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Press Release

By : Mr. Suneel Sardana : President - Voice of India



Voice of India is a registered NGO with a mission of fighting a non – violent war against corruption, injustice & casteism.

Voice of India, NGO is dedicatedly working to achieve its mission by exposing countless corrupt deals of various departments & its officials by all possible ways & means including using the infamous tool of the RTI ACT 2005.

Voice of India filed a Public Interest Litigation with the Honorable High Court of Delhi at Delhi on 17th April 2009 vide CM No. 5295 of 2009 against the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Boards (PNGRB) alleging :

1. The arbitrary & autocratic way of functioning by its chairperson, Mr. L Mansingh, thus violating Article 14 of the constitution of India, alongwith taking away all the powers of the board to himself without complying with the section 58 of the PNGRB Act.
2. The Chairperson, Mr. Mansingh had taken away all the powers of the board to authorize the entities of his choice to lay, build, operate or expand city or local natural gas distribution network, authorisation from the members on to himself without referring to, as required under section 58 of the PNGRB Act. This was done by him so that he gets a free hand in taking all important decisions. As such, all affairs of the PNGRB has been turned by him into one man show with other members virtually having no powers to exercise their say in the day to day affairs of the board. Complaints were handled & decided by the secretary Mr. Ratan Wattal in connivance & on the instructions of the Chairman & which is a gross violation of the section 24 (1) of the PNGRB Act.
3. The board invited tenders and awarded many contracts / authorization / LOI / Licenses for City Gas Distribution Networks CGD Networks & pipe line laying contracts to their sweet choice & liking as the Board did not have any powers to give any such authorization in absence of Section 16 of the PNGRB Act 2006, which gives the power to the board to authorize the entities to lay build, operate or expand city or local gas distribution network and the same act has not been notified by the Government of India. The board issued various authorizations after getting crores of Rupees as gratification.
4. Serious charges were leveled against the functioning of Mr. B S Negi – the member (T), who was & is running a parallel consultancy service, thereby providing consulting services at an exorbitant charge to various entities, who apply to the board for getting authorization of CGD Networks. This consulting company is headed by his son Mr. Akhilesh Negi and is operating under the name & style of NEGI (National Engineering & General industries), which is now renamed as Resonance Energy Private Ltd., wherein Mr. B S Negi was and is responsible for scrutinizing the technical details as submitted by various entities who apply for authorization.

The Bench of the honorable High Court of Delhi consisting of Chief Justice A P Shah and Justice Manmohan after detailed & proper hearing have pronounced its final judgment on 21st January 2010 thereby observing & announcing :

- A. That, the Honorable High Court has taken a serious note of the situation and has taken a view that all the decisions of the board should be taken in consultation with all other members of the board and not single handedly.

- B. That, the Secretary of the board is not an authorized person and as such has got no right to pass any orders on the applications made by the entities to the board. However, these powers can only be exercised by the chairman in consultation with the other members of the board.

- C. The Honorable High Court was pleased to pass an order that, the PNGRB was not empowered to allocate or give any authorization as section 16 of the PNGRB Act has not yet been notified by the Government of India.

- D. That, the honorable court has passed an order directing the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to take appropriate decision against Mr. Negi within 8 weeks from today for all the allegations made against Mr. Negi.

Therefore, all allegations leveled by Voice of India, through this PIL have been fully & completely accepted & appreciated by the honorable High court of Delhi.

Voice of India, sincerely thanks & offers its heart felt gratitude to Mr. Prashant Bhushan – Senior Advocate & his team, who were kind enough to represent & contest on behalf of the NGO.