

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
(PRINCIPAL BENCH)

Original Application No. 435 of 2025

In the matter of

News Item titled "Ludhiana: Dairy waste destroying STPs says Seechewal"
appearing in The Hindustan Times dated 14.08.2025.

INDEX

S.R No.	Particulars	Page Number
1.	Additional reply / Status Report by way of affidavit of Er. Jaspal Singh, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana on behalf of respondent no. 1 Punjab Pollution Control Board.	1-2
2	Annexure R 1/J A copy of letter no. 162 dated 30.04.2025 vide which Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 24.66 Lakh in case of ETP 2.25 MLD located at Tajpur Road, Ludhiana has been imposed.	3-6
3	Annexure R 1/K A copy of letter no. 162 dated 30.04.2025 vide which Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 24.66 Lakh in case of ETP 3.75 MLD located at Haibowal Dairy Complex, Ludhiana has been imposed.	7-10

Dated: 24/11/25

Place: Ludhiana


 (Er. Jaspal Singh)
 Environmental Engineer,
 Punjab Pollution Control Board,
 Regional Office-3, Ludhiana
 (On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board
 respondent no.1)

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
(PRINCIPAL BENCH)**

Original Application No. 435 of 2025

In the matter of

News Item titled "Ludhiana: Dairy waste destroying STPs says Seechewal" appearing in The Hindustan Times dated 14.08.2025.

Additional reply / Status Report by way of affidavit of Er. Jaspal Singh, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana on behalf of respondent no. 1 Punjab Pollution Control Board.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

- 1) That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in exercise of Suo Moto Powers has taken cognizance of a news item titled "Ludhiana: Dairy waste destroying STPs says Seechewal" appearing in The Hindustan Times dated 14.08.2025 and registered the case as Original Application No. 435 of 2025.
- 2) That the short reply in the subject cited matter has been already filed before the Hon'ble NGT on dated 21.11.2025.
- 3) That in addition to the above reply, the Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 24.66 Lakh in case of ETP 2.25 MLD located at Tajpur Road, Ludhiana and the Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 24.66 Lakh in case of ETP 3.75 MLD located at Haibowal Dairy complex Ludhiana have been also imposed upon the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana. A copy of letter no. 162 dated 30.04.2025 is enclosed as



10880
21/11/2025

Annexure R 1/J and letter no. 167 dated 06.05.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure R 1/K**.

- 4) That the additional reply / status report is hereby submitted for kind consideration and appropriate orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal.


Deponent

Dated: 24/11/25

Place: Ludhiana

(Er. Jaspal Singh)
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office-3, Ludhiana
(On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board
respondent no.1)

ATTESTED AS IDENTIFIED

VERIFICATION: **NOTARY PUBLIC**
LUDHIANA (PB.) India

Verified that the contents of the above additional reply / status report by way of affidavit of the deponent are true and correct as derived from the official record. No part of the above additional reply / status report is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.


Deponent

Dated: 24/11/25

Place: Ludhiana

(Er. Jaspal Singh)
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office-3, Ludhiana
(On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board
respondent no.1)

Certified that the affidavit/SPA/GPA has been read over & explained to the deponent/executant who seemed directly to understand the same at the making thereof

10880
24/11/2025





ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ

PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

No.169.....

Dated: 30/4/25

Subject: Imposition of Environmental Compensation upon Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana in case of Effluent Treatment Plant of capacity 2.25 MLD located at Tajpur Road, Ludhiana for violation of the provisions of Environmental Laws.

Order

The Punjab Pollution Control Board being the statutory regulatory authority is implementing the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules made there under in the State of Punjab. The main objective of the Board is maintaining or restoring the wholesomeness of water, the preservation of the quality of air and the protection and improvement of the environment.

2) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India has declared various clusters in the Country as Critically Polluted Areas (CPA), Severely Polluted Area (SPA) based on Cumulative Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) score. Due to increased industrialization, activities of the Industrial units and some other identical reasons, Ludhiana city has been declared as Critically Polluted Area by the Central Pollution Control Board.

3) The Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) has constructed an ETP of capacity 2.25 MLD at Tajpur Road, Dairy Complex, Ludhiana for the treatment of waste water generated from the dairy units situated in the complex.

4) The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) was granted "Consent to Establish" NOC under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for the establishment of this plant and for the disposal of treated effluent @ 2.25 MLD into Buddha Nallah, which had expired on 17.11.2023.

5) Earlier the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana was given personal hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 07.07.2022 for delay in the construction work of ETPs of dairy units and the proceedings of the hearing were conveyed to the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) vide Boards letter no. 5119 dated 04.08.2022, wherein it was decided that:

- i) A letter may be written to Secretary, Science, Technology & Environment with the request to take up the matter with the Principal Secretary, Local Govt. to include the dairy units falling outside the Municipal limits of Ludhiana in the upcoming CETP for dairy units at Jamalpur.
- ii) Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 10 Lac / month / CETP i.e. Rs. 20 Lac / month be imposed against MCL from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2022, totalling to Rs. 3.60 crore as per the orders passed by Hon'ble NGT in case of non-installation of STPs.

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ - 147001
Water & Sewerage Board, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147001



- 4 -



- 6) The ETP was commissioned in June 2024 and the ETP was visited by the officers of the Board on 02.09.2024 alongwith the operators of the ETP and it was observed that most of the dairy units have not been connected with the sewer network of the ETP by the concerned authorities, especially entire dairies situated around B block of the ETP are yet to be connected with the ETP. Although the dairy units of this complex are connected with the conveyance drains of ETP but these drains are yet to be connected with the ETP and presently waste water of these drains is discharged into Buddha Nallah through bye pass arrangements. Further some RCC drains installed by the department to shift the waste water of the dairy units upto the ETP are having openings into the existing outlets/ drains falling into Buddha Nallah.
- 7) The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) has provided bye pass arrangements with the conveyance system to bye-pass entire water into Buddha Nallah before arriving into ETP for the treatment. Dairy units situated at left hand side of Vijan Nagar pulli road are also yet to be connected with the conveyance system of ETP.
- 8) The Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) have commissioned ETP without connecting all dairies with the conveyance system and have intentionally provided bye-pass arrangements with its conveyance system to bye-pass waste water into Buddha Nallah before arriving the same upto the ETP.
- 9) The Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) was violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- 10) Accordingly, notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 was issued to the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) with an opportunity of personal hearing before Chairman of the Board on 25.10.2024 postponed to 14.11.2024.
- 11) Sh. Ekjot Singh, XEN of the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana attended the hearing. Sh. Balraj Singh appearing on behalf of PWSSB attended the hearing which was taken on record. He informed that due to excess cow dung the components of ETP get choked and being taken for frequent maintenance. Until the Biogas plant is not commissioned by the PEDDA, the ETP will receive excess cow dung and its working will be affected, All the connection have been made with the drain in front of dairies, but due to inflow of excess cow dung, fodder, plastic bottles, jute bags, ropes and dead animal body parts, the drain overflow and the dairy owners break the dairies intentionally to cause the flow towards the Budha Nallah. He informed that the bye-pass arrangement has been provided to tackle the unforeseen situation. He further informed that the ETP is under stabilisation.



- 5 -

12) After hearing, the XEN of the MCL and PWSSB, officers of the Board and considering the material facts of the case, the Chairman of the Board decided as under:

1. The order for imposition of Environmental Compensation of Rs. 3.6 Crore be issued immediately. Further, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana calculate the Environmental Compensation for the period of violation i.e. from 01.07.2021 to till date.
2. The Municipal Corporation authorities shall guide all the dairy units to make the adequate arrangement to separate the liquid waste and cow dung and ensure the compliance. The Municipal Corporation authorities shall also make adequate mechanism by adopting decentralised approach to lift the cow dung from each dairy and shall make adequate scientific arrangement for disposal of the cow dung. The Municipal Corporation authorities shall also explore the possibility of utilisation of land for dumping of cow dung located on Tajpur Road as requested in the Mission Tandrust Punjab's project being carried by GNDU as a model system to manage cattle dung.
3. The Municipal Corporation authorities shall also explore the possibility of supplying the cow dung to vendors engaged in the vermi-composting or any other environmentally sustainable practice. They may also contact Mr. Ravi Gauba, AEE Punjab Pollution Control Board HQ-3, in case any technical guidance is required for the eco management of the cattle dung either through vermi-composting or through other environmentally sustainable practices.
4. The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana shall ensure that all the dairy units are connected with the ETP, immediately and the ETP is operated efficiently. The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board shall also coordinate with the Municipal Corporation authorities to overcome any of the issues pertaining to smooth operation of the ETP.
5. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana shall visit the ETP, immediately after 15 days and submit report alongwith conclusive recommendations.

13) The proceedings were conveyed to Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana vide Board's letter no. 6711-12 dated 09.12.2024.

14) The Environmental Compensation of Rs. 3.6 Crore was imposed by the Board on the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana vide order no. 68 dated 10.03.2025, which was forwarded to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana vide Zonal Office-2, PPCB, Ludhiana letter no 1523 dated 12.03.2025 for compliance.

15) It is pertinent to mention here that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has considered the concept of Polluter Pay's Principle in Indian Council for Enviro Legal Action and Others v/s Union of India and Others (1996) 3SCC 212, Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v/s Union of India (1996) 5 SCC 647 and held that Polluter Pay's Principle is accepted principle and part of environmental law of the country even without specific statute.



- 6 -

16) Above facts are sufficient for the imposition of Environmental Compensation by invoking the Principle of Polluter Pays and the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana thus made itself liable for Environmental Compensation under the Polluter Pay's Principle for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024.

17) Thus, in view of the above recorded facts, the matter was considered for imposition of Environmental Compensation for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024 in accordance with the formula and methodology evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board and adopted by the Punjab Pollution Control Board. The amount of Environmental Compensation for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024 (1233 days) was calculated to be Rs. 24,66,000/- as per following details:

Particulars	Values	
EC	PI x N x R x S x LF	
PI	32	Being violation of only Water Act, 1974
N	1233	01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024
R	100	Unit falls under red category small scale
S	0.5	For small scale unit
LF	1.25	As per criteria given for industrial units
EC	32 x 1233 x 100 x 0.5 x 1.25 = 24,66,000/-	

18) Therefore, the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana is hereby directed to deposit an amount of Rs. 24,66,000/- as Environmental compensation for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024 with the office of the Punjab Pollution Control Board within 15 days, from the date of receipt of this order, failing which, the Board shall be constrained to initiate necessary action for recovery of the amount of Environmental Compensation by adopting coercive measures, thereafter.

19) Take notice that no further intimation or reminder will be issued by the Board in this regard. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana is directed to ensure compliance of directions issued in the case. A copy of this order be supplied to all the concerned for compliance.

Adarsh Pal Vig
(Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)
Chairman

PROK 56

Annexure R1/K

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

- 7 -

Dated. 06/15/25

167

Subject: Imposition of Environmental Compensation upon Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana in case of Effluent Treatment Plant of capacity 3.75 MLD located at Halbowal Road, Ludhiana for violation of the provisions of Environmental Laws.

Order

The Punjab Pollution Control Board being the statutory regulatory authority is implementing the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules made there under in the State of Punjab. The main objective of the Board is maintaining or restoring the wholesomeness of water, the preservation of the quality of air and the protection and improvement of the environment.

2) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India has declared various clusters in the Country as Critically Polluted Areas (CPA), Severely Polluted Area (SPA) based on Cumulative Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) score. Due to increased industrialization, activities of the industrial units and some other identical reasons, Ludhiana city has been declared as Critically Polluted Area by the Central Pollution Control Board.

3) The Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) has constructed an ETP of capacity 3.75 MLD at Halbowal Dairy Complex, Ludhiana for the treatment of waste water generated from the dairy units situated in the complex.

4) Earlier the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana was given personal hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 07.07.2022 for delay in the construction work of ETPs of dairy units and the proceedings of the hearing were conveyed to the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana vide Board's letter no. 5119 dated 04.08.2022, wherein it was decided as under:

- i) A letter may be written to Secretary, Science, Technology & Environment with the request to take up the matter with the Principal Secretary, Local Govt. to include the dairy units falling outside the Municipal limits of Ludhiana in the upcoming CETP for dairy units at Jamalpur.
- ii) Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 10 Lac / month / CETP i.e. Rs. 20 Lac / month be imposed against MCL from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2022, totaling to Rs. 3.60 crore as per the orders passed by Hon'ble NGT in case of non-installation of STPs.

5) The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) was granted "Consent to Establish" NOC under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for the establishment of this plant and for the disposal of treated effluent @ 3.75 MLD into Buddha Nallah, which had expired on 14.03.2024.

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ - 147001

Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147001

Phone : Chairman : 0175-2215793, Member Secretary : 0175-2215802 (O), 2215836 (FAX)

Website : www.ppcb.gov.in | E-Mail : chairmanppcb@yahoo.in | mppcb@rediffmail.com



- 8 -

- 6) The ETP was commissioned In June 2024. Recently some Industrial associations have forwarded a video clip of an open drain containing untreated waste water of Halbowal Dairy Complex falling into Buddha Nallah near Balloke bridge to the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana and the said video clip is also getting viral on social media. The Deputy Commissioner took serious view of the matter and desired immediate remedial measures. Further this matter has been deliberated in various meeting of the Buddha darlya.
- 7) The ETP was visited by the officers of the Board on 02.09.2024 alongwith the operators of the ETP and it was observed that most of the dairy units have not been connected with the sewer network of the ETP by the concerned authorities, especially entire dairies situated at left hand side of Balloke road are yet to be connected with the ETP and presently waste water of these dairies is discharged into Buddha Nallah through an open drain. Further some RCC drains installed by the department to shift the waste water of the dairy units upto the ETP are having openings into the existing outlets/ drains falling into Buddha Nallah.
- 8) The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) has provided bye pass arrangements with the conveyance system to bye-pass entire water into Buddha Nallah before arriving into ETP for the treatment.
- 9) The Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) have commissioned ETP without connecting all dairies with the conveyance system and have intentionally provided bye-pass arrangements with its conveyance system to bye-pass waste water into Buddha Nallah before arriving the same upto the ETP.
- 10) The Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) was violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- 11) Accordingly, notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 was issued to the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana (MCL) & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana (PWSSB) with an opportunity of personal hearing before Chairman of the Board on 25.10.2024 postponed to 14.11.2024.
- 12) Sh. Ekjot Singh, XEN of the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana attended the hearing. Sh. Balraj Singh appearing on behalf of PWSSB attended the hearing which was taken on record. He informed that due to excess cow dung the components of ETP get choked and being taken for frequent maintenance. Until the Biogas plant is not commissioned by the PEDDA, the ETP will receive excess cow dung and its working will be affected, All the connection have been made with the drain in front of dairies, but due to inflow of excess cow dung, fodder, plastic bottles, jute bags, ropes and dead animal body parts, the drain overflow and the dairy owners break the dairies intentionally to cause the flow towards the Buddha Nallah. He informed that the bye-pass



- 9 -

arrangement has been provided to tackle the unforeseen situation. He further informed that the ETP is under stabilisation.

13) After hearing, the XEN of the MCL and PWSSB, officers of the Board and considering the material facts of the case, the Chairman of the Board decided as under:

1. The order for imposition of Environmental Compensation of Rs. 3.6 Crore be issued immediately. Further, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana calculate the Environmental Compensation for the period of violation i.e. from 01.07.2021 to till date.
2. The Municipal Corporation authorities shall guide all the dairy units to make the adequate arrangement to separate the liquid waste and cow dung and ensure the compliance. The Municipal Corporation authorities shall also make adequate mechanism by adopting decentralised approach to lift the cow dung from each dairy and shall make adequate scientific arrangement for disposal of the cow dung.
3. The Municipal Corporation authorities shall also explore the possibility of supplying the cow dung to vendors engaged in the vermi-composting or any other environmentally sustainable practice. They may also contact Mr. Ravi Gaba, AEE Punjab Pollution Control Board HQ-3, in case any technical guidance is required for the eco management of the cattle dung either through vermi-composting or through other environmentally sustainable practices.
4. The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana shall ensure that all the dairy units are connected with the ETP, immediately and the ETP is operated efficiently. The Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board shall also coordinate with the Municipal Corporation authorities to overcome any of the issues pertaining to smooth operation of the ETP.
5. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana shall visit the ETP, immediately after 15 days and submit report alongwith conclusive recommendations.

14) The proceedings were conveyed to Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana & Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Ludhiana vide Board's letter no. 6706-07 dated 09.12.2024.

The Environmental Compensation of Rs. 3.6 Crore was imposed by the Board on the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana vide order no. 68 dated 10.03.2025, which was forwarded to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana vide Zonal Office-2, PPCB, Ludhiana letter no 1523 dated 12.03.2025 for compliance .

16) It is pertinent to mention here that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has considered the concept of Polluter Pay's Principle in Indian Council for Enviro Legal Action and Others v/s Union of India and Others (1996) 3SCC 212; Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v/s Union of India (1996) 5 SCC 647 and held that Polluter Pay's Principle is accepted principle and part of environmental law of the country even without specific statute.



—/0—

17) Above facts are sufficient for the imposition of Environmental Compensation by invoking the Principle of Polluter Pays and the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana thus made itself liable for Environmental Compensation under the Polluter Pay's Principle for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024.

18) Thus, in view of the above recorded facts, the matter was considered for imposition of Environmental Compensation for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024 in accordance with the formula and methodology evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board and adopted by the Punjab Pollution Control Board. The amount of Environmental Compensation for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024 (1233 days) was calculated to be Rs. 24,66,000/- as per following details:

Particulars	Values	
EC	$PI \times N \times R \times S \times LF$	
PI	32	Being violation of only Water Act, 1974
N	1233	01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024
R	100	Unit falls under red category small scale
S	0.5	For small scale unit
LF	1.25	As per criteria given for industrial units
EC	$32 \times 1233 \times 100 \times 0.5 \times 1.25 = 24,66,000/-$	

19) Therefore, the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana is hereby directed to deposit an amount of Rs. 24,66,000/- as Environmental compensation for the period of violation from 01.07.2021 to 14.11.2024 with the office of the Punjab Pollution Control Board within 15 days, from the date of receipt of this order, failing which, the Board shall be constrained to initiate necessary action for recovery of the amount of Environmental Compensation by adopting coercive measures, thereafter.

20) Take notice that no further intimation or reminder will be issued by the Board in this regard. Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-3, Ludhiana is directed to ensure compliance of directions issued in the case. A copy of this order be supplied to all the concerned for compliance.

Adarsh Pal Vig
(Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)

Chairman