

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

Original Application No. 717/2024

News Item Titled "People Are Breathing In Cancer-Causing Chemicals In Their Cars Study Find" Appearing In Ndtv.Com Dated 08.05.2024

Date of hearing: 24.12.2025

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

Applicant: Suo Motu

Respondents: Mr. Akshit Gupta, Advs. with Dr. Sivaperumal, Scientist - E & Dr. Geetika Yadav, Scientist – F for ICMR
Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan & Mr. Arindam Bhardwaj, Advs. for CPCB
Mr. Gigi. C. George, Adv. for the Ministry of Roadways
Mr. Sanjay Sarin, Adv. for R - 8 (Through VC)

ORDER

1. The Tribunal in the previous proceedings had considered the additional affidavit of the respondent no.3-ICMR dated 22.07.2025 disclosing the timeline of 18 months for carrying out the study involving collection and analysis of biological samples to evaluate the health risk of flame-retardant exposure to the drivers. Hence, the Tribunal had required the respondent no.3-ICMR to file the progress report.

2. In compliance thereof, the additional affidavit dated 22.12.2025 has been filed and it has been pointed out that the work in terms of the said timeline has commenced with effect from 24.09.2025. The progress made in this regard is disclosed in this additional affidavit as under:

"6. That it is humbly submitted that the work(s) which have been carried out from the date of sanction of the project i.e., 24.09.2025 to present day (03 months approx.) are as follows:

A. Staff Recruitment:

That the recruitment process of two Project Technicians- III staffs (joined on 03.11.2025) and one Office Helper (joined on 04.12.2025) has been successfully completed within the said period.

B. Procurement of Chemicals and Consumables:

- i. Solvents (Acetonitrile, n-Hexane, Methanol), Formic Acid, Sodium Chloride, Magnesium Sulphate and Water LC-MS grade have been successfully procured.
- ii. Certified Reference Materials (CRMs) for the three flame retardant compounds involved have also been procured.
- iii. That the procurement of metabolites of flame retardants and other required consumables are under process. That further procurement of consumables required for sample collection and analysis are under process.

C. Field Visit:

That for the purposes of enrolling study participants, field visits were made by the answering Respondent to two vehicle agencies in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, both identified as Hot and Arid Zones.

D. Procurement of equipment:

That procurement of essential LC-MS equipment is under process.

7. that in light of the above, it is most humbly submitted that the answering Respondent is taking all necessary steps required for conducting the study. That furthermore, the answering Respondent shall be complying with the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal as and when passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal."

- 3. Dr. Sivaperumal, Scientist-E has submitted that the work is progressing as per the timeline disclosed and will be completed within 18 months.
- 4. In view of this, we require the respondent no.3-ICMR to file further progress report at least one week before the next date of hearing.
- 5. List on 28.04.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

December 24, 2025
OA 717/2024
AM.