

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

Original Application No. 56/2025

News Item titled "Maharashtra ordnance unit blast blows away factory roof 8 killed" appearing in The Times of India dated 25.01.2025

Date of hearing: 03.02.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This original application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Maharashtra ordnance unit blast blows away factory roof 8 killed" appearing in The Times of India dated 25.01.2025.

2. The matter relates to a massive explosion at the ordnance factory Bhandara (OFBA) near Nagpur, Maharashtra resulting in the death of at least eight workers and injuries caused to five others. As per the article, the blast occurred in unit manufacturing low temperature plastic explosives (LTPE), where 13 workers, including two apprentices, were present at the time. The explosion's magnitude was so immense that it reduced the facility to rubble, trapping workers beneath the debris.

3. The article highlights that the blast's intensity was so severe that it propelled metal fragments over half a kilometer away from the site, with eyewitnesses reporting a massive fireball visible from up to 3 kilometers away. It is reported that the factory, now under Pune-based Munitions India Limited (MIL), is a key defense unit producing high-energy explosives like RDX and HMX for various ammunition types. While

production was halted in the affected unit, the rest of the factory remained operational.

4. The Tribunal, in similar circumstances in the matter of “News item in the Times of India dated 02.07.2023 titled “2 workers killed in factory blast in residential area” in OA No. 447/2023 dated 21.10.2024 when a death had occurred on account of the blast in a factory had granted the compensation by directing as under:-

“xxx

xxx

xxx

5. The Tribunal, in the order dated 11.06.2021 passed in O.A. No. 44/2021 titled as *In re: News item published in The News Indian Express dated 12.02.2021 titled “At least 19 dead in Virudhunagar firecracker factory blast, more than 30 injured”*, had directed payment of compensation to the extent of Rs. 20 Lakhs in such incident by directing as under:-

“xxx .....xxx.....xxx

9. ....We also find that scale of compensation based on restitution principle needs to be awarded. Procedure of this Tribunal is summary and akin to public law remedy. Compensation can be assessed on reasonable basis guided by restitution principle atleast at floor level, leaving other remedies of the victims open. Thus, **broadly agreeing with the Committee, we direct that the scale of compensation should be Rs.20 lakhs in respect of each of the deceased victims and Rs.15 lakhs to persons who have burns in excess of 50% and Rs.10 lakhs for persons who have burns from 25 to 50% and Rs.5 lakhs for persons who have injuries between 5 to 25%. Victims who were treated as outpatients and who had but minor degree of burns or other forms of simple injuries shall be paid Rs.2 lakhs.”**

5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the matter of “*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*” reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

6. Hence, we implead the following as respondents:

1. **Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health,  
Maharashtra State**

Kamgar Bhawan, 5th Floor, C-20, E-Block, Opposite RBI,  
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051.

2. **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),  
Through its Member Secretary**  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110032.
3. **Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB),  
Through its Member Secretary**  
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th Floor, Opposite Cine Planet  
Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion, Mumbai - 400022.
4. **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(MoEFCC) - Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur**  
Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil  
Lines, Nagpur - 440001.
5. **Munitions India Limited,  
Through its Chairman and Managing Director**  
Ammunition Factory Khadki, Pune - 411003, Maharashtra,  
India.
6. **District Magistrate (DM), Nagpur**  
Collector Office, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001, Maharashtra,  
India.

7. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Western Zonal Bench of the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

8. Since the matter relates to the Western Zonal Bench, Chennai, therefore, OA is transferred to the Western Zonal Bench. Therefore, the original record of this OA is transferred to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune for further action.

9. List before Western Zonal Bench at Pune on 04.04.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

February 03, 2025  
Original Application No. 56/2025  
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