

Item No.05

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 165/2024

Achhru Ram Sharma

Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab & Ors.

Respondent

Date of hearing: 21.02.2024

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

Applicant: Mr. A.R. Takkar, Mr. Bhargava Ravi Kumar & Mr. Manan Takkar, Advs.

ORDER

1. In this original application, applicant has raised a grievance against respondent no. 3 i.e. M/s A.P. Refinery Pvt. Ltd. which is stated to be in the business of solvent extraction, refining and supply of refined rice bran oil and the unit is at Nakodar Road, Jagraon, District Ludhiana, Punjab. It is alleged that the respondent no. 3 is contaminating ground water by violating the environmental norms. It is also alleged that the ETP installed within the premises of respondent no. 3 is not adequate and efficient and has not been operating properly with the industry using by-pass mechanism as a result thereof untreated effluent from the industry is being discharged on the land of the company and also outside. Learned counsel for the applicant referring to the photographs from page 30 (Annexure A/1) has submitted that the colored ground water is coming out and that the villagers are agitating.

2. The pleadings in the OA reveal that the applicant is one of the shareholder of the respondent no. 3 company but the submission of counsel for the applicant is that if on account of the said violation environment compensation is imposed then financial condition of the company will be adversely affected consequently affecting the applicant also.

3. The OA raises substantial issue relating to compliance of environmental norms.

4. Hence, in order to ascertain the correct factual position, we deem it proper to constitute a Joint Committee comprising of the representative of Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), District Magistrate, Ludhiana and representative of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). The District Magistrate, Ludhiana will act as the coordinating agency in the Joint Committee.

5. The Joint Committee will visit the site, ascertain the correct factual position, take sample of ground water as also the discharge from the unit and get the sample analysis report and ascertain the extent of environmental damage, if any caused by respondent no. 3 and submit the report before the Tribunal within six weeks.

6. Meanwhile, let notice be also issued to the respondents. Applicant is directed to serve the respondents and file affidavit of service atleast one week before the next date of hearing.

7. List on 01.05.2024

8. A copy of this order, along with a copy of the petition, be forwarded to the Member Secretary, CPCB, Member Secretary, PPCB, District Magistrate, Ludhiana and Central Ground Water Authority by e-mail for compliance.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

February 21, 2024
Original Application No. 165/2024
AS.