

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

(Translation of the Reports relied by applicant)

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1.	Annexure A-1: The true copy of translation of the relevant parts of the report of Legislative Committee in the year 2010-11 which is part of the record at page no. 2794 onwards.	1-7
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Dated: 1.4.24, New Delhi

Filed by:



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(True translated copy)

TRANSLATION OF RELEVANT CONTENTS OF REPORT BY COMMITTEE OF 13TH PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PERTAINING TO IMPUGNED POLLUTING INDUSTRY (RESPONDENT No. 5) SUBMITTED BY ORIGINAL APPLICANTS IN O.A. No. 606 of 2022 AS PART AND PARCEL OF ANNEXURE PA-4 (RELEVANT PAGES FROM PAGE 2794 ONWARDS):

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

(13TH PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

2010-11

Secretariat

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT, CHANDIGARH

SEPTEMBER, 2010

2995

Subject – list

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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.

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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

2804-2805-2806

(Relevant part of Report pertaining to Respondent No. 5)

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
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
5.	M/s Malbros International (P) Limited, Mansoor Kalan, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur	Water Pollution *Distillation & Spot Wash *Washing of Bottles *Cooling Pads	ETP Plant construction going on and is not complete as on date	14.2.08	Sh. G.S. Dhillon, Assistant Environment Engineer	Oil & Grease T.D.S.	2412 428	10 100	Industry is not following the provisions of Water Act 1974 and running without the consent of Board	The Industry was inspected by the officials of Board on 29.1.08 and found that only few devices to control the Water Pollution has been made and it is not complete as per the proposal given by it. Therefore, the Chairman called them for personal hearing on 8.5.08

		Air Pollution *Boiler House *Generator Set Solid Waste *Used Yeast (Khamir) *Ash *E.T.P. Sludge								B.O.D	5850	100	The Industry is not following the conditions of agreement	for refusal of consent but no one from Industry came. The file has again been sent for personal hearing which will be given soon. The Industry was again visited by the officials of Board on 29.1.08 and found that the Industry is not following the provisions of Consent given and that is why the Chairman called the for personal hearing for refusal of consent but no one from Industry came. The file has again been sent for personal hearing which will be given soon.
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TRANSLATION OF RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS OF REPORT OF VIDHAN SABHA COMMITTEE

PERTAINING TO RESPONDENT NO. 5

2824-2825

10. M/s Malbros International (P) Limited, Mansoor Kalan, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur

The Committee conducted the physical inspection of M/s Malbros International (P) Limited, Mansoor Kalan, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur on February 03, 2010. Sh. Arvind Tomar, DGM informed the Committee that the distillery is grain based and its capacity is 50 KL per day. The Committee inspected the entire Industry and no violation was found in which Industry is liable for. After that, the Committee saw the Lagoon installed in the Industry and Sh. Arvind Tomar informed that the capacity of Lagoon is 90 Lakh Liters. If the Plant doesn't work, the lagoon is used. Committee saw that the Waste Water of R.O. system installed in the distillery is not discharged in the Final Treated Water. The Committee instructed that this water should be discharged in final treated water and flexible pipes should be replaced with other pipes. The Committee also noted that the Waste Water after Bottling is not taken to the treatment plant but is being discharged into the ground to which committee took serious notice.

After inspection of distillery, the Committee interacted with the residents of locality. The residents of locality emphasized on the issue that there is increase in number of flies after installation of Distillery. Whenever the wind flows from Distillery, the stinking smell comes. Though there is some relief due to employment to people of locality but the pollution in the locality has increased for sure. Besides this when the Committee asked, the residents informed that they have not talked with the owners of the Distillery regarding the problems being faced by them.

On the saying of the Committee, the Officer of Pollution Control Board took samples from various location, whose report is Annexed as 'G'.

Pollution caused by Malbros Factory Zira Tragedy of the area and Government Neglect

The smoke coming out of the tall chimney of a factory in the middle of the green fields seems to testify to this fact that the area will be prosperous and its inhabitants will be living a healthy life. That was the impression one got when looking towards Malbros International Pvt. Ltd factory at village Mansooran Wal Bada near Zira. But as soon as we reach near the factory, we get to see another sight here. In front of the gate of this factory, people of dozens of nearby villages were sitting on dharna for the last 6 months demanding relief to the area from factory pollution from the Government.

This village is in Tehsil Jira of Ferozepur District which is 10 km from Jira and a little off Jira Faridkot Road. Going from Zira to Talwandi, first there is a closed sugarcane mill on the GT road on the east side, then a route to the fields, further next is Rattol Rohi village and just as you enter a road leads to Mansoor Wala Bada village through the fields on which this factory is located.

In mid-December, the police pulled down the langar tents on GT Road and blocked the road leading to the dharna. They also tried to pull down dharna tents, started raiding the houses of the leaders and some of the leaders were also arrested from their homes. The police administration gave the High Court order an excuse to do all this. On December 20, 2022, by doing barricading on a large scale, people are prevented from going towards the protest site Jamhoori Adhikar Sabha Punjab took notice of that and condemned that step of the government and called upon the people to unite and oppose that.

To investigate the issue in depth a team was formed by the state committee of the Sabha by taking members from Tarn Taran, Moga, Ludhiana, Barnala, Faridkot and Bathinda units of the Sabha. The list of team members is given below. On 26th and 27th December, 2022 the team visited the area to know the condition of the representatives of the joint front and went to the surrounding villages of Mansoorwala, Rataul Rohi, Mahianwala around the factory and also saw the dried up forest of sugarcane mill. The health problems of the people were also penned.

Tried to meet owners, managers and other responsible officials of the factory. The police officer posted on the gate told that there is no responsible officer in the factory, he told about an officer named Pawan Bansal and who lived in Zira and gave his phone number 9915800006, on which the contact of the team called but could not get through. The video interview given by the managing director of the factory, Pawan Bansal, to the correspondent of Spokesman was also heard. The Sabha also sent letters from the district officials and factory officials via email to try to get information.

The version of the leaders of the Zira Sanjha Morcha and the people of the villages

The team was told by the leaders of the front, the people of the villages and the women that the factory administration bought the land from the farmers by saying that a ghee factory is to be set up here. But the people of the area came to know this later that the factory was to make liquor. First 17 acres, then 25 acres and then it expanded to about 60-65 acres.

The factory owners started discharging their polluted effluent inside the closed sugar mill by putting bunds of two to two and a half feet. When the polluted water of the factory was released it rose up and spilled into the adjoining fields and ruined the crop and land of the nearby farmers. To grab more land, the factory owners released pigs in the land of the sugar mill, in which earlier polluted water was released, who destroyed crops on nearby farmers' lands. The factory people used to argue that pigs clean the water and remove the bad smell.

Some houses who were badly affected by the dirty water of the factory also sold the land to the factory owner and left. Because of this grief, Amandeep Singh's family sold seven acres of land along with their house to the factory and moved far away from the factory. It is said that one such farmer's house is still standing within the four walls of the industry. Factory owner in this manner grabbed the land by forcing the farmers to part with it due to helplessness. The investigation team saw two huge pits about 30-50 feet deep alongside the factory which were about 30 feet by 100 feet in size and that start from the road before the factory and go towards the sugar mill. These pits were also causing damage to the land of the farmers, which was surrounded between the factory, sugarcane mill. These pits are deep to the underground sand on which ash was thrown and poisoned effluent was sprinkled. These ashes despite dew on top of it flew in the air when it was thrown upwards. It is near the boundary wall of the factory and adjoining agriculture fields farmers have their fields. In the fields, the water had formed ditches and the farmer's land was eroded. This was to force the farmer to sell the land.

Village Mansoorwala Bada, Rataul Rohi and Mahianwale are mostly farmers owning less than 5 acres of land. The contaminated water destroyed the crop of the nearby farmers, so the farmers became alarmed. The company was informed and then Baldev Singh Kisan was compensated ₹60,000 per acre for the damage caused to the wheat crop.

Earlier, the dirty polluted water of the factory was dumped in the roadsides and canals through tankers. For some time it was also thrown in the adjacent drain but after the clamor of the people, 2-2.5 foot bunds were made and it was thrown in the forest land of the closed sugar mill. But that would often rise and enter the nearby fields. It used to destroy crops and also used to go into the drain. Now it is thrown under the ground via borewells.

The workers in the factory and the leaders of the joint front told that complete information was never given by the factory owner regarding how many borewells there are in the factory. When the Green Tribunal team came, the factory owners claimed that they had drilled four bores in 2007, out of which three are operational and the fourth is lying closed. But a mason with a boring machine that bores deep into the ground admitted to the leaders of the morcha that he had drilled four bores in the year 2019 and 2020, making a total of 7 bores. When a team of the Green Tribunal came, the leaders of the front showed a bore on the machineman's guidance. It looked freshly closed by welding, on which soil was also freshly dumped. This video was also seen by the investigative team of the Sabha. A pipe from Sua to get canal water was also there coming to the factory. It was said that it only lasts for three months in June-July and August, it does not last the whole year.

The villagers and the leaders of the joint front also said that apart from polluting ash in these villages grapple with problem of flies, mosquitoes, which make eating and living in houses and fields difficult. There are lots of small insects around the cattle. According to the people of village Mansoor Wala and Rataul Rohi until 2018, factory workers used to spray insecticides to kill flies and mosquitoes which has since stopped.

It was brought to the attention of the team that whichever direction the wind is coming from the factory i.e. East, West, North or South, on the same side, the smoke and ashes of the factory are blown far and scattered, due to which the air gets polluted, stink spreads and causes harm to animals, human bodies, plants, birds and the environment.

People living in the villages on three sides of the factory - Mansoor Wala Bada, Rataul Rohi and Mahian Wala said that the smoke and ash of the factory are on the roofs of houses, yards-kitchens, clothes which not only pollutes the air but also affects the food items and green fodder.

The leaders of the Joint Front Zira told that for the NOC which was obtained while setting up the factory, out of the 173 signatures signed for the consent of the people, 52 persons were from Faridkot. The local people and panchayats were also asked to write on various pretexts. First in the nearby villages signing was requested from villagers while spraying mosquito repellent. These were later used in annual reports or have been used as consent for various agreements. According to the villagers, the signatures of the farmers who came to collect ash on tractor-trolley also used to be taken. In the year 2017 when the hearing was held during the meeting for Environmental Impact Assessment this information was not given to the locals in the area.

The people who signed the papers for the factory during this hearing most of them were brought from a distance of 30 to 60 km, because the factory owner at that time was sitting MLA of the Faridkot constituency. Due to that even the factory workers also signed during the hearing. Some of the people of these villages were invited to juice and tea and they signed.

The investigation team also observed the sugar mill land that has become barren due to the contaminated water from the liquor factory where some goats were grazing. The goat herders said that when the sugar mill was closed there were huge eucalyptus trees that withered due to the polluted water being let out by the liquor factory. When the water was stopped from being thrown into the drains it began to flow into the farmers' fields. When farmers protested they had to stop putting it in the forest, then the factory owners threw seeds of mountain kicker (*prosopis juliflora*) were scattered and plowed by driving a tractor. After this a forest of this invasive mountain kickers was formed, but near the mill where the polluted water fell for a long time even these hardy kickers are still few and far between. Their intention is that no one should go there. Goat herders Shepherds told that earlier they also worked in factories (sugar mills or alcohol), but due to asthma (breathing) and due to skin diseases, he quit his job and started tending goats.

The scary picture of dirty water on people's health

The workers of village Mansoor Wala Bada, Rataul Rohi and Mahianwala said that they work in the fields. They do not go to the factory, but they complain of skin disease. They come into contact with water and soil, it is inevitable that the soil and water have been affected. The people and the leaders of the front said that the factory has never done anything for the health of the people.

Ratul Rohi

The investigation team made a special visit to the three villages and collected information from the families of the pollution victims. First when Team reached Rataul Rohi, the first victim was found in the family of a farm laborer (Avtar Singh), whose 35-year-old wife had died of throat cancer three months ago. A small room in his house was there in which little girls aged 11 and 5 years and a four-year-old boy were found. He being daily wage earner was out on job. The neighbor who the team met told that he himself is also sick. All this is because of water of his house. A 60-year-old man also passed away in November 2022 with throat cancer and he lived behind his house. There are many other cases which are being treated. Village people and those connected to health work said that people hide diseases. Do not share with everyone. Some because of being poor

are also unable to get themselves tested. Skin, respiratory (asthma), stomach disease, chest, cough, jaundice is widespread. A 24-year-old woman is suffering from paralysis. A woman working in the same factory is admitted to a hospital in Moga, suffering from a terrible disease. Liver defects are reported even in newborns. There are complaints and women suffer from underdeveloped growth and abortion problems during pregnancy. It has been reported that around 400 children remained undeveloped in the mothers' wombs.

Mansurawala Bada

A driver told the team in village Mansoor Wala Bada that a few years ago he used to work on water tankers and the factory owner used 6 large oil tankers of 25000 liter capacity for two rounds ie 12 tankers filled with this polluted water was sent to Moga, Makhu, Ferozepur, Faridkot and nearby areas. They used to empty in the drains and sometimes even in the canals. Water used to be stinky. The work of throwing was done after seven o'clock in the night and in the early hours of the morning. Eventually people started coming after us with sticks and two times we even got caught. Factory driver said when people started coming after us with sticks and shooing us away we brought the fear of loss of life to the attention of the owner, so the owners stopped throwing the water and told us that he would clean the water inside the factory using a treatment plant.

They will make water storage ponds in the new land the factory bought. Then he quit the job. But when a union of workers started to be formed in the factory, he was called again by Bansal who put him back to work. When the task of union formation failed, then he was removed from job again using some false pretext. The driver was now sick and his body was now unable to work.

The people of village Mansoor Wal Bada also told that due to polluted air and stench and due to water pollution and polluted water entering farm fields people have been quarreling with the factory owner who even tendered an apology in front of the responsible people and agreed to not release polluted water on that side. Due to the suffering of such pollution spread around them, some families left their homes near the factory and went to far away places.

Factory pollution, fumes and toxic ash that fall on the green fodder caused death of 70 cattle that consumed it in Mansoorwal Bada. And when the villagers complained about it, teams of experts from Jalandhar and Ferozepur came and checked their ashy fodder and told the villagers that the reason for the death of animals is the toxic ash on the fodder and not any disease. The teams went back in the evening. Factory owners paid 15000 to 25000 rupees compensation through cheques to the owners of the cattle killed. The villagers were very surprised when the investigation teams later mentioned nitrogen in the manure as the cause of toxicity of the fodder.

While the villagers gave information about cancer and liver diseases, they also told that with polluted water heart diseases have also increased. A 60-year-old man who worked in a factory and who came two years ago from the hospital in Ludhiana after getting a bypass done, the doctor said that don't drink water of the area, but get it from outside. 70 percent of the people of the village are suffering from respiratory disease ie asthma and use inhalers. 22 people have died due to various cancers since the factory was setup. A 65-year-old man has cancer of the esophagus, i.e. the large intestine. He was being treated first from Faridkot Medical College in 2019 and then from Ludhiana. Another one who worked as a helper in a factory for eight years developed a skin disease due to being in a dirty water. 6000 was paid to him and his attendance was taken for fifteen days.

Skin diseases are common among the villagers. Lumps are common in the skin of the body. No one ever tested the lumps. Cases of knee disease are common. A 72 year old person died on 22 December 2022 of throat cancer. Two persons of 53 years and 62 years

are in the terrible grip of skin disease. There is a scar on the head and the skin is also red. Being a labourer, he is unable to get treatment. There is no dispensary in the village. 9 cancer patients in the village are there whose treatment is ongoing. 5 have died this year alone. 3 villagers have died after suffering from liver diseases in last few months. Abortion of premature babies, stomach, liver skin are widespread. Poisonous smoke also causes diseases of eyes in humans and animals. A woman of the village was also a victim of jaundice. Women not getting pregnant or the fetus is not progressing. People are unable to even get tested. Also from the problem of infertility in women can't be denied. Three out of three members of a family of Mansoor Wala Bada are victims of a disease. There are about 100 houses of laborers in the village and one or the other member of every laborer's family is suffering from disease. Skin diseases are common. The villagers say that because of the factory, there is an abundance of flies and even eating food is a difficult job.

Mahian Wala

In Mahianwale village, 95 percent people are victims of some disease or the other. The population of the village is around 3000. Most of the farmers have 2.5-3 acres of land, laborers have about 100 houses. Health experts say Cancer, liver, respiratory diseases, skin diseases are widespread in the village. A person who is 40-42 years old is a skin disease patient. Another gentleman is suffering from cancer. Another person living in the neighborhood is suffering from cancer. Three members of a same family were suffering from head cancer and another from nose cancer. They died around two years apart. One person has cancer of the spine. One woman and one male are TB sufferers and three women also had miscarriages due to underdeveloped children during pregnancy. A 75-year-old man, suffering from tuberculosis for 3 years, is prohibited by the doctor from drinking water from the village filter. He boils the water and drinks it. A woman and a man suffer from jaundice. Another woman is a TB patient. Harbans Singh's five buffaloes died and paid 65,000 to buy another and that too died soon after being bought.

A similar situation has been reported in the villages of Vakil Wala, Sodhi Wala and Mallewal. In Mahianwala village there have been five cancer deaths, two each in Mallewala and Sodhiwala. Two deaths each from cancer in Neelewala and Mallewala have happened. In Vakilan wala, there have been three deaths and four patients due to cancer. In Neelewala and Mallewala there have been three deaths each due to Jaundice. The people of Mahiyanwale said that Kachhoana Government Hospital SMO had sent 10 samples of water from nearby villages of public places such as schools, out of which eight failed, meaning the water is not fit to drink, only two were ok to some extent. Government Primary School Mansoor Wala Bada, Government Middle School Sodhi Wala, Senior Secondary School, Mewa Singh's bore, Borewell of Manjit Singh son of Mahinder Singh Rataul Rohi, Govt.Elementary School Mahianwala, The office of truck operator union and that of Bhajan son of Satish Mahianwale is not drinkable. That of Baldev Singh Sodhi and Rataul Rohi Gurdwara is somewhat ok.

Apart from this TDS 1000 in a bore of Vakilwala village, 700-800 of Rataul Rohi and Kachhoia village water is not potable. The president of Baba Dunichand Samadh said that the 670 feet deep bore test was done twice. Once TDS came between 1100 to 1300 and the second time it came to 1800.

Family members of labourers of the closed factory said that after the closure of the factory, their economic condition has become very difficult. First work in the factory the laborers used to bring home 10,000 rupees a month. They have not found work for last four months,

We go to look for work in other villages. Among the women who came to collect firewood in the uninhabited area of sugar mill One told that she herself is sitting on chest lump and pain and her husband is also sick. Farm workers children are also suffering from diseases and are deprived of education. Neither government dispensaries are there in the affected area nor the factory owners have arranged for treatment or opened a dispensary. The people of the factory have paid no attention to health. Along with this, no arrangement for the treatment of workers in the factory has come to the notice of the workers.

In terms of drinking water, the most affected villages around the factory are Mansoor Wala Bada, Mansoor Wala Chhota, Sodhiwala, Ratol Rohi, Vakilan Vala, Sekhwan, Sanher, Pandhori Khatrian, Mahianwala Kalan, Mahianwala Khurd.

In many villages, the government and the administration have never taken the testing of drinking water seriously and nor have they paid attention on a war footing towards a scientific investigation of the adverse effects of drinking contaminated water on humans and animals.

have noticed This poisonous water will not remain limited only to the area of Zira, it will spread far and wide. There are signs of a major human catastrophe. Taking care of health is the responsibility of the government towards the people but in these villages there is negligence on this aspect.

People's awareness, mobilization and government repression

For the last 16 years, the people of the area have been fighting against it in various ways. Dharna started from 24 July 2022 has created huge awareness among the people. For the first time all sections of the population are realizing that the polluted water of the liquor factory, which is being discharged underground, is affecting not only the water and environment of this area but is also adversely affecting human lives and generations. With the existing terrible diseases, where one class seems unable to get treatment, the other class is in the clutches of the expensive health industry (private hospitals) and is getting destroyed physically as well as economically. The threat of extinction of their future generations is looming. This is the reason that in the area 50 panchayats have passed a resolution and put up the demand to the administration to close this factory which is a human eating monster, but Punjab's government did not listen to the voices of the victims.

On the one hand, the government has accepted to give 20 crores as per the order received on the petition filed by Deep Malhotra in the High Court. On the other hand, the police force from across the state have rained sticks and swooped on the people, the Langar's tent was destroyed by JCB machines. The police administration ordered the Granthi and Gurdwara of village Mansoorwala Bada to pick up the Holy Guru Granth Sahib and take it back to the Gurdwara.

If people had forgotten the desecration of Guru Granth Sahab at Bargadi, the police would not have hesitated to take even more coercive steps. The people of Punjab had understood the conspiracy of the police and government system. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann promised justice to the Morcha delegation, and at the same time sent police force to fix the people with force.

Not only that but also the Panchayat Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal also followed the policy of deception. A cunning move was made to end the dharna by giving big assurances without any plan for followup, which went futile. After the incident of 18 December 2022, these brave villages became barracks of the police of 10 districts. Approximately 67 people were arrested and thrown into the jails on the same day. And started raiding people's houses by filing FIRs. Licenses of weapons of some of the people were canceled and the rest were ordered to deposit the weapons.

On the other hand a case of registered under sections 153, 192, 158, 159 and 288 against pro-people doctor and columnist Dr. Gurcharan Noorpur and raids were conducted against him. He had not raised voice, didn't pick up a stick, just brought people's pain to people with words. On 17 December 2022 night the raids started at the houses of the leaders of the Zira Sanjha Morcha.

Arrests were made and families were threatened with harassment. But the consciousness of continuing the struggle learnt from the Kisan Struggle made the solidarity of the struggling people stronger and has played a role in further strengthening the spirit of struggle. 18-19-20 December 2022 in this area were days of utter terror. All village roads and trunk road were blockaded in more than a dozen villages to prevent people from reaching the protest site. But the spirited people of the area in only three days broke some barriers and joined the dharna sit-in via the fields from wherever they found a way and kept the struggle alive in biting cold. On 20 December 2022, the Sabha team saw this picture of repression with their own eyes. Thousands of police had sealed the way to the factory. Armed with water cannons, tear gas shells, sticks and weapons including horse mounted police and every one below the rank of IG including officers, DC and SDM etc joined hands to sabotage the protest against pollution of the factory. But the struggling people broke the barrier and reached the protest site. The police filed an FIR against 1100 agitators, including the names of some farm leaders. But this struggle could not be dispersed. If the government wants to get rid of this struggle and protest by calling it a law and order issue then what answer do they have to the question of the destruction of the environment and the destruction of people's health? They not only raided the houses of the leaders of the struggle and activists, but they also collected details of the property and submitted them in the High Court so that losses of factory and cost of deployment of forces under the Property Loss Prevention Act can be recovered by attaching lands and properties. (Remember, such a law was brought by the Badal government which he did not implement immediately because of the massive mobilization of all the organizations, then it was implemented in the guise of the arrest of Dera Sirsa head whose supporters did vandalism and arson). So this trick is part of the state and central government's policy to make the struggling people leaderless, like the UP government took arbitrary steps to seal the houses of the activists who were struggling against the Citizens Amendment Act.

The issue of awareness in the area on polluted air

Earlier also many a times anger has been breaking out and the voice has also been raised by people of the area against the issue of polluted air in this area and the adverse effects on the health of people and animals which was being postponed again and again by factory owners. Since 2017, foul water had started coming from several tube wells near the factory. Especially on the side of the road of Rataul Rohi. When the factory itself dug a deep borewell on that side it started continuously discharging foul smelling water, which continued running for several days and the matter became hot. In June 2022 at the camp of Baba Duni Chand's Samadha in the nearby village of Mahian Wale In the langar hall of the Gurdwara, when the villagers made a deep bore up to 670 feet, what came out was not only dirty but also foul smelling. When even many hours after running the bore continuously it was still dirty a discussion broke out among the people of the area. This water was also tested whose TDS came to 1910. A copy of the same is with the investigation team. A meeting of the Villagers of the area was called who gathered to take stock of the situation. It is worth mentioning that Baba Duni Chand has a lot of following in the area. The religious faith of the people of the area is connected. Dera President Baba Nirmal Singh said that Representatives of panchayats and public organizations of about 40 villages of the area were present in the meeting and it was decided to bring this matter to the attention of the administration. A video by Roman who is also a committee member was put up on social media and gave 7 days time, but no response was received. Then another gathering was called at the samadh of Dera Baba Duni Chand in which it was decided to start a dharna at the factory gate itself from 24 July 2022 and to start a fight for closure of this factory. There the villagers spoke about how dirty water was the cause of the of the grip of terrible diseases in the area. So an indefinite dharna started that day against the factory from that day. The victims of the area itself did not know that the Malbros factory was the cause of polluted water and the terrible tragedy in the area.

The investigation team asked for some samples of water from around the factory, but the villagers showed bottles filled with contaminated water only as they had never tried to get the laboratory report of this polluted water. Yes, they do use RO for drinking water. The inspection team also examined blocked filters of RO installed at Village Mansuran Wala Bada installed just about a week back. According to villagers no RO remains capable of cleaning the water after two months and the filters get blocked.

The farmers never tried to get the laboratory report of the soil and nor did they think about taking a sample of air polluted with smoke of the factory. While according to the instructions of the Green Tribunal, such factories should be subject to automatic pollution controls.

Eminent persons, including Rajya Sabha member Sant Seechewal, Justice Jasbir Singh, also took samples of water from the factory in the area and the reports said that water was suitable for crops and for drinking and there is no pollution. But this report is completely contrary to the experiences of the people of the area.

Malbros Liquor Distillery

Registered on March 24, 1988, Malbros International Pvt. Ltd. company bought land at village Mansoorwala Bada in 2003 to set up a liquor factory and in 2006 and the production of liquor in the factory started after the No Objection Certificate (i.e. government approval) was done. One arm of the land which was purchased earlier was adjacent to the sugar mill, where sugarcane was sown and next to it there was a drainage channel for rain water etc.

Set up in 2003, the units of this liquor factory which are made from grains ie wheat, maize and barley etc was inaugurated by Sukhbir Singh Badal, the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, in September 2007. It is said to have received approval on December 26, 2006. Its capacity was one lakh litres, then. This factory was further expanded to make ethanol later. According to the records of 2015, the share capital of this company is 10,00,00,000 (10 crores) and the paid-up capital is Rs. 3,48,01,100 (three crore forty eight lakh one thousand one hundred). Its directors include Satish Sood, Dimmi Malhotra, Iswant Singh and Gautam Malhotra.

Factory expansion

The company in its detailed project report dated September 26, 2016, has proposed 2.50-2.50 (i.e. A total of 5) lakh litres to set up two units and a power generation unit of 40 MW, on which a total expenditure is Rs 583 crore is to be done. The first unit was to be completed in three years and the second approximately in the next three. 37 acres of land, which the company had purchased till this time, was said to be enough for the purpose. Sugarcane bagasse and grains-wheat, barley and rice were to be used for the production of ethanol.

According to the scheme-

Raw material	Quantity (lakh liters per day)	Total Water Usage (Lakh Litres per day)	Reused water (lakh litres per day)	Actual water consumption (lakh litres per day)
Molasses	1.60	55.84	40.7535	1508.65
Grain	3.40	95.86	69.8500	2601.00
Total	5.00	151.70	110.7035	4109.65

On 26th September, 2016, this application was submitted to the Department of Industries, and further to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on 26th December, 2016. Environmental Impact Assessment related permission was obtained on January 15, 2018 and a revised application was filed in July 2018.

The company consumes 1100 to 1300 tonnes of grain per day in both its new units to make alcohol (ethanol). According to the same record, 500-750 metric tons of coal, 1000 to 1200 tons of paddy husk and 600 to 700 tons of natural gas is used to produce it. Company records state that the total requirement of water for running the factory is 108.58 lakh litres, out of which 41.09 lakh litres fresh canal water is taken daily and 67.49 lakh liters (polluted) water is treated and reused. On this basis a total of 5 + 1 (Old) lakh liters per day ethanol is produced by the company. According to the owners, no amount of bad water is left. So there is no need for water disposal. According to the records, the company has set up treatment plants of Rs.58 crores and Rs10 crores are shown to keep the plant operational.

India Narrative revealed that the factory also produces some co-products with ethanol. The company website has a few other chemicals are also available for sale such as (1) Silver Potassium Cyanide, (2) Sodium Chloride (3) Sodium Sulphate (9) Fesoteridine (5) Monoethanolamine. Out of these, except sodium chloride (common salt), the other four chemicals are deadly.

Scientists' views on pollutants

At present two of scientists formerly with Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and now residing in Canada and associated with waste water treatment have expressed their views Harmanjit Singh Dhandli (India Narrative and Punjabi Tribune) and Sanjeev Ahluwalia (video interview), which are of great importance:

Top Canadian scientist Harmanjit Dhandali have brought to attention the flaws in the pollution test reports.

"The official pollution reports did not investigate whether the effluents from the Malbros distillery are polluting with harmful organic pollutants such as melanoidin and phthalates when they enter soil and ground water through factory effluents.

Distilleries all over the world throw these chemicals through the waste streams, which enter the earth and ground water and when checking for pollution, these chemicals in the soil and water must be checked for presence. Because these polluting substances enter the ground water and come out via hand pumps and tube wells. If this water is not treated in time scientifically it spreads diseases among humans and animals.

In addition to melanoidins, phthalates were found in contaminated distillery effluents. Di-Butyl-phthalates, Di-N-Octylphthalate, Benzenepropanoic acid, Butanedioic acid and 2-hydroxyisocaproic acid, which harm the human body by manipulating hormones in and many bodily functions can be altered, physical development, it causes dangerous changes in human behavior and physiological balance from which infertility, disability and dementia arise. Also present in contaminated water are Polyphenols substances that cause many types of skin diseases. If in the human body more than 1300 milligrams per liter of phenol enters, diarrhoea, dark colored urine, mouth ulcers and sores may occur. There are many types of stomach diseases like heartburn that are caused.

Even humans and animals can die. He said that if such water is used for irrigation of the fields there is a reduction in crop production.

Tests to find Melanoidins (amino carbonyl polymers) and phthalates (butyl phthalate di-n-octyl phthalates) dissolved in the water should be done so that those issues related to health and life can be solved, which the local villagers have been raising for more than four months.

Chemicals like melanoidins and phthalates cause cancer, endocrine gland genetic disorder, neonatal diseases (mutagenic disorders), infertility and diabetes etc.

Remediation of water contaminated by these chemicals is not an easy task, as conventional treatment (remediation) plants do not have the ability to metabolize such pollutants. If these pollutants are being continuously released, they cause deep and lethal health effects over time even though quantities found in tests may be small.

The samples taken and tested by the NGT investigation team did not contain any such test which tells about the presence of these pollutants in the soil or subsoil. The scientist said that due to these chemicals, diseases can spread and even death of humans and animals can be caused. For accurate detection of hazardous substance pollution of the category of melanoidins and phthalates continuous testing of soil, plants, animals and humans is essential. In addition to taking plant samples, animal and human blood, horn and hair samples are also used to check for pollution. Along with the basic tests performed, special types of tests are used to test for melanoidins and phthalates which are very important.

He also said that "we do not know whether the NGT's investigation team has HPLS (high-performance liquid chromatography), GMCS (gas chromatography-mass spectrometer), and NMCS (liquid chromatography-mass spectrometers) which are necessary instruments."

Although no tests were conducted for ethanol and methanol, the NGT report clearly shows the three agencies that tested the samples have given different results. Dhandli told that all three laboratories reported different amounts of TDS.

For example, the amount of nitrate is 14.2 as per one laboratory, 0.0 ppm by another and 10.2 by the third has been reported.

In a report on COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) samples taken from inside the Malbros factory. There are also differences. One laboratory measured COD at 28 , another at 48 and the third at 27. No test was done to determine the amount of fly ash.

Dhandali further says that the Chief Agricultural Officer, Ferozepur, tested only samples of 5 items. and described them as normal. But these tests could not confirm that the water is even contaminated or not.

Because the NGT's investigation team was not told by the Malbros factory that they produce three other chemicals-

Silver potassium cyanide, fesoteradine and monoethanol are also produced, so these dangerous and highly toxic chemicals have not even been tested for.

(India Narrative)

Punjabi Tribune (January 8, 2023) - Harmanjit Dhandli under the title, *Effluent coming out of distilleries.*

According to the article

The issue of environment pollution is global. There are many types of harmful substances in the effluent from liquor factories. Some important questions arise in this regard

Researchers Wioleta Mikucka and Magdalena Zielinska of Poland's University of Warmia and Mazury in their research paper *Effluent coming out of Distilleries (Distillery Stillage: Characteristics, Treatment and Valorisation)* writes, "The distillery's scum/' from the sugar and amino acids in the effluent is 2 percent of naturally occurring substances called melanoidins. Melanoidins contain abundant dark brown pigment. To the waste water treatment plants from the distilleries Melanoidins are not eliminated by conventional treatment plants used for purification. So the water, which distilleries pass off as treated water, is dark brown in color because substances are not biodegradable in nature. Due to this, the effluents from the distillery is very difficult to treat"

During the production of liquor or alcohol from molasses or coarse grains in distilleries melanoidins are produced which are based on amino polymers. The type and composition of melanoidins produced in distilleries is liquor or alcohol depends on raw materials used for production, acidity, temperature maintained as well as the total time taken for the entire process. Hard melanoidins are very difficult to process and to break down and eliminate naturally. Due to its anti-oxidant properties it acts as a toxin to the micro-organisms in the treatment plant, which slows down the cleaning process of the contaminated water. Only 6-7% of melanoidins can be eliminated in industrial effluents using conventional biological (BGH) methods. Removal of melanoidins is a very difficult and expensive task and cannot be performed without secondary and tertiary stage treatments.

[In first stage refining the sludge is cleaned through biological processes while in second and third stages refining involves the use of chemicals filters, membranes (sieves) to completely clean the sludge. In the first stage, easily digestible substances are eliminated but for melanoidins, phthalates secondary and tertiary treatment is required to remove poly-phenyls and heavy metals etc. They can also be converted into ashes by incineration at very high temperatures. It is also important to note that melanoidins, phthalates and phenols are tested for high quality. HPLC and GCMS can only be done by using high precision microchromatography devices.

Amount of waste water to prepare liquor

.- In the research papers written by different scientists, it is stated that based for molasses or coarse grains

Distilleries produce 8 to 15 liters of excess waste water while producing one liter of alcohol. And while making alcohol, a lot of water is used to prepare a slurry from molasses or malted grain flour. After extracting liquor or alcohol, the excess left over after distillation of liquor or alcohol being highly contaminated and dark brown in colour, it cannot be used for any other purpose. Due to which the water coming out of the distilleries is highly contaminated.

- Besides hazardous melanoidins and phthalates mentioned above in the distillery effluent has many other polluting elements and substances present. Contaminated water is very acidic and dark brown in color, containing nitrates, phosphates, heavy metals, proteins, and dissolved solids. Besides, many organic substances are also present. If this contaminated water mixes with water of lakes, ponds, rivers then will not be fit for survival of aquatic life and if it is exposed on land unchecked, it greatly reduces soil fertility and makes it toxic.

Refinement of contaminated water

- First, second and third stage treatment methods are used to treat waste water of distilleries. Among the first-stage cleaning methods there are two types of methods - the presence of oxygen (aerobic) and the absence of oxygen (anaerobic). Ways to clean pie. Various types of treatment plants based on the above methods have been developed, which differ in water cleaning capacity, performance and time required.

First-stage biological treatment can only clean contaminated water to a certain extent and is not very effective (about 6-7 percent) in removing melanoidins and phthalates. A combination of chemical, physical, heat-based techniques form secondary and tertiary stage methods like coagulation and flocculation, membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, incineration etc.

The above second and third grade composite modifications can clean the contaminated water almost completely but it is expensive.

According to experts, organic and sieving methods can be used continuously which is more time consuming, is capable of cleaning contaminated water to a greater extent. modern Methods such as concentration followed by incineration in the presence of oxygen. Purification in the absence of oxygen - digestion followed by polishing in the presence of oxygen etc. The cost of setting up a treatment plant to clean the water with methods,. The cost is two to four times higher setting up a distillation plant and subsequently even more expensive to keep them running continuously.

To get rid of excess water from distilleries, evaporating it in several steps (multi effect evaporation) and incineration have been developed as new ways in which the water is converted to steam and the residual offending material is burned in boilers. Through these methods, it is possible to get rid of the polluted air, but it costs a lot of electricity. In order to avoid expenses, sometimes the owners of the distilleries..employees or workers without cleaning the water push it outside or underground.

Legally, the management and disposal of waste by-products produced in distilleries is the most important condition for approval of the factory, but for the treatment of contaminated water, distillery owners resort to various methods to get rid of contaminated water due to the huge costs involved. Loopholes are found and used. Open spaces near many distilleries are contaminated and waste water is let out in drains or canals. But where there is a fear of people making complaints the the waste water being dumped underground is often heard of.

Due to corruption, reverse boring through deep borewells to send contaminated water underground is not impossible. The testing of samples from distilleries/factories is always under suspicion. Government institutions do not publicize the pollution data of distilleries/factories and do not operate in transparency. To ensure that distilleries are treating contaminated waste properly and not discharging contaminated liquor into open spaces or drains or underground, electricity used in factories' treatment plants, constantly replaced items and used chemicals should be continuously accounted for.

- I have never heard or seen such a case abroad. When some waste water came out of a fruit packing factory here (in Canada), the factory was closed for several days. Because of strict laws big corporate houses have their most polluting factories in developing or poor countries where they have been transferred.

Colonel M Nagarj and Prof. And Chief Professor Arvind Kumar's research paper 'Waste water from Distillery' says if you concentrate and then incinerate the waste then on the equipment required for such a process four times more money is spent on the distillery.'

There are many methods of extracting beneficial substances from sewage and their use in other ways. But after separating these beneficial substances in the left over water the amount of harmful elements increases so much that complete purification is very important.

Scientist Sanjeev Ahluwalia confirmed these facts in his interview and told that how from a student researching with him during his tenure at PAU Ludhiana samples taken of the effluent discharged from the cardboard mill Ahmedgarh into the Sirhand Canal, which is 80 km from the factory downstream ie taken from near Bathinda, in the results the amount of pollutant was found to be several hundred times higher than the test reports of the Punjab Pollution Control Board and the then Chief Secretary Punjab issued a notice to the concerned officer. It is example of corruption of the government officials by the factory owners in their favor.

He also said that in the present case, the methods of taking samples may have been wrongly adopted. He had claimed that within seven days the pollution spread by the factory could be brought to light. Due to awareness in western countries about the huge costs involved in remediation of dirty effluents manufacturers are now setting up such plants in countries where pollution control regulations are lax or where rules may be circumvented.

Published in 2010 by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha under the chairmanship of Jagdeep Singh Nakai a an eleven member committee's report, which included an inquiry into the pollution emitted by distilleries, flaws were reported in Malbros Factory at Zira. Previous governments of Badal Dal Akali government, Captain Amarinder Singh's Congress government and AAP party's Mann government no action was taken against any factory, especially Malbros International Zira, for violations. In response to the writ petition filed by Deep Malhotra in the High Court to compensate the damage caused by the strike, the govt did not consider it important to submit that Vidhan Sabha Committee report and quickly submitted the money.

Conclusions:

The Sabha has reached the following conclusions on the basis of the above facts

1. The people of Zira area have brought the issue of environmental pollution to the fore and therefore struggling since 24 July 2022, they deserve congratulations. Malbros International factory in the area is also exploiting large quantities of canal and underground waters and land and also polluting ground water, soil and air.

a) The fact that a mason with a boring machine to bore deep into the ground borewells admitted to the leaders of the front that he had dug four bores in the year 2019 and 2020, making it a total of 7 bores. When the Green Tribunal team came, the leaders of the front showed with mason's inputs a bore which was closed by new welding, on which fresh soil was also put. They were also shown a bore which emits foul smelling dirty water. Although the factory officials have already burned the motor and starter on the bore the previous night it was given so that it could not be started again. But the people brought their own motor and generator to show to the visiting team that dirty water was coming from that bore even after running it for 40 minutes.

Samples were taken of which two were locked and two were taken away. In the report

They did not test those elements that affect the human body and animal bodies.

This question has been raised by a scientist from Canada on the report, which was given by the Green Tribunal regarding the factory and which the factory owner took to the High Court.

The Green Tribunal neither took samples of drinking water from nearby villages nor checked the water being thrown underground. It is more likely that these are the same bores, through which the factory's pollution is thrown into the ground, because there is no other great source of pollution in the area.

b) The acid water of the factory effluent destroyed eucalyptus trees in the middle of the sugar mill forest, which were about four feet round and thirty-thirty feet high trees, this has destroyed the greenery.

c) There is no doubt that after 2019, the polluted water was neither thrown in the outskirts of the liquor factory nor dumped in the dry forest of the sugar mill and not thrown out by means of tankers. So where does the factory consume millions of liters of waste water? The factory never replied to this question. Nor has Pollution Control Board or other government departments tried to find out. For example if the factory produces $5 + 1 = 6$ lakh liters of ethanol and uses 41.10 lakh liters of canal water per day or uses underground water and does not emit any extra water, then can 30 lakh litres water fly in the air?

d) Scientists have claimed that distilleries around the world produce for one liter of ethanol about 8 to 15 liters of polluted water which is discharged during the process. Cleaning that up is a difficult, long and expensive process. Therefore Malbros also discharges $6 \times 8 = 48$ lakh liters of dirty sewage. This estimate is based on reports by scientists to have at least 8-15 liters of sewage discharged per litre of ethanol. In all probability the actual amount of discharge would be in excess of this minimum amount.

In an interview given to Spokesman, the company official claimed that their RO system cleans the whole waste water, but only ROs in public places and inside houses two-thirds of it is wasted and ends up in drains. This claim does not seem to be correct.

They have kept only Rs 58,410-68 crores for their treatment plants, while scientists say that this plant will be two to four times the cost of the plant (583 crores). This question needs to be considered by the High Court and the government and still this question remains open.

e) Based on the amount of water being used by Malbros company, it can be estimated that how much such industry is damaging the natural resources in Punjab.

It is claimed that the factory management also extracts a lot of water from the ground. This was confirmed by the villagers. They keep adding another pipe of 10-20 feet to their bore pipe every year but this year since the (24th July 2022) Dharna started, the factory is closed, then the level of their farm motors has also gone up they didn't need to put in more pipes.

2. Last year, residents of Mansoorwala Bada alleged that a team of animal health experts said the cause of death of 70 animals on the spot was poisoning by the factory but in the official report the cause of death was said to be nitrogen found in fodder so this report should be made public. It is matter of investigation if the factory owners use any thing other than coal, rice husk and gas as a fuel. The samples of the ash used in the factory should be tested so that the reality can be brought out. The claim of the factory officials that the ashes of the factory are not allowed to fly is denied by the residents of the area. The sand in the pits still has ash which despite being wet due to dew was flying when thrown slightly upwards in the air, which the team members saw themselves. Of this tests should be done to detect the toxic elements in it.

3. In three villages, Mansoorwala Bada, Mahianwala and Rataul Rohi villages, Caesar, stomach, liver, skin, diseases of the lungs, kidneys, heart, female abortions, fetal and infant development is shocking and heartbreaking and the population is headed for economic and existential disaster. Usually for cancer and liver patients, the behavior of the society and people changes, they hide the disease due to this aspect as well and most of the people stay sick at home. They are even unable to get treatment due to financial hardship. Diseases are also widespread in livestock. For the treatment of humans and animals in the village there are no dispensaries. In this regard, the government did not conduct house-to-house screening tests so that the reality can be brought out and the people can be relieved.
4. Even inside the factory, there is no special arrangement for workers' health facilities (examination etc.), only first aid (applying bandages in the case of severe wounds) is heard. It has been said to take the victim to the district hospital Ferozepur in the condition of any incident.
5. The factory has a license to manufacture ethanol, which has been extended in 2017, but its business involves the marketing (sale) of some other chemicals, including silver potassium cyanide, fesoterodine, monoethanol, sodium sulphate, sodium chloride are there. The answer to this question was neither given to the journalist who asked the question nor in response to the letter of the Sabha by authorities and pollution control organizations have given. But still about this fact the authorities did not even deny it. In such a situation, factory and administration are guilty of playing with people's life and property. The relationship of this factory with those chemicals is under question. The investigation team of the Sabha understands that a detailed and in-depth investigation of the entire business of the factory owners be done.
6. No Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for these villages by the company and the people or any health facilities by the government to these villages could be seen. They enjoy tax exemptions, showing expenses here and there on tournaments etc. and run from the real responsibility.
7. The owner of the Malbros Factory was also an Akali Dal MLA during the Badal government. The business of the factory, which was erected in 1988, has multiplied manifold. Its business has spread across the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. They setup this factory by using all kinds of tricks, telling lies, luring and forcing the farmers. Covered up the damage caused by the factory in the surrounding villages by shady means, such as political and financial power and nothing was allowed to come to the fore. A man with political connections and financial muscle no one raised voice against him. He also has the power to influence the administration. Such an evil industrialist, who is damaging humanity and robbing the government treasury is called by economists as crony capitalist. Regrettably, the Punjab and Haryana High Court instead of giving priority to saving the earth over toxic air and saving victimized villagers, gave priority to the profits of a capitalist, which he is recovering under the name of damages. Thus the question arises on the 'justice' itself.
8. According to the information given by the people, the process of conducting the public hearing was wrong and illegal and the officer who came to conduct public consultation also played a non-responsible role, for such a hearing the officers and owners are responsible.
9. The people of the 50 villages of Zira have rightfully raised their voice. Each and every word of theirs should be considered. The polluted water and ash of the Malbros factory have affected the right to life of the people of these villages and adversely affected Fauna (deaths of cattle) and the environment. This question is of saving human existence and future generations and to save the species, the natural resources, air, water, land, flora and fauna to save and keep them pollution free. To save the environment, animals and nature.

is The bombing of Hiroshima (1945) also destroyed the greenery. What Bhopal gas disaster (1985) did in a short duration this Malbros factory is doing slowly over time.

10. The Sabha feels that the Government should listen to the voice of the people. By force and force of rod or that of law it should not be tried to be crushed. By struggle against environmental pollution, people are fulfilling their dharma and responsibility, the government also has its own responsibility and all laws against polluting the environment should be followed diligently and should be strictly enforced. The issue of environment is the main issue in the struggle against this factory which affects the entire public life.

Social development should be to improve people's lives and not destructive to resources - air, water, earth, trees, plants, animals, and human. It should create adequate and sustainable employment. Polluter pays is an established international principle. So all these aspects will be the core of our industrial policy. This is destruction not development. Industry whether priority or non-priority should be given permission only pollution standards should be strictly enforced. The government should ensure pro-people and pollution-free industrial policy without plundering natural resources i.e. air, water.

11. In the case of this factory, the important point is that for the pollution caused by it, the Govt., The Pollution Control Board and the administrative authorities are equally responsible, because they for their narrow political interests and illegitimate financial gains not only ignored criminal violations of the law, but also in investigating them covered up for the factory owners.

This is the reason why the Punjab government had to give such a huge amount on the High Court order to factory owners as compensation. The above parties ie govt and administration never even once did they dare to say in the court that those really entitled to compensation were actually affected villagers who are suffering from cancer, skin, stomach ailments etc. due to the illegal activities of the factory owners. Those whose air, water and soil were poisoned, whose soil was losing fertility and whose reproductive health is suffering where cases of impotence and premature miscarriage are common. Polluted soil is making underground soil toxic, factory waste is spilled onto fodder for livestock is giving it poison due which the animals are dying after eating.

The Sabha demands that:-

1. The agitation by the people of 50 villages against the Malbros Liquor Factory caused pollution to be brought to the public agenda, which is a matter of great concern for the future of Punjab.

The questions and problems being raised by them need to be needs to be taken seriously and addressed by abandoning the approach of forcibly suppressing them

Even though the government has announced the closure of the liquor factory but factory owners can challenge it in court. In this matter, the governments first claims that the factory was not polluting will create the greatest difficulty. A few years ago in Thuthu Kudi (Tamil Nadu) in case of Sterlite the same thing happened in the protest against deadly pollution.

More than one lakh people came out on the streets. Government police and Sterlite goons martyred a dozen people by opening fire. The police cases were registered against thousands of people to crush the struggle. It was shut down but after a while it restarted. This factory needs to be closed permanently. As compensation from the factory owners for the loss of life and property of the people and the environment it is necessary to recover the fine and that all their black illegal acts be exposed. For this purpose investigative teams should be formed under the supervision of a present or retired judge of the High Court, Supreme Court or Green Tribunal.

I. An investigation team should assess the damage to people, livestock and land. This work may be done by team of expert doctors from of P. G. I. or AIIMS who should go around the factory going door-to-door in about 50 villages to check-up people, about their diseases. Preparing details and arranging treatment. This should be immediate and at the expense of the government.

II. A team of knowledgeable experts on the damage caused by pollution to the air, water and earth be made so that they can arrange to restore the previous situation. This team should also investigate the death of 70 animals in 2022 after eating fodder..

III. The team of the Sabha has received information from medical sources that there is pollution in this area which is causing infertility and pregnancy loss in large numbers of young couples. The team of expert doctors should pay close attention in this regard. The root of the phenomenon is also pollution.

IV. Along with this, this team of experts should assess the damage caused by pollution and estimate the cost of bringing normal conditions in terms of pollution. Reimbursement of this expense as per Polluter Pays principle be recovered from Malbros Company and also government institutions and officials whose non-fulfilment of responsibility caused this huge loss.

V. Against all persons responsible for this pollution, officials, factory owners and government officials a case be registered under the Prevention of Pollution Act and appropriate action be taken go Ferozepur zone for this community. For this purpose, under the leadership of IG Ferozepur a special investigation team should be formed.

2. The government should talk with the struggling organizations regarding the demands raised by them to resolve the problem.

3. The Sabha understands that this pollution is a robbery on people's right to live. Hence the struggle against it is the basic duty of people to do. Therefore, the Sabha demands that the cases registered against the struggling people should be canceled. Arms licenses that were canceled and lands attached should be restored. Some poisonous substances illegally sold by Malbros factory and not giving any information about it to the government and concerned authorities and advertising about this on company's website publicly and govt sitting with closed eyes is a serious crime. On finding out, the Sabha had made a formal complaint. Strict action against the accused after investigating this whole matter should be taken.

4. Instructions have been issued by the National Green Tribunal that to bring transparency in measuring the pollution of industries Real-Time live arrangement should be done so that all people can see its negative effects. More effective public hearings should be conducted before giving approval to industries regarding environmental pollution. This hearing should be done by setting up a camp in all those villages which come under the purview of related industrial projects. The adverse effects should be kept before the people with caution and against pollution Organizations working on environmental issues should be given an opportunity to present their side. Approval should be given not only by the sarpanch of the gram panchayat but also by the gram sabha of the village. The action of which should be video recorded as per rules.

5. Heavy polluting industries are established in many places in Punjab, which are polluting drinking water, air and soil in connivance with pollution control board and the administrative officials

together and are destroying the environment. They have made rivers, canals, ponds, etc poisonous. The government should ensure that clean water for the agriculture and for drinking in every village is available by conducting tests of tubewells. Health facilities in the villages should be managed by the government. Its cost should be recovered from polluting industries.

6. Industrialists responsible for pollution spread by industries across Punjab should be identified and strict action should be taken against negligent and conniving officials under environment protection laws. The damage caused to people and nature should be compensated. Until the pollution level of these industries is reduced to zero, they should be kept closed. If any of the industrialist does not compensate for the loss and does not take necessary steps to prevent pollution his industry should be closed permanently.

Team Members: Pritpal Singh, Narbhinder, Advocate NK Jeet, Dr. Ajitpal Singh MD, Advocate Mandeep Singh Kular, Mr. Darshan Singh Toor, Mr. Jaswant Jirakh, Mr. Gurmail Singh Thuliwal, Mr. Shivcharan Araianwala, Mr. Jagsir Jida, Mr. Harcharan Patti, Mr. Hardas Singh Brar, Mr. Kartar Singh, Mr. Paramjit Singh, Mr. Ratan Lal

by

State Committee, Jamhoori Adhikar Sabha

Dated 27 January 2023

Issuer

Pray Jagmohan Singh 9814001836

State President

Pritpal Singh 9876060280

General Secretary

Advance Service of Additional Documents dated 1.04.24 in O.A. 606 of 2022 on behalf of the Applicant and R-8

1 message

Deepak Singh <deepak.singh@hrln.org>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 2:42 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 dated 1.04.24 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 1.04.24.

Thank you,

Regards,

(On behalf of the Applicant and R-8)

Deepak

576, Masjid Road, Jungpura,

New Delhi-110014



Additional Documents in O.A. 606 of 2022 by Applicant and R-8 01.04.2024.pdf

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