards namely-Badrikashram, Narpuri, Naigani and Sheshnetra. Door to door collection of solid waste is done and daily waste collection data is being maintained. Waste generated in the yatra season of 2023 is as given below:

SN	Month	Dry Waste (MT)	Wet Waste (MT)	Total (MT)
1.	April-2023	3.0	01	4.0
2.	May-2023	12.8	5.2	18.0
3.	June-2023	12.52	5.68	19.20

4.	July-2023	15.1	5.2	20.30
5.	August-2023	10.8	5.09	15.17
6.	September-2023	19.5	5.5	25.0
7.	October, 2023	17.2	8.42	25.62
8.	November, 2023 (as on 18.11.2023)	9.3	5.6	
Total		100.22	41.69	142.19

Waste Processing Facility is established by Nagar Panchayat, Badrinath. It includes - Material Recovery Facility (MRF), Waste Compactor and Composting pits. Organic waste convertor of 1000 Kg/day capacity is also provided, however, it was not in operation. Composting pits have been made for processing and disposal of wet biodegradable waste. Dry waste is segregated at MRF and if required, compacted through compactor and send to recycling. Month wise detail of dry waste sold for recycling is as given below:

SN	Month	Quantity of Segregated Waste Sold (Kg)	Revenue generated (₹)
1.	May-2023	7248.6	53,542.00
2.	June-2023	14842	1,34,448.00
3.	July-2023	16846	1,34,040.00
4.	August-2023	nil	nil
5.	September-2023	17525	1,35,608.00
6.	October-2023	17596	1,34,767.00
7.	November. 2023 (as on 18.11.2023)	24247	1,77,042.00
Total		98304.6	7,69,447.00

Enforcement against uses of banned Single Use Plastic items is effectively implemented in the town. 07 challans have been made and imposed penalties of Rs. 9500.00

III. CONCLUSION

Badrinath area is well connected with sewerage network as well as Sewage Treatment facilities. Sewerage network connected with hotels/Ashrams/ commercial establishment and 05 nos. open drains are feeding to 2 nos. STPs for treatment. STPs are achieving the prescribed outlet discharge norms, particularly in terms of BOD and Fecal Coliform bacteria load. Another STP of 0.01 MLD was non-operational as feeding common public toilet complex to this STP has been dismantled under redevelopment work of Badrinath Master Plan. However, no sewage/wastewater was seen discharging from said STP in river Alaknanda.

Solid waste generated from the town is collected from door-to-door. Collected waste is being segregated as dry and wet waste. Out of total 100.22 MT dry recyclable waste generated in this season (as on 18.11.2023), 74.057 MT dry recyclable waste has been sent for recycling and generated a sum of ₹7,69,447.00 as revenue from waste. This is an indication of appropriate segregation, processing and disposal of solid waste generated from the Badrinath.”

3. The report by way of affidavit on behalf of the District Magistrate, Chamoli has also been filed wherein same facts are reiterated.
4. We find from the results of STPs (Annexure 4) that fecal coliform have been exceeding and there is necessity to properly disinfect the effluents. Further, the report does not disclose about the adequacy of two STPs i.e., 0.26 and 1.0 MLD particularly during the peak tourist/pilgrims season.
5. It has been pointed out that *EA No. 27/2023 in O.A. No. 561/2022, Urvashi Shobhna Kachari vs. Union of India & Ors.* is pending before the Tribunal wherein the larger issue of carrying capacity of pilgrims in Chardham is involved and being examined.
6. A letter has also been circulated by the Counsel for the UPPCB seeking adjournment on the personal ground.
7. Hence, the OA is adjourned.
8. List this matter on 06.03.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

January 11, 2024
Original Application No. 06/2023
SN.