

# 3320

Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal

Principal Bench, New Delhi

O.A. No. 606 of 2022

**In the matter of:**

Public Action Committee & Ors.

... Applicants

Versus

State of Punjab & Others

... Respondents

### Additional Documents

( True Copy of the full translated Report of Punjab Legislative Committee in the year 2010-11 relied by applicant)

S. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Annexure A-1: The true copy of the full translated report of Legislative Committee in the year 2010-11 which is part of the record at page no. 2794 onwards.	1-37
2.	Service Proof	38

Dated: 15.5.24, New Delhi

Filed by:



Kawalpreet Kaur & Deepak Kumar Singh

Advocates for the applicant

576, Masjid Road, Jangpura, New Delhi-110014

[kawalpreet303@yahoo.in](mailto:kawalpreet303@yahoo.in) | 08287908688

**PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**REPORT OF APPOINTED COMMITTEE OF HOUSE PERTAINING**  
**TO INVESTIGATION OF POLLUTION BEING DONE BY SUGAR MILLS**  
**AND DISTILLERIES IN PUNJAB**

**(13<sup>TH</sup> PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)**  
**2010-11**

Secretariat

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT, CHANDIGARH  
SEPTEMBER, 2010

## Subject – list

	Page
1. Structure of Committee	: (iii)
2. Grounds	: (v)
3. Report	: 1-33
4. Annexure	: 34-95

## Structure of Committee

As per powers given by Session on dated 20-12-2007, the following committee was formulated by Hon'ble Speaker vide letter No. 20-L.A.-2008/4090, dated 27-08-2008 to investigate the Pollution being done by the Sugar Mills & Distilleries in the State

1. Sardar Jagdeep Singh Nakayi	:	Chairman
2. Sardar Amarjeet Singh Sahi	:	Member
3. Sh. Anil Joshi	:	Member
4. Saradar Avtar Singh Brar	:	Member
5. Captain Balbir Singh Bathh	:	Member
6. DR. Dalbir Singh Verka	:	Member
7. Sardar Harmeet Singh Sandhu	:	Member
8. Sardar Kewal Singh Dhillon	:	Member
9. Sardar Kuldeep Singh Bathal	:	Member
10. Sardar Partap Singh Bajwa	:	Member
11. Sardar Virsa Singh Valtoha	:	Member

## Sabha Secretariat

1. Sh. Ved Parkash : Secretary
2. Smt. Ramesh Kanta : Superintendent

Sardar Partap Singh Bajwa, M.L.A has given resignation from Member of Punjab Legislative Assembly dated 17-05-2009 after being elected as Member of Parliament , Lok Sabha and since then he is not member of the aforesaid committee.

**GROUNDS AND WORKING PROCEDURE**

1. I, as Chairman, being authorized to present report on behalf of formulated committee of House to investigate into the pollution being done by Sugar Mills and Distilleries of State, submit my report in the House.
2. Dated 20.12.2007, Sardar Harmeet Singh Sandhu, M.L.A.'s attention towards Resolution No. 4, which pertains to poisonous gases generating from a Distillery from Village Lohka, District Taran Taaran, the Hon'ble Speaker after agreed upon by House, this Committee was formulated to investigate into the pollution being done by Sugar Mills and Distilleries of State.
3. Total 35 meetings were held in regard with this issue from dated 12.3.2008, 24.3.2008, 23.5.2008, 5.6.2008, 17.6.2008, 25.6.2008, 26.6.2008, 6.8.2008, 26.9.2008, 27.9.2008, 29.9.2008, 30.9.2008, 18.12.2008, 28.1.2009, 29.1.2009, 26.6.2009, 26.6.2009, 1.7.2009, 30.11.2009, 1.12.2009, 2.2.2010, 3.2.2010, 26.3.2010, 4.5.2010, 7.5.2010, 9.7.2010, 10.7.2010 and 11.7.2010 to 17.7.2010.
4. The action taken after complete analysis of situation as done by the Committee, has been given in this report.
5. The Committee gave final shape to this report in meeting held on 21.9.2010.
6. The minutes of meetings of each meeting has been placed on record separately in Punjab Legislative Assembly Secretariat.
7. The Committee appreciates the assistance given by the Secretariat of Punjab Legislative Assembly, Officers & Staff of the Punjab Pollution Control Board, Department of Science, Technology & Environment.

Dated Chandigarh:  
29 September, 2010

Jagdeep Singh Nakai  
Chairman

## Report

In the meeting of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha held on 20.12.2007, Sardar Harmeet Singh Sandhu, MLA moved and attention calling which came before the House in which it was said that around the liquor factories in the state of Punjab there is a lot of stench due to the release of poisonous gases. The Honorable Minister had also given an answer in the House on that. However the House felt that way due to the spread of stench, people are suffering a lot and diseases are spreading and after this a resolution was moved within the House and it was agreed that in the state to check pollution caused by sugar mills and distilleries a House committee should be constituted. The resolution in this regard was passed only on 20.12.2007 in which it was decided that the appointment of the committee members be done by the Hon'ble Speaker Sahib.

Before appointing the members of the committee, the Honorable Speaker asked the leader of the opposition that the names of the members of the Congress party who would represent congress party in the committee be given. The leader of the opposition party notified the names of such party members.

Hon'ble Speaker appointed a committee of 11 members on 27.2.2008

Among the nominated members of the committee, the Honorable Speaker, Sardar Jagdeep Singh Nakkai, Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Punjab was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee. The committee was supposed to present its report during the fourth session, but the committee could not hold many meetings because to visit sugar mills and distilleries members had to go out of the headquarters. Therefore by recommending to the Honorable Speaker Sahib from time to time the time for submitting the committee's report was extended till the tenth session.

The committee held its first meeting on 2.3.2008 in which this decision was taken that where ever there are sugar mills by the Department of Cooperation and the Department of Agriculture wherever there are sugar mills their detailed list and from revenue department wherever there are distilleries their detailed list should be asked to be placed before the special committee of the Vidhan Sabha so that the work can be completed as soon as possible.

The committee on date 24.3.2008 heard Sh A.S Chhatwal IAS secretary Science, Technology and Environment and Sh Yogesh Goel chairman PPCB and Sh Surinderjit Singh, Member Secretary PPCB. The committee asked them that what parameters are adopted to stop pollution. Sh Chhatwal secretary Science & Technology and Environment told that pollution control board issues consent to the mills under Water Act and under Air Act. Both these are central acts and these are under PPCB is a quasi statutory and quasi judicial way of functioning. Regarding distilleries and mills the central pollution control board has decided a few norms but committee told departmental representatives that whatever norms are there for pollution, they should be translated into a language that a common man can understand and that should be supplied to the committee. The committee also asked the officers of the PPCB that from where is the board supposed to take samples in the case of distilleries and after how long has this to be done and also asked them to send status reports to the committee.

Apart from the above the committee also asked representatives of the departments to ensure that in this report various officers and employees working on these distilleries and sugar mills and last date of checking the distillery and action taken must be mentioned.

As the committee has only checked distilleries in the state as of now, it will be pertinent to mention only the status report about distilleries recieved from the department of science and technology which is as under



S. No.	Name of Industry & address	Source of Pollution	Condition of Pollution Control Devices	Date of Sampling	Name of Officer taking Samples	Analysis of Report of Samples			Violation of Water & Air Act	Details of Action taken by Board
						Criteria	Result Mg/l	Permissible Limits Mg/l		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Solid Waste * Spent Yeast * Ash * Silt of water purifier	Ash is found in the low area and used as fertilizer							
2 .	M/S Jagjeet Industries Limited, Hamira, District Kapurthala	Water Pollution * Spent Wash from Distillation Process * Bottle Washing * Cooling Pond  Air Pollution * Boiler House * Generator Set	In Distillery Ffizen a water purifier is installed in which there are collection components and bio methanization reactors, secondary treatment plants . In Secondary Treatment Plants equalization tank primary clarifier, aeration tank , secondary clarifier, aeration tank 2, secondary clarifier and sludge drawing bands are installed	3.3.08	Sri Om Prakash, assistant environment engineer	P.H. T.S.S.	8.2 118	5.5 – 9.0 100	Sample collected on 3.3.2008 doesnot meet the prescribed limit	Consent has been cancelled under Water Act 1974,

		<p>Solid waste * spent yeast * fly Ash * water treatment plant sludge</p>	<p>Effluent treatment plant is installed in food division in which equalization tank diffuser aeration primary clarifier trickling filter aeration secondary clarifier and sludge drawing beds are there</p> <p>25 ton per hour capacity two boilers fitted with multi cyclone and wet scrubber for Air treatment are attached</p> <p>On 28.4.2008 A 35 ton capacity boiler was not working this boiler too has a multi cyclone and wet scrubber for Air quality control device</p>	28.04.08	<p>Shri Om Prakash assistant environmental engineer Shri ml Chauhan assistant environment engineer</p>	<p>S.P.M. S.P.M.</p> <p>S.P.M.</p>	<p>132 118</p> <p>132</p>	<p>150 150</p> <p>150</p>	<p>Stack sample results are within the prescribed limits set by the board</p>	<p>The industry is following the sections of the air act</p>
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S. No.	Name of Industry & address	Source of Pollution	Condition of Pollution Control Devices	Date of Sampling	Name of Officer taking Samples	Analysis of Report of Samples			Violation of Water & Air Act	Details of Action taken by Board
						Criteria	Result Mg/l	Permissible Limits Mg/l		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	M/s Khasa Distillery Company, Khasa district Amritsar	<p><b>Water Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Spent Wash from distillation process</li> <li>* Bottle Washing</li> <li>* Cooling Pond</li> </ul> <p><b>Air Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Boiler House</li> <li>* Generator Set</li> </ul> <p><b>Solid Waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Used Yeast</li> <li>* Fly ash, Sludge of water treatment plant</li> </ul>	<p>Water treatment plant is installed in which anaerobic digesters (3 no.s) are installed, after this activated sludge process is there in which anaerobic filter (3 No.s) aeration tank first stage with clarifier, second stage aeration with clarifier (2 No.s) and sludge drying beds (4 No.s)</p> <p>Multi cyclone air treatment plant installed with 12 ton capacity boiler</p>	<p>17.12.07</p> <p>Dated 17.12.07 boiler and distillery are working at the time of visit</p>	Sri Pawan garg, assistant environment engineer	<p>p.H. T.S.S. B.O.D</p>	<p>8.5 1200 2750</p>	<p>5.5 – 9.0 100 100</p>	The results of effluent samples are above prescribed limit	The hearing of the industry was conducted by chairman PPCB on 08.2.08 and industry was asked to run at 50% capacity







S. No.	Name of Industry & address	Source of Pollution	Condition of Pollution Control Devices	Date of Sampling	Name of Officer taking Samples	Analysis of Report of Samples			Violation of Water & Air Act	Details of Action taken by Board
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6 )	Pioneer Industries Limited distillery division plot number A3 4 industrial growth Centre defence Road, Pathankot District Gurdaspur	Water pollution * Spent wash from distillation process bottle washing cooling pond  Air pollution * boiler house * generator set  Solid waste * spent yeast * fly Ash * water treatment plant sludge	Water treatment plant is installed in which settling tank tube settler one buffer tank biodigester tube settler2 anaerobic bio filter trickling filter aeration tank1 primary clarifier aeration tank 2 final clarification reverse osmosis are there  The water that remains after reverse osmosis goes to multi effect evaporator dryer  Prima cyclone is attached to the 12 ton per hour capacity boiler as air treatment device And there is thermo pack of 20 lakh kilo calorie that is 3 ton per hour capacity	30.10..07  26.9.07	Shri Joginder Singh assistant environment engineer Shri Joginder Singh assistant environmental engineer  Shri Joginder Singh assistant environment engineer Shri Joginder Singh assistant environmental engineer	PH TSS bod  SPM	7.9 80 24  173 357	5.5 – 9.0 100 100  350 500	The results of the sample are within the limits prescribed by the board  Air and smoke sample results are within the limits prescribed by the board	The results of the sample are within the limits prescribed by the board therefore sections of the water act are being followed  Air and smoke samples are within limits therefore Air act sections are being followed

S. No.	Name of Industry & address	Source of Pollution	Condition of Pollution Control Devices	Date of Sampling	Name of Officer taking Samples	Analysis of Report of Samples			Violation of Water & Air Act	Details of Action taken by Board
						Criteria	Result Mg/l	Permissible Limits Mg/l		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7)	Chandigarh distilleries and bottleRS Limited Banur district Patiala	<p><b>Water pollution</b> * Spent wash from distillation process bottle washing cooling pond</p> <p><b>Air pollution</b> * boiler house * Diesel generator set</p> <p><b>Solid waste</b> * spent yeast</p>	<p>Spent wash anaerobic digestion biomethanezation followed by aeration in stages. Treated water mixed with bottle washing water is used for irrigation of plants and irrigation of crops. 110 kilo litre per day capacity spent wash is concentrated in m e e and is mixed with stuble of paddy and burnt in the boiler</p> <p>ESP is attached to the 55 ton boiler Prima cyclone attached to 30 12 and 10 ton boilers</p> <p>Fly ash is dumped in low</p>	<p>17.12.07</p> <p>18.8.06</p>	<p>Shri Rajiv Goyal assistant environmental engineer and Shri Janak Raj junior science officer</p> <p>Shri Rajiv Goyal assistant environmental engineer and Shri Janak Raj junior science officer</p>	<p>PH TSS bod</p> <p>SPM</p>	<p>7.4 430 490</p> <p>130</p>	<p>5.5 – 9.0 100 200</p> <p>150</p>	<p>Bod and TSS are above the prescribed limits for treated water</p> <p>Industry is following norms of the air act</p>	<p>The industry was given a hearing by chairman on 15.2.08</p> <p>1) In which the industry was asked to upgrade mte and install</p> <p>2) incinerator Industrial not throw water in any drain</p> <p>3) industry will give a bank guarantee of 10 lacs</p> <p>Industry has not followed the directions of the hearing further action is under consideration</p>

		* fly Ash * water treatment plant sludge	lying areas and used as manure							
S. No.	Name of Industry & address	Source of Pollution	Condition of Pollution Control Devices	Date of Sampling	Name of Officer taking Samples	Analysis of Report of Samples			Violation of Water & Air Act	Details of Action taken by Board
						Criteria	Result Mg/l	Permissible Limits Mg/l		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8)	Piccadilly sugar and allied Industries Limited ,village Ham Jehri, Tehsil Samana district Patiala	Water pollution * spent wash bottle washing water air pollution boiler house diesel generator set yeast fly ash sludge of the water treatment plant	Spent wash is treated in anaerobic Lagoon following which it is mixed with press mud to make manure	14.3.08	Shri R.K. Goyal assistant environmental engineer and Shri Janak Raj junior scientific officer	PH TSS bod	7.0 18 13	5.5 – 9.0 100 100	Industry is following norms of the water act	
		Air pollution * boiler house * Diesel generator set	Multi cyclones are attached to the two boilers of capacities 12 ton and 5 ton respectively	14.3.08	Shri R.K. Goyal assistant environmental engineer and Shri Janak Raj junior scientific officer	SPM	136	150	Industry is following norms of the air act	
		Solid waste * spent yeast * fly Ash * water treatment plant sludge	Ash is thrown in low lying areas used as manure							



S. No.	Name of Industry & address	Source of Pollution	Condition of Pollution Control Devices	Date of Sampling	Name of Officer taking Samples	Analysis of Report of Samples			Violation of Water & Air Act	Details of Action taken by Board
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10)	AB Grain Spirit Private Limited, Village kidi afgana, district Batala	<p>Water pollution * spent wash bottle washing water air pollution boiler house diesel generator set solid waste used yeast fly ash sludge of the water treatment plant</p> <p>Air pollution * boiler house * generator set</p> <p>Solid waste * spent yeast * fly Ash * water treatment plant sludge</p>	<p>Biomethaneza tion tank primary clarifier extended aeration secondary clarifier and sludge drawing bed</p> <p>36 ton par hour capacity boiler has wet scrubber in the form of apcd</p>	<p>Distillery is running in April 2008 sampling yet to be done</p> <p>Distillery is running in April 2008 sampling yet to be done</p>						

After receiving information from the Department of Science, Technology and Environment the committee decided to study the distilleries located in the state of Punjab by doing spot visits and did on the spot study of all distilleries.

1. Rana Sugar Ltd: (Distillery Division), Village Lohka, Tehsil Patti, District Tarn Taran

The committee visited Rana Sugar Ltd (Distillery Division), Village Lohka, Tehsil Patti, District Tarn Taran on 26.6.2008 for on the spot study. Committee on arrival at the distillery went towards biocomposting area

The committee expressed regret to see that Lahan was coming out of the biocomposting area which showed that there was no control of the distillery administration but Ajai Inder Majithia while giving his explanation, told the committee that the waste of sugar was being mixed with spent wash to make manure and due to rain some water has come to the side. That it is not effluent. After this, some residents of village Lohka appeared before the committee and explained that distillery people often throw lahan in the drain adjoining the industry via pipes and even now upto two kilometers away the Lahan can be seen standing. Apart from this the fly ash is often filled in trolleys and thrown in villages and in village Lohka pond the fly ash can still be seen today. The fly ash from the chimney flies and keeps falling on the fodder sown for the cattle in the fields and and cattle get sick after eating this fodder. The residents also said that due to falling ash, relatives shy away from coming to their houses. The ash blown from the chimney has a very bad effect on their eyes. The villagers also showed the committee the pipe which opens into the drain and told that effluent is released at night through the pipe by the distillery.

After that, the committee reached bridge on Nushera road near the distillery and expressed regret that the distillery has planted eucalyptus trees in about four kanals of land which were not sufficient to absorb the wastewater from the distillery and the effluent was visibly and clearly falling into the drain. The residents of the village have also mentioned this to the committee that the village faced a huge problem of flies and people often keep suffering from cholera and jaundice. After that the committee went to see fly ash thrown on the ground 3-4 acres away. The committee saw that in 6 acres of land, the large mounts of fly ash were lying and besides the drain one tanker full of lahan was parked.

Residents informed that lahan is brought and thrown on this fly ash during the night. Whenever it rains, the entire lahan gets into their fields and destroys the crops. The committee got the land dug up and found that there was no floor underneath it which was very necessary.

After that, the committee went inside the distillery and talked to the officials for information on how liquor is prepared in the distillery.

Officials told the committee while showing how to treat the lahan that in the evaporator the water and spentwash are separated. The water is then recirculated. Then they showed the incilator unit in which the spent wash is finished. The committee also got information about new machinery. Most of the people brought it to the committee's attention that there was a big problem of smell. Most of the residents of village Lohka said that due to the construction of this distillery, their health was suffering badly because the distillery people operate it as per their wishes only. They keep throwing spent wash and fly ash just any where without asking any one.

At the request of the committee, the pollution control board officer also collected samples from many places whose report is at annexure A.

The residents of village Lohka requested the committee that whatever problems they have told the committee they hoped that the committee will pay attention to these problems quickly and will find a solution so that the decline of health can be improved.

2. M/s Jagatjit Industries Ltd: Hamira, District Kapurthala

The committee did a spot study of M/s Jagatjit Industries Ltd: Hamira, nDistrict Kapurthala on 27.9.2008

On arrival at the distillery Mr. Ashok Bharti, Vice President (Administration) told the committee that the capacity of the disillary was 120 kilo liters of liquor but it was operating at 35 kilo liters only because the high court has asked them to comply with all the norms of PPCB by 20 June 2009 and install all the required machinery as per norms. At this time Mr. Sanjay Chopra, Vice President (Utility) was also present.

The distillery officials also told the committee that 32 hand pumps and 3 deep bores have been installed in the villages of Lakhan-Khurd, Rajpur, Hamira, Muner, Lakhan-Khole, Dayalpur, Naharpur, Bakhu Nangal and Murar to provide clean water to these villages and electricity bills are also paid by the distillery. After treating the polluted water of the distillery, the treated water is being given to the farmers for irrigation according to the ratio of 1/4.

The committee visited the entire distillery and also studied the lagoon and treatment plant of this distillery. This showed that the distillery was operating beyond its rated capacity. This capacity seemed to be almost double of rated capacity. The committee took it very seriously. It also came to the notice of the committee that the meter was installed after the tank for collecting lagan which was a huge deficiency. An official of the Pollution Control Board also brought to the notice of the committee that six months ago the distillery was asked to remove this deficiency as well. This meter should be installed on the original flow, but the distillery has not removed this error.

The committee also inspected the villages adjacent to the distillery. When a resident of Hamira village was asked about the effect of this distillery, he told the committee that people have got employment at this distillery but it is a very bad thing that the water of this place is getting spoilt. This bad water has also had a very bad effect on agriculture. Another resident of Hamira said that a lot of bad smell comes from this distillery and the villagers are very upset due to that. After this, the committee went to the tubewell of a resident of Hamira village. Distillery had provided water supply here. The committee saw that this water was running for a long distance in a long furrow and had not reached any farmer's land, from which it seemed that this water was started only after seeing the arrival of the committee.

The committee also met the residents of Chhota Lakhan village. They told the committee that when the wind blows from the distillery, the ash comes flying, which falls in the eyes and causes a lot of damage especially by falling on the fodder of animals.

8

When the committee asked how many people use this water for agriculture then those residents said, only one farmer uses it. The committee also spoke to the sarpanch and other residents also. They also brought it to the attention of the committee that the ground water is getting polluted. The fly ash that comes out of the chimney has a very bad effect on them and on the fodder of the cattle. They also said that those who are rich have deepened their borewells but it is a very difficult thing for the poor man. They told that this time even paddy crop is getting damaged due to bad water, wheat crop used to get affected any ways. A lot of flies and mosquitoes develop on the lagoons of the treatment plant and residents of the village cannot even sit outside to have a meal.

The PPCB official took samples at the directions of the committee and its report is at annexure (B)

The committee listened carefully to the problems of the villages and assured them of finding a solution.

### 3. Chandigarh Distillers & Bottlers Ltd., Village Banur, Distt Patiala

The committee made a spot study of Chandigarh Distillers & Bottlers Ltd., Village Banur, Distt Patiala on 30.9.2008. The committee found that there were so many flexible pipes laid in the distillery and it was not sure which one was coming from where and going to where. When the committee asked officer Sh Bhandari that the distillery was running at 330 Kilo Liter capacity then why flexible pipes were being used but he did not give any answer. The committee took it very seriously that on one side the distillery was running at full capacity and on the other damaged machinery was lying around everywhere and a lot of repair work was happening side by side. How can polluted water be treated under such circumstances. The committee expressed its intent to take action against negligence of those officers of PPCB who were incharge of this distillery. The committee also saw that the sludge was thrown in the open space at the back of the distillery. Mr Bhandari explained that this sludge was dried there and then burnt in the boilers.

Some residents of Banur village appeared before the committee and told that they have lots of problems because of the distillery. Waste water ends up in their fields because the distilleries have raised the site by dumping sludge and other waste. This dirty water is very harmful to the cabbage crop and other staple vegetables. So they have stopped planting vegetables completely. Apart from this there is a lot of bad odour and there is no end to the fly-mosquito problem. He also brought to the notice of the committee that the distillery owners throw the waste water into the drain through a pipe near the bridge of Nandyali village.

After this, the committee reached Nandyali village and talked to the Sarpanch and other prominent people there. He told the committee that their crops are destroyed by the sludge and dirty water released by the distillery, the ash that comes out of the chimney of the distillery is very harmful to the eyes of the villagers and also to the fodder of the animals. The waste water that is thrown out by the distillery is causing a lot of damage to the locality but the owners never pay attention to anyone's suffering. The committee also heard the problems of the residents of Jangpura. Their problems were almost the same as those of Nandyali village. After this, the committee came back to the distillery and discussed the defects found during the checking done by the Pollution Control Board officials.

A few days after the visit of the Committee, a letter dated 6.10.2008 was received from Chandigarh Distillers and Bottlers Ltd., Village Banur, District Patiala was placed in the meeting of the Committee on 1.7.2009 in which they requested that the committee should be revisit the disillery and do the sampling again because when the committee visited earlier, all the machinery was stopped for two weeks due to heavy rains. In this regard, the report of the Patwari of the area was also attached. After considering this, the committee decided that the committee will visit this distillery sometime in the future and inspect it and collect its samples.

As per the earlier decision taken by the Committee on 1.7.2009, Chandigarh Distillers and Bottlers Ltd., Village Banur, District Patiala was visited on 1.12.2009. Mr Bhandari and other officers accompanies the committee during the visit and told that at that time the distillery was being run on grain. The distillery officials took committee to see the treatment plant and the ppcb official filled samples from various locations in the distillery whose report is attached at annexure C.

4. Piccadily Sugar and Allied Industries Ltd. (Distillery Division) Village Hamjhedi, Patran, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala.

On 29th January, 2009, the Committee conducted an on-the-spot study of Piccadily Sugar and Allied Industries Ltd. (Distillery Division) Village Hamjhedi, Patran, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala. When the committee reached the distillery, the senior manager told the committee that the distillery has been closed for the last 10 days and it will be restarted when the molasses is received from the government. He also told that the sugar mill is also closed. When the committee went to the biocomposting area, it found that wheat was rotting due to over-flow of spent wash in the adjacent land. The committee observed that there was a furrow in one corner of the biocomposting area, which was temporarily closed with earthen bags.

Apart from the above, the committee also observed that a very basic system of treating waste water was being used in this distillery. In the biocomposting area, the workers were spraying the lahan through pipes on the accumulated mud. The senior manager said that this distillery started construction in the year 2004 and started production from the year 2005. The committee took it very seriously that the distillery was built only four years ago and the latest machinery was not used to treat the waste water, which is injurious to the health of the common people. When the committee asked the senior manager to show the records of the distillery's liquor produced since 2005, he was unable to do so. In addition when when asked to show the permission letters given by the Pollution Control Board, he could not present these papers to the committee.

The committee expressed its surprise that in today's age, despite having the latest equipment available to prevent the pollution generated in the distillery, this distillery did not install any such device which was a basic requirement for any pollution causing unit.

No device has been installed which is the basic project of every polluting unit.

The committee expressed doubt on the performance and working of the Pollution Control Board wondering how the board had allowed such a distillery that is running without installing pollution control devices.

The committee after inspecting this distillery spoke with some farmers of Hariau Khurd and the residents appeared before the committee and told that because of this distillery there are a lot of flies and mosquitoes and when the wind blows towards them from the distillery, there is so much smell that it becomes impossible to eat food. He said that earlier the distillery used to put the dirty water in the drain but later the villagers did not allow this water to be put in the drain and they cut their pipes and took them away. Those bores which are not deep have started giving polluted water and gradually the polluted water is going downwards. The fly ash keeps falling on their crops due to which the crops are severely damaged. Cabbage crop is especially damaged very badly. Ashes from the chimney fall in their eyes in the morning. At night, the distillery people dump the flyash at different places. Even their relatives shy away from coming to meet them. They also told the committee that the distillery had promised him that in future whenever the crop was damaged, the distillery would compensate them, but after that the compensation was not given. Such compensation was given to the residents only once on the intervention of the SHO.

During this visit, the committee also went to village Deogarh and there the sarpanch and other residents of the village told the committee their woes. They said that they are so disturbed by the distillery that they refrain from planting crops because their crops get damaged due to the ash coming from the distillery. During rainy days, the water from the biocomposting area enters the fields and thus causes heavy damage to their crops. Others also presented similar grievances about their health and poor water quality before the committee and the committee assured them that their grievances would be given full attention.

At the behest of the committee, the officer of the Pollution Control Board also collected samples from many places of the distillery, the report of which is attached as annexure D.

5. Patiala Distilleries and Manufacturers Ltd., Village Main, District Patiala

On 29.1.2009 in the afternoon itself, the committee conducted an on-the-spot study of Patiala Distilleries and Manufactures, Ltd., Village Main, District Patiala. On reaching the distillery, Mr. Neeraj Bansal, manager told the committee that the distillery uses both molasses and grain but is currently running on grain. He said that the distillery has its own 345 Bigha land and after the final treatment of the water, the distillery irrigates its own fields with that water. Apart from this, 1100-1200 bighas of land is irrigated of other farmers on contract basis. Farmers take water for their crops from the distillery.

During this visit the Committee met a resident of the main village and talked about the distillery. He said that the water in their land is getting damaged. When the distillery is running, there is bad smell and flies and mosquitoes are also produced. The committee inspected the water being supplied to the distillery estates. The committee felt that there was not much smell so this distillery was probably functioning alright.

At the behest of the committee, the pollution control board officer filled the samples from many places in the distillery. The report of which is on annexure E.

6. Pioneer Industries Ltd: (Distillery Division), Plot No: A-3, 4, Industrial Growth Centre, Defense Road, Pathankot, District Gurdaspur

Also the Committee did a spot study of Pioneer Industries Ltd: (Distillery Division), Plot No: A-3, 4, Industrial Growth Centre, Defense Road, Pathankot, District Gurdaspur on 26th June, 2009. The committee went to the distiller and met Shi Jagat Agarwal, MD. , and he told the committee that their distillery is completely grain based and makes wheat protien, gluten etc. In 2002, this unit was started for production of flour, but due to non-viability of this unit, distillery was started later in 2006. After extracting the flour and protein from the wheat, the distillery is run with the remaining slurry. Due to this, there is not much problem of pollution spread here and there is no foul smell also. Maida and protien is bought by international brands like Glaxo and Nestle and besides these domestic companies also buy these products from them.

He told the committee that the norms of multinational companies are very strict and they do not tolerate pollution in the mill at all. According to him, if the environment of the mill is bad, then they stop buying the production. So they have to keep the environment of the mill clean.

MD He also told the committee that there is no other factory in this industrial area. The committee asked him that if there is no other factory here, then does the dirty water standing on the roads in the tank belong to this distillery? But about this MD he did not give any answer. Before entering the distillery, the committee took a serious notice of the fact that there was dirty water everywhere in one kilometer around the roads, about which the officials of the distillery never seem to have taken notice of. The committee went inside the distillery and made a thorough study but did not see anything that would cause any pollution. The maintenance inside the distillery seemed to be good but the condition outside the distillery was very bad as water was seen flowing freely on the roads which was spreading a lot of pollution. During this visit of the committee, two children of Akhwana village appeared before the committee and they told that the distilleries put water in the sewerage and they took the committee to that place too. The committee observed that sewage from the industrial area was flowing into the Kahanpur drain near Jhanjeli Chowk.

Apart from this, two other people from Akhwana village said that the water of this stream later merges with UBDC (Upper Baari Doab Canal) Many other persons of Akhwana village appeared before the committee. They gave a statement that a lot of smell of the dirty water of this distillery comes and creates a lot of flies and mosquitoes here. Earlier people used to come to this area for a walk but now the smell of dirty water is so bad that there is no question of walking. Sometimes foam comes out from the chemicals passing through here and because of this water, the land of 5-6 villages has been destroyed. Because of this people also get diseases.

The committee left for the village Akhwana adjacent to the distillery and from there the committee talked to the sarpanch and members of the block committee and another 70-80 people. They gave a joint statement about this distillery that when this distillery started, they opposed it a lot, but the distillery people succeeded in the mission.

The people of this distillery did the good of the village. Neither the residents of the area were given any jobs in the distillery etc. They have reduced the life of the villagers by 10-10 years by spreading pollution. When the smoke comes out of the chimney, it has a very bad effect on their eyes. The water that overflows from the gutters in the alkaline lands and roads also affects the people. Some women also told their complaints before the committee like the common people first told about the crops, about their health and about the dirty wate. The women also had similar problems and they also complained about the presence of flies and mosquitoes.

At the behest of the committee, the Pollution Control Board officer collected samples from many places, the report of which is in annexure E.

#### 7. AB Grains Spirits Pvt. Ltd., Village Kidi Afghana, Tehsil Batala

The committee visited AB Grains Spirits Pvt. Ltd., Village Kidi Afghana, Tehsil Batala on June 26, 2009 in the afternoon for a field study. The committee spoke to GM Rakesh Kumar. He told that the capacity of this distillery was 120 KL and it is grain based. The committee went to this distillery and was very surprised that the distillery was closed. It seemed that the distillery owners had come to know that the committee of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha was coming, the distillery was deliberately closed and the ash was also being removed by tractors at many places outside the distillery.

The committee visited the distillery and also found some irregularities. The pipes going and coming from lagoons could not be understood. It seemed that the water would not reach the lagoon at all. The lagoon was also at such a high place that it was different from other distilleries. As far as other distilleries were concerned the lagoons were in low-lying areas. The committee talked with some farmers of Kidi Afghana village, they came to the committee and told that the owners of the distillery throw the dirty water at night into the nearby drain that comes out of Kahnuwan wetland. One farmer took the committee to the place where water was thrown in the drain via pipes.

After that, the committee met some other farmers of Keedi Afghana and they told that the stench is coming from the distillery continuously for 24 hours. The ash that flies from the chimney has a bad effect on their eyes. He also mentioned before the committee that earlier the distillery owner had promised to treat the water and give it to the farmers for the fields but they did not do so. Distillery owners are pouring the dirty water into the adjacent Sem Nala every night by installing pipes, which further goes into the Beas river.

After this, some other eminent persons of the village also met the committee, they told the committee that they even took photographs of pipes via which the distillery was throwing effluent into the sem nala. They said that they throw effluent water between 9 pm and 3 am. It has become difficult for them to eat food in such a bad smell. Residents of these villages also showed some documentary proofs, newspaper cuttings etc. to the committee. Some residents of village Aulakh also appeared before the committee, they also brought to Committee's attention that due to the construction of this distillery, the stench continues to emanate in the entire area. Animals get sick when they drink dirty water from outside. They themselves had the distillers releasing water. In this way, some of the village Bhent Patna appeared before the committee. They brought to the notice of the committee that their village is 100 meters from the distillery. Fly ash from the distillery keeps falling on their village. The distillery people had also promised the villagers that they would provide a way to remove dirty water but they did not take any action. Due to the abundance of flies and mosquitoes, diseases continue to spread in the village.

At the behest of committee, the pollution control board officer collected samples from several places, the report of which is on Annexure G. The committee assured the residents of nearby villages that they would get full justice

AB Sugar Mills Ltd: (Distillery Division), Village Randhawa, Tehsil Dasuha, Hoshiarpur

The committee visited AB Sugar Mills Ltd: (Distillery Division), Village Randhawa, Tehsil Dasuha, Hoshiarpur for on the spot study. Distillery officers Sh Umrao Singh, President, Sh Ashok Pradhan - production manager and Sh MK Rai - General Manager accompanied the committee. The Committee took notice that Distillery was being Careless in the handling of waste water near the digester effluent was flowing openly on the ground. The committee also took notice of this while studying the vacant land next to the biodigester area, polluted water was standing in many places. The committee saw that this water had been pumped from the lagoon and sent to this place. The marks of water flow could be clearly seen here. The committee took several photographs of this polluted water, after which the committee also studied the polluted water of the sugar mill, the details of which will be given in another report. About 40 men and women of Randhawa village appeared before the committee and the Sarpanch of the village told the committee that the dirty sewage passes through the village via tankers which keep spilling away, which causes a swarms of flies and mosquitoes up to 10 km from the mill. The numberdar of the village also told similar tales and emphasized that they have to dig very deep borewells to get clean drinking water. Whenever they hang clothes outside for drying they become black due to fly ash. The flies and mosquitoes are very common, towards which the distillery owners pay no attention. Apart from this, the residents of the village pointed out that when the distillery was acquiring land for setting up the plant they promised jobs to a member of every family but nothing of that sort happened.

After this, the attention of the committee was directed towards the school adjacent to the plant. Black ash on the walls of the school could be easily seen.

After that, the committee spoke to some persons of village Berchha. Their grievances were also very similar. Sarpanch of village bodal also put up grievances of his village in front of the committee. The committee collected hand pump water and tube well water samples of those villages, the color of the tube well water which were close to distillery was completely yellow. The committee was surprised to see that such a water would even spoil the crops too.

At the behest of the committee, the Pollution Control Board officer collected samples from several places in the distillery, the report of which is in annexure "G".

#### 9. M/s Khasa Distillery Company, Khasa, District Amritsar

The Committee conducted a spot study on 3rd February, 2010 at M/s Khasa Distillery Company, Khasa, District Amritsar. On reaching the distillery Mr. Rajeev Bhandari, Vice President told the committee that Khasa Distillery was previously owned by someone else but now Amit Modi bought it in July, 2009, but it has been closed since June, 2009 and at present Only bottling work is being done here. The spirit for bottling is brought from Banur. The bottling wastewater is filtered and fed to plants planted in the distillery. He also told the committee that the existing treatment plant is 12/13 years old and a consent has been applied to the Punjab Pollution Control Board to operate the distillery but the permission has not been received yet.

As the distillery was closed, there was no question of filling a sample.

#### 10. M/s: Malbros International (Pvt) Ltd., Mansoor Kalan, Tehsil Zira, Distt. Ferozepur

The Committee conducted an on-the-spot study of M/s: Malbros International (Pvt) Ltd., Mansoor Kalan, Tehsil Zira, Distt. Ferozepur on 3rd February, 2010. The committee was told by Mr. Arvind Tomar, D.G.M. that this distillery is grain based and has a capacity of 50 kilo-liters per day. The committee visited the entire distillery and found no negligence in which the distillery was at fault. Later the committee also saw the lagoon in the distillery and Mr. Arvind Tomar told that the lagoon has a capacity of 90 lakh litres. If the plant does not work then the lagoon is used. The committee observed that the RO System waste water was not added to the final treated water.

They were also told to replace the flexible pipes attached thereto, and instead other pipes should be laid. The committee also noticed that the effluent after bottling was not being taken to the treatment plant and was left in the ground, of which the committee took serious note of.

After studying the distillery, the committee also interacted with the residents of the area. The residents of the area emphasized that with the construction of the distillery numbers of flies have increased. When the air comes from the distillery, the stench is felt. The the people of the area get a little relief by getting jobs but then the pollution in the area has definitely increased. Apart from this, when asked by the committee, the residents also told that they had not talked to the owners of the distillery regarding their problems.

At the behest of the committee, the Pollution Control Board officer took samples from various places in the distillery. The report of which is at Annexure H.

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The committee visited all distilleries in the state of Punjab and did spot study and listened to the problems of the residents of villages. The committee felt that all the villages which happen to be close to the distilleries are facing problems of health, cattle and crops and pollution caused by distilleries is causing a lot of problems to them. They even told that the distilleries follow their own will and keep throwing effluent in the fields of farmers at night times. The committee discussed many aspects related to the challenges being faced by them. The committee decided to visit those countries where there are lots of distilleries to see the functioning of distilleries in those countries so that the committee can understand the difference in functioning of distilleries in our country and theirs. The Committee found that Scotland has more than 100 distilleries, the largest exporter of Scotch whiskey in the world so a comparative study should be done by going there. For this comparative study, it was decided to go there under the leadership of honorable Speaker, and under the supervision of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. It was decided to go to Scotland, especially Edinburgh! All correspondence regarding this was done with the Director of the Scotch Whiskey Association Scotland.

The visit was from July 10 to July 17, 2010. The main task of the committee was to go to the distillery to see how much the effluent discharged has an effect on the environment, ecology and ground water and the people there are not disturbed by the distillery. The Committee visited two distilleries in Scotland one known as Cameronbridge and the other known as Auchentoshan. The Committee visited Cameronbridge Distillery on 12th July, 2010. This distillery was grain based and its capacity was 200 kilo liters. After talking to the officials of the distillery, the committee came to know that the distillery people here consider it their moral responsibility to ensure that no pollution is emitted from the distillery. Environmentalist experts, SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Authority) and ecologists were heavily involved in the maintenance of the distillery. It was also observed there that the Marine Intellectuals were also given full powers to monitor this pollution so that any water discharged into sewers, rivers or seas by the distilleries is monitored and it is ensured that there is no polluted water in it that can endanger lives of organisms living in water. Cameronbridge officials also told the committee that their reputation is extremely important to them and therefore it is their moral responsibility to ensure that their brand does not get any black mark. Therefore the distillery has tied up with all these experts. There thought was that the society in which that distillery is operating must not have any problems due to that distillery. They also informed the committee that they work with a long term vision and transparency so that coming generations can get a clean environment.

In addition to the above, the committee was also told that whatever grain residue is left is used as animal fodder and after that whatever black substance remains at the end is converted into bio-fertilizer and given to the farmers of the area. Whatever distillery water is properly treated is used in some distilleries and some water which is not completely clean is put into sewerage, river or sea. Care is also taken to ensure that the released water does not affect any aquatic life. In the distillery it was particularly observed that there was no odor whatsoever, nor any residue anywhere.

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All this treatment is done along with the process. The committee also saw around the distillery that there was no effect of the distillery on the people and animals there. The committee was very happy to know that the distillery owners were putting more emphasis on the problems of the people, and it is also taken care that if there is any advice given by any expert agencies its full implementation is done by the distillery.

The Committee visited the Achantoshan Distillery which lies in the center of Glasgow City on 14 July 2010 with the assistance of the Scotch Whiskey Association, Scotland. When the committee was going inside the distillery, it was very happy to see that there were no garbage heaps and no lagoon. Apart from this, no smoke was coming out of the chimney. This distillery prepares Malt Whiskey. The area of the distillery was planted with rose flowers like a garden and the residence of the people was adjacent to the wall of the distillery. The people living in the vicinity of the distillery had no complaints about the distillery causing any adverse effect on the environment of the locality. After talking to the officials of the distillery, the committee came to know that whatever residue remains after distillation is disposed of immediately.

There was no biocomposting area of any kind and no lagoon. All this work is done there side by side and only a few percent of the treated water is used in the distillery itself and the remaining was discharged in the sewer of the city at which the city residents had no objection. There was absolutely no bad smell and no fly or mosquito was visible. The committee was surprised to know that the distillery was located right in the middle of the Glasgow city.

In addition to the above distillery in the city of Glasgow, on July 14, 2010, while returning from Glasgow, the committee also discussed the maintenance of the distilleries with the officers of SEPA in the city of Stirling. Those officials said that the distilleries are checked from time to time by SEPA and till now there is no such case with them in which a distillery has done any irregularity. All this maintenance is checked by the distillery authority, environmental experts, ecologists and marine department in coordination and distillery owners also consider it their moral responsibility to ensure that they do not get any complaints.

### Analysis by the Committee

1. The Committee feels that the protection of the environment is very important. Distilleries established in the state are destroying natural resources and contributing a major chunk of pollution and the big industrialists running such projects are not worried about environment. They are earning money for their children but instead of giving clean environment to them are not concerned about their future. It is very important to install anti-pollution devices in these projects.

The committee regrets that pollution control devices in many distilleries are installed but they are not operated to save electricity.

2. The Committee also feels that the pollution generated by distilleries is a very big challenge to the lives of the citizens who are facing it. Environment can be saved only by strict enforcement of the law because such negligence has completely destroyed the environmental infrastructure. Laws to save environment exist in all countries but in our country they need to be implemented properly. The committee has noticed that most business owners just do what they like and do not bother about the law at all. The agencies which have to implement the law are puppets in their hands.

3. The committee also feels that wherever distilleries are established in the state of Punjab, there are a lot of problems for the nearby residents. Chimney smoke of distilleries is having a very bad effect on their eyes.

Several nearby residents also brought to the notice of the committee that due to insanitary operations of the distilleries there is a big problem of flies and mosquitoes. People can't even eat while sitting outside.

The people emphasized on this point that whenever the wind comes from the side of the distilleries it pollutes the environment. The committee also feels that these distilleries have also made the lives of cattle. The ash coming out from the chimneys of these distilleries has a very bad effect on the animal fodder.

4. The Committee also feels that groundwater near distilleries, is getting polluted which is becoming a dire problem for humanity. The Committee took it very seriously that if this problem of drinking water keeps increasing then, people will not live a long life.
5. The Committee also feels that some distillery owners surreptitiously throw their effluent in adjoining drains at night. They forcefully throw fly ash in agriculture fields adjoining their factories. This is unfair to the residents of those areas. The committee expresses regret about negligent practices of distillery owners and managements.
6. The committee feels very seriously that in the state of Punjab the state pollution control board did not check these distilleries properly. The PPCB did not implement the law properly. A status report was sought from the Department of Science, Technology and Environment before the committee started its work which is part of this report. After that the committee took some samples from every distillery that it visited. The test reports of those are attached as annexures to this report. The committee wants that those officers/employees should be given strong punishments who prepared reports as per the wishes of the distillery owners.
7. The committee highly appreciates that distilleries in countries like Scotland-U.K. though countless in number have no negative impact on the lives of residents of the area in which they exist nor was there any foul smell emanating nor was any effluent found dumped in the distilleries. Whatever effluent is there is only discharged after treatment. The committee appreciates that the distilleries setup in Scotland-UK look like hotels with such beautiful gardens inside that it is difficult to express in words.

In all this major involvement that of distillery managements, officers, environmental experts, SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Authority) and ecologists.

The committee also feels that when the committee went to Scotland - UK on a visit to see distilleries, then the member secretary of pollution control board made some comments on the on the working of the committee which was not appropriate. So against that officer also disciplinary action should be taken.

#### Recommendations of the Committee

1. In view of the above, the Committee recommends that as in Scotland-U.K. there is cleanliness around the distilleries the residents of those areas have no complaint against of those distilleries, similar improvements should be brought into the distilleries located in Punjab. Whatever deficiencies have been pointed out in this report must be removed by the department within six months and the committee be informed.
2. The Committee also recommends that those employees/officers of the Pollution Control Board who have been found negligent as per the report, disciplinary action should be taken against them within one month and the committee be informed about the same.
3. The committee also recommends that disciplinary action should be taken against Member Secretary of Pollution Control Board Sh Babu Ram within one month and the committee be informed because he deliberately made comments in the media against the dignity of the committee.
4. The committee also recommends that to study working of all sugar mills in the state the tenure of the committee be extended till the tenure of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

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**Full translated copy of Punjab Legislative Assembly Committee Report as Additional Documents dated 15.05.24 in O.A. 606 of 2022 on behalf of the Applicant and R-8**

1 message

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**Deepak Singh** <deepak.singh@hrln.org>

Wed, May 15, 2024 at 5:14 PM

To: chairman.ptl.ppcb@punjab.gov.in, chairmanppcb@yahoo.co.in, seezobti@gmail.com, zldmalbros@oasisgrp.in, rdchandigarh.cpcb@gov.in, gurnamsingh.cpcb@nic.in, msppcb@punjab.gov.in, mattewarasutlejpac@gmail.com, ccb.cpcb@nic.in, narendersharma.cpcb@gov.in, mscb.cpcb@nic.in, ppcbfdk@yahoo.com, cs@punjab.gov.in, artakkar@artlo.in

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find the Additional Documents (Full translated copy of Punjab Legislative Assembly Committee Report) in O.A. 606 of 2022 on behalf of the Applicant and R-8 (Sanjha Morcha Zira) listed before the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi. Please consider it as proof of advance service of the additional documents dated 15.05.24 on behalf of the applicant and R-8.

Thank you,

Regards,

Deepak Kumar Singh (Advocate)  
576, Masjid Road, Jungpura,  
New Delhi-110014



**Full Translated copy of Punjab Legislative Assembly Report in OA 606 of 2022.pdf**

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