

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
(PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI)**

**In O.A. No. 469 of 2025**

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Place: Ludhiana

Er. Kapil Dev

Date: 31-10-2025

(Applicant No. 2)

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI**  
**(in O.A. 469 of 2025)**

In the matter of:

Public Action Committee & ors. vs. Union of India & ors.

Additional submission by Applicants pertaining to role of BBMB in failure in operation of Bhakra Dam resulting in major floods during last six years in Punjab.

Hon'ble sir,

Most Respectfully Showeth,

The Applicants humbly submit as under:

1. That the Applicants have filed Original Application against mismanagement by BBMB as well as State of Punjab which has led to repeated drastic situation due to floods in Punjab thrice in last six years.
2. That as per the official technical standards of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and structural safety norms governing gravity dams, the permissible deflection limit of the Bhakra Dam is 1.03 inches under normal operating conditions, whereas the maximum tolerable deflection, including seismic and hydrostatic safety margin, is 1.53 inches. Any deflection beyond the limit of 1.03 inches warrants enhanced monitoring, and a deflection exceeding 1.53 inches falls outside the designed safety tolerance of the dam structure. It is humbly submitted that such deflection is an indicator of significant hydrostatic pressure at higher

reservoir levels, and therefore requires immediate judicial and administrative oversight in order to ensure continuous safety assessment of the dam structure in public interest and to avoid any potential catastrophic risk to human life, ecology and property downstream.

**BHKRA DAM DEFLECTED BEYOND PERMISSIBLE LIMITS IN 2019 & 2025**

3. That it is respectfully submitted that during the recent technical committee meeting of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) held on 04-09-2025, it was officially recorded that the Bhakra Dam has exhibited a deflection of 1.1408 inches, thereby exceeding the prescribed safety limit of 1.03 inches as per established structural tolerance parameters. In the year 2019, the deflection was recorded as 1.1476 inches. This recorded deflection, as admitted by BBMB, is a matter of grave environmental and infrastructural concern warranting urgent intervention of this Hon'ble Tribunal. A news dated 05-09-2025 published in Hindustan Times along with its web link pertaining to deflection of Bhakra Dam is produced herewith as **Annexure P-10**.
4. That it is respectfully submitted that, as per established dam safety protocols and reservoir operation guidelines, **it is mandatory for the dam authorities to maintain a sufficient flood cushion in anticipation of sudden or heavy inflows, including extreme events defined under the Permissible Maximum Flood (PMF) parameters.** Any failure to adhere to PMF-based operational limits or to maintain the requisite storage buffer constitutes a serious breach of dam safety obligations, poses imminent risk of downstream flooding, and amounts to non-compliance with the

guidelines issued by the Central Water Commission and National Disaster Management Authority.

**CUSHION FOR PMF OF 793800 CUSECS NOT MAINTAINED BY BBMB**

5. That it is respectfully submitted that as per the Central Water Commission (CWC), the mandatory flood cushion for the Bhakra Dam has been scientifically determined to be **7,93,800 cusecs**, in accordance with the **Permissible Maximum Flood (PMF)** parameters prescribed for ensuring the structural safety and operational sustainability of the reservoir during extreme hydrological events. However, despite repeated warnings by IMD, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) failed to maintain the required flood cushion and allowed the water level of the dam to rise, thereby compromising the dam's capacity to absorb sudden inflows. **In the event that an inflow equivalent to or approaching the PMF had occurred in a single day, it would have resulted in an irreversible catastrophe, causing large-scale inundation, destruction of life and property, and irreparable environmental damage.** Such failure to maintain the mandated PMF-based flood cushion constitutes gross negligence and violation of statutory obligations under dam safety regulations, warranting urgent intervention of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
  
6. That it is most respectfully submitted that the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has been routinely attaining the water level of Bhakra Dam up to 1680 feet by 31st August every year. However, the recorded deflection of the dam structure in the years 2019 and 2025, even before the reservoir reached the 1680-foot level, clearly demonstrates that maintaining

this level was no longer technically safe due to various factors, considering the advanced age of the dam, significant silt deposition reducing live storage capacity, and the increasing impact of climate change on extreme inflow patterns. Therefore, the fixation of 1680 feet as a target water level is unscientific and unsafe even in the year 2019. However, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), in complete disregard of these mandatory safety directions of 2014, allowed the reservoir level to reach dangerously close to the 1680 feet without maintaining the requisite PMF buffer which triggered floods in Punjab in the years **2019, 2023, and 2025**. **The recurring floods, occurring thrice within six years, clearly establish a pattern of systemic mismanagement and operational negligence on the part of BBMB, demonstrating that the floods were not merely natural calamities but the consequence of avoidable administrative failure in dam operation and failure to adhere to PMF-based safety parameters.** Therefore, keeping in view the Permissible Maximum Flood (PMF) value duly prescribed by the Central Water Commission and the fact that unprecedented floods have occurred thrice in the State of Punjab in recent times, it is evident that the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has failed to operate the dam in strict compliance with the mandated safety norms and operational protocols. This failure on the part of BBMB amounts to a serious dereliction of statutory duty and warrants immediate intervention of this Hon'ble Tribunal.



Date: 31-10-2025

Place: Ludhiana

Er. Kapil Dev  
(Applicant No. 2 – in person)

**New Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/bhakra-dam-deflection-surpasses-limit-but-no-scare-bbmb-officials-101757012556905.html>

### **Bhakra Dam deflection surpasses limit, but no scare: BBMB officials**

The Bhakra Beas Management Board, during its technical committee meeting held on Thursday, said the dam's deflection reached 1.1408 inches, surpassing the 1.03-inch limit

Published on: Sep 5, 2025 6:10 AM IST

By [Vishal Rambani](#), Chandigarh



As Punjab experiences its worst flooding in nearly four decades, authorities are closely monitoring the Bhakra Dam, which has reported a structural deflection that has exceeded the permissible limit.



Continuous inflows from surrounding catchment areas have added to the rising pressure on Bhakra Dam. (HT)

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), during its technical committee meeting held on Thursday, said that the dam's deflection reached 1.1408 inches, surpassing the 1.03-inch limit. Though this is still less than the 1.1476 inches recorded in 2019, the deflection, combined with rising water levels, has led to the decision to adjust water flows.

At the time of the technical committee meeting, the Bhakra reservoir, built over Sutlej, was at 1,679.05 feet, just 0.95 feet below the full reservoir level (FRL) of 1,680 feet. Continuous inflows from surrounding catchment areas have added to the rising pressure on the dam.

In response to the situation, the BBMB decided to increase the water release from the dam from 75,000 cusecs to 85,000 cusecs to regulate water levels and manage the inflows, said officials.

Similarly the Pong Dam, built over Beas, is at 1394.62 feet, which is 4.62 feet above FRL. This was disclosed in the technical committee meeting of the BBMB.

At the technical committee meeting, BBMB chief engineer Manoj Tripathi emphasised that the increased water release was necessary to maintain control of the dam's levels. The goal is to reduce the water level to 1,678.50 feet by September 10 in line with safety standards.

BBMB chairman Manoj Tripathi admitted that the dam has deflected more than the permissible limit, but said there is no need to panic. "Yes, we are concerned and thus we are closely monitoring the situation and releasing water to keep the dam level lower than 1,680 feet," he said.

"Bhakra is a gravity dam that can deflect 1.03 inches. However, as per seismic structure, it can deflect up to 1.53 inches. There are other parameters like thrust, stress and strain and also leakage, which is well within limits, thus there is not to panic, but we are worried as the inflow of water is almost 20% more than of previous years," he said.

"The dam's safety is paramount for the BBMB and thus the water release has been increased from 75,000 to 85,000 cusecs," Tripathi said.

Flooding across the region has already caused damage to agriculture, infrastructure and communities. The Beas has seen record-breaking inflows, surpassing levels from 2023 and 1988. Authorities expect water releases to continue for at least another week to manage the ongoing situation.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

AT PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

(in O.A. 469 of 2025)

AFFIDAVIT

Public Action Committee & ors. .... Applicants

vs.

Union of India & ors. .... Respondents

Affidavit regarding additional submission by Er. Kapil Dev (aged 49 years) s/o Sh. Jagdish Chander, r/o #186-E, BRS Nagar, Ludhiana.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, the above mentioned deponent do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. That the Deponent is Applicant No. 2 in the Original Application filed before this Hon'ble Tribunal.
2. That the Applicants is filing additional submission pertaining to role of BBMB in failure in operation of Bhakra Dam which resulted in floods during last six years in Punjab for kind consideration by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

2558  
31-10-2025



Place: Ludhiana  
Dated: 31.10.2025

Verification:

Verified that the contents of para 1 and 2 of this affidavit are true and correct. No part of it is false, and nothing material has been kept concealed therefrom.

Certified that the affidavit has been read over & explained to the deponent executant who seemed directly to understand the same at the time marking thereof.

*[Signature]*  
DEPONENT

*[Signature]*  
DEPONENT

know the Deponent/Executants personally and he/she has Signed/Thumb impression in my presence

Place: Ludhiana  
Dated: 31.10.2025

ATTESTED AS IDENTIFIED

NOTARY PUBLIC  
LUDHIANA (PB.)

31 OCT 2025