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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Vrindavan's solid waste management under NGT lens

TNN | Mar 23, 2016, 09.54 PM IST

Agra: The National Green Tribunal on Wednesday appointed a local commissioner to conduct a surprise physical survey of Vrindavan and report on the current solid waste management program followed by the local municipal body.

This comes after a local river activist Madhu Mangal Shukla had told the green tribunal about the civic agency using illegal and unregulated solid waste disposal techniques.

In an application filed in April 2015, Shukla drew the green court's attention to continuous pollution of Yamuna river due to unchecked dumping of waste into the river.

On Wednesday, Shukla submitted a few photographs which showed that besides waste flowing unchecked into the river, they were also being burnt in some places.

However, the counsel appearing for the Palika Parishad Vrindavan said they are taking steps to refurbish the pits for the waste to be dumped there. The counsel also argued one of the photos shown by the petitioner to be a work of mischief.

Stating that it was necessary for the tribunal to have proper facts before it can decide the matter on merit, the NGT appointed lawyer Rahul Khurana as the local commissioner. Khurana has been deputed to visit the site in question and take a general round of Vrindavan. Based on his observation, he will submit a comprehensive report in relation to collection, dumping, transportation and burning of municipal solid waste in the city. His would be a surprise visit, the court specifically directed.

The station house officer (SHO) of the concerned area has been directed to assist Khurana during his surprise visit. Khurana will get Rs 20,000 for his trip, in addition to the expenses incurred by him during the visit. The court said all expenses would be borne by the Palika Parishad Vrindavan.

However, if the statements made by the applicant is found to be untrue, he would be liable to bear these costs, the court further observed.