



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 58 of 2024

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Intrest Litigation Fluoride In Drinking Water Causes Chronic Diseases Having Concentration In Water 8 Times Higher In Gariaband, Filtration Plants Stops Since Long. Publised In Daily News Paper Times Of India, Times City, Raipur Dated 03 August, 2024 Fluoride In Drinking Water 8 Times Higher Than Safe Limit In Gariaband - Plants Installed For Rs. 6 Crore To Address Isuse Stopped Working In Months

... **Petitioners**

versus

1. The State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Health And Social Welfare Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
3. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
4. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Urban Rural Development Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

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5. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Department Of Energy, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
6. Collector, Gariyaband, District - Gariyaband, Chhattisgarh.
7. Chief Medical Officer, Gariyaband, District - Gariyaband, Chhattisgarh.
8. Chief Municipal Officer, Municipal Council, Gariyaband, District - Gariyaband, Chhattisgarh.

... Respondents

Order Sheet

05/08/2024	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>This suo moto public interest litigation has been registered on the basis of news item published in the Times of India, Time City, Raipur, 4th August 2024 with a heading “Fluoride in drinking water 8 times higher than safe limit in Gariaband”, “Plants installed for Rs. 6 Crore to address issue stopped working in months”.</p> <p>The aforesaid news report goes to show that the children of District Gariyaband are suffering from dental fluorosis (yellowing of teeth due to high fluoride content in the water. If the said issue is left unaddressed, the same may cause more chronic diseases. Though fluoride removal plant was installed in 40 villages which costed Rs. 6 Crores, many of them have stoped working within few months. In Devbhog block, more than 2000 people are affected. The fluoride level is 8 times higher than the safe limit. The safe</p>

limit of fluoride in water is 1.5 ppm however, in some villages the water quality testing in 2021 revealed fluoride levels around 4 ppm.

High level of fluoride in water can cause skeletal fluorosis, arthritis, bone damage, osteoporosis, muscular damage, joint related problems, fatigue, kidney related diseases and other chronic diseases.

Despite numerous attempts by the Head Teachers of the affected schools, the authorities of the State are not taking any action for removal of fluoride contents from the water. The situation is alarming.

Mr. Prafull N Bharat, learned Advocate General assisted by Mr. Sangharsh Pandey, learned Government Advocate appearing for the State/respondents submit that they would seek instructions and submit appropriate response in the matter.

In view of the above, the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Health and Social Welfare Department, Raipur, is directed to file his personal affidavit within a period of two weeks.

Let the matter be listed again on **14th August, 2024.**

Sd/-

(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice