

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.28/2025/EZ

Haripriya Patel

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Odisha & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 24.03.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : Smt. Haripriya Patel, in person (in Virtual Mode)

ORDER

1. Heard Smt. Haripriya Patel, the Applicant, present in person (in Virtual Mode).
2. The present Original Application is being taken up on a letter petition filed by the Applicant, Smt. Haripriya Patel, residing at- 106, Lumbini Enclave, Chandrasekharapur, Near Care Hospital, Bhubaneswar – 751021, bringing to the notice of the Tribunal a newspaper article published in the newspaper, Sambad on 19.12.2024 titled “Burning Baliapanda Waste Hill: Everyone Suffers from Respiratory Problems, Biomining Process Begins Yet Fire Persists”.
3. In this article, it is mentioned that the dumping yard at Baliapanda which is situated at 50-100 meter away from Puri sea beach and a few Km away from world famous Puri Jagannath Temple has become a curse for the residents staying adjacent to Baliapanda dumping yard due to uncontrolled waste dump without processing such waste as per solid waste disposal rules.

4. The article further mentions that although the bio-mining process has been initiated in Baliapanda, Puri to manage waste efficiently, with recycling and composting but despite these efforts, garbage fires continue, releasing harmful smoke and endangering the health of local residents.
5. It is stated that the ongoing burning of fires undermines the benefits of the bio-mining initiative. Immediate action is required to stop the fires to ensure proper waste management, and safeguard public health. It is also stated that waste heap at Baliapanda is burning intensely. The smoke along with the fiery embers, has created a stifling environment for the local residents and the smell has become unbearable.
6. It is stated that a specific 5-acre area in Baliapanda was initially designated for waste dumping but overtime, this has expanded to about 10 acres but after residential areas developed nearby, the authorities decided to cease dumping there and used modern methods to process the waste.
7. It is also mentioned that nearly 2,000 families live in areas adjacent to the waste hill and despite this, the municipality continues to dump waste and garbage from the city and from the crematoriums there. It is stated that during the rainy season, the rainwater mixes with the waste, creating a foul smell and breeding insects.
8. Matter requires consideration.
9. Considering the allegations made, we direct the following to be implemented in the array of Respondents:-
 - i) Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Odisha, through the Principal Secretary;
 - ii) District Magistrate, District- Puri, Odisha;

- iii) Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), through the Member Secretary; and
- iv) Puri Municipality, through its Commissioner, Puri.
10. Issue notice to the Respondents, returnable within four weeks.
 11. Issue notice to the Respondent Nos.1 and 2, State Respondents, Government of Odisha.
 12. Ms. Papiya Banerjee Bihani, learned Counsel appearing (in Virtual Mode), accepts notice on behalf of the Respondent No.3, Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB).
 13. Issue notice to the Respondent No.4, Puri Municipality, Puri.
 14. All the Respondents shall file their counter-affidavits within four weeks.
 15. The Applicant shall serve e-copy/soft copy of the Original Application along with letter petition and all its annexures to the learned Counsel for the Respondents within 24 hours.
 16. **List on 08.05.2025.**

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B. Amit Sthalekar, JM

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Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM

March 24, 2025,
Original Application No.28/2025/EZ
OM