

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

**Application No. 65/2012(T_{HC})
(High Court of Gujarat)**

Sureshbhai Keshavbhai Waghvankar & Ors. Vs. State of Gujarat & Ors.

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE U.D. SALVI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. G.K. PANDEY, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE MR. RANJAN CHATTERJEE, EXPERT MEMBER**

**Present: Applicant / Appellant : Not Present
Respondent No. 5 : Mr. Raj Kumar Adv. with Mr. S.L. Gindli Sr.
Law Officer
CECB : Ms. Yogmaya Agnihotri, Adv.**

Date and Remarks	Orders of the Tribunal
Item No. 5 August 8, 2014	<p style="text-align: center;">Heard. Perused.</p> <p>Today we were to look into the responses of various States and Union Territories to the directions passed in Judgment dated 9th May, 2013 in the present case. CPCB and MoEF were directed to circulate the judgment amongst the concerned Authorities/State Pollution Control Boards for requisite action and compliance of the directions / recommendations made in the judgment.</p> <p>Learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the CPCB submits that copies of the judgment were circulated amongst the concerned authorities and the said Pollution Control Boards and they are tendering the affidavit disclosing the responses they received from the various Authorities / State Pollution Control Boards.</p> <p>Perusal of the judgment reveals that the State Pollution Control Boards / concerned Authorities were directed to undertake scientific study of the impact of the immersion of POP idols on water bodies, namely, rivers, ponds, sea and others and further to frame the guidelines in light of such studies to abate the pollution or the adverse impact of such immersion of POP idols on such water bodies. The Pollution Control Boards of the</p>

States or the Government concerned were directed to set out norms/ benchmarks regulating the height of POP idols used for the religious purposes and which are destined to be immersed as per the religious practices in the water bodies within such States.

We find that the details given in the affidavit do not give the clear picture of the compliance of the directions issued for conducting scientific studies, framing guidelines for regulation or abating the pollution caused as a result of the immersion of POP idols and for regulating the height of the POP idols destined to be immersed in water bodies as per the religious practices.

Learned Counsel for the CPCB seeks the time to file affidavit giving the details regarding the compliance of the said directions. One week time is granted. CPCB and MoEF to categorically assert as to whether any of the States or Union Territories have failed to respond to their communication.

List the matter on 14th August, 2014.

....., JM
(U.D. Salvi)

....., EM
(Dr. G.K. Pandey)

....., EM
(Ranjan Chatterjee)