

**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: 26.09.2025

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

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

ORDER

1. The Respondent No. 3 - ICMR has filed the additional affidavit 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. The disclosure so made by the Respondent No. 3 - ICMR in the affidavit dated 22.07.2025 is as under:

“xxxxxx.....xxx
6. That it is humbly submitted, that the answering Respondent (ICMR-NIOH, Ahmedabad) after due deliberations has formulated a detailed proposal in respect of carrying out a study involving collection and analysis of biological samples with an aim to evaluate the health risks of flame retardant exposure to drivers. The said proposal details the study objectives, methodology, budget requirements as well as timelines for conducting the research as aforesaid. A copy of the said proposal is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNXURE R-1**.

7. That it is humbly submitted that as per the proposal, the abovementioned research study would involve a zone stratified bio-monitoring. That in terms of the proposal, completing laboratory analysis of bio- logical samples, data processing, statistical valuation, exposure modelling and reporting would require approximately eighteen (18) months. That a detailed chart providing comprehensive time lines for the respective phases is placed hereunder for ready reference:

Phase 2 timeline:

Target in months	0-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18
Recruitment, Procurement of analytical standards and consumables.						
Preparation of SOP & Method validation.						
Sample collection						
Analysis of results obtained & interpretation.						
Report preparation, submission & dissemination.						

8. That it is humbly submitted that apart from the time period as espoused/mentioned above, since a budgetary requirement of approximately Rs. 85,32,800/- (Rupees Eighty-Five Lakhs Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Only) is involved to conduct the proposed research study, due sanction and approval has to be obtained from the concerned authorities and therefore, additionally a period of nine months approximately would be required in obtaining the said requisite approvals/sanctions.”

2. Dr. Sivaperumal, Scientist – E, appearing on behalf of ICMR has submitted that the approval has been received day before yesterday and the work in terms of the disclosure made in the latest affidavit will commence within one week.
3. In view of this, we require the Respondent No. 3 – ICMR to file the progress report atleast one week before the next date of hearing. The ICMR is also directed to expedite the work and make all possible efforts to ensure that the work is completed, as expeditiously as possible.
4. List on 24.12.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

September 26, 2025
Original Application No. 717/2024
dv