

**Interim Report of Joint Committee**  
**(Constituted by Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 295 of 2023 in the matter**  
**of Dimpal Kumar V/S State of Punjab & Ors)**

**Background of the case**

1. The applicant Sh.Dimpal Kumar has filed OA no. 295 of 2023 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal with the grievance against unregulated violation of air quality norms by 220 coal fired furnaces operating in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab, engaged in recycled steel production, Ceramics/Refractory, Cupola Furnaces, Forging Induction furnaces, Lead Smelting units, Rolling mills, Ply board, Milk Plant and Pyrolysis Plants.

2. The applicant has referred to earlier orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 08.10.2018 passed in O.A. No. 681/2018, News Item Published In 'The Times of India' Authored by Shri. Vishwa Mohan Titled "NCAP with Multiple Timelines to Clear Air in 102 Cities to be released around August 15", requiring action plan for bringing the air quality in said cities within the prescribed norms; order dated 01.10.2020 passed in O.A. No. 924/2019, Neeraj Goyal vs. State of Punjab inter-alia directing the shifting of rolling mills in Gobindgarh from coal to PNG; order dated 10.07.2019 passed in O.A. No. 1038/2018, News item published in "The Asian Age" Authored by Sanjay Kaw Titled "CPCB to rank industrial units on pollution levels" in respect of polluted industrial areas. The applicant has submitted that carrying capacity has not been assessed till now and air quality remains polluted as shown by the ambient air quality status of January-February, 2022.

**3. Orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal**

On consideration of the matter, the Hon'ble NGT has passed an order dated 21/04/2023 thereby constituting a joint committee of CPCB, State PCB and District Magistrate to undertake visit to the site, interact with stakeholders and furnish a factual and action taken report in the matter.

**4. Meeting of the Joint Committee:**

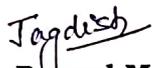
In Compliance of order dated 21/04/2023 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the meeting of the Joint Committee was held on 22.6.2023 under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Fatehgarh Sahib. The representatives of the Industrial Association were also present



in the meeting. The Industrial Association has claimed that there is significant role of vehicular pollution in increasing the air pollution in Mandi Gobindgarh. About 18000 heavy vehicles are entering and leaving Mandi Gobindgarh daily. The price of PNG has increased and they cannot afforded PNG. After hearing the representatives of Industrial Association, it has been decided by ADC that field visits will be conducted by Punjab Pollution Control Board with stakeholder departments so that factual position of Mandi Gobindgarh with respect to air pollution is ascertained. The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 22.6.2023 are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A**.

**Prayer:**

Considering the complexity and intricacies involved in the case, as well as the need for thorough research and analysis and to visit the industries, some time is required. It is requested to allow a time period of at least three months to the Joint Committee to prepare the final factual and action taken report for submission before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

  
**(Jagdish Prasad Meena)**  
 SEE/ Scientist-D  
 CPCB  
 Regional Directorate, Chandigarh

  
**(Vijay Kumar)**  
 Environmental Engineer, PPCB,  
 Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib

  
**(Harjot Kaur)**  
 Additional Deputy Commissioner (G)  
 Fatehgarh Sahib

**Subject: Proceedings of meeting held under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Fatehgarh Sahib on 22.06.2023 with the stakeholder Departments w.r.t. OA no. 295 of 2023 titles as Dimple Kumar versus State of Punjab and Ors.**

The following stakeholder department and representative of the industrial association members were present in the meeting

1. Er. J.P Meena, Scientist 'D', CPCB, RD, Chandigarh
2. Er. Vijay Kumar, Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Regional Office, Fatehgarh Sahib
3. Er. Rubal Goyal, Assistant Environmental Engineer, PPCB
4. Er. Pritpal Kaur, Assistant Environmental Engineer, PPCB
5. Er. Malkit Singh, Junior Environmental Engineer, PPCB
6. Sh. Gurwinder Pal Singh JE (M), M.C. Mandi Gobindgarh
7. Sh. Rajan Garg, Vice President, Small Scale Steel Re-Rollers Association (SMASRA)
8. Sh. Mohinder Gupta, President, Induction Furnace Association
9. Sh. B.C. Verma, E.O. All India Steel Rollers Association
10. Sh. Rajiv Sood, President, All India Steel Rollers Association (AISRA)
11. Sh. Darshan Singh Lalas, General Secretary, Small Scale Steel Re-Rollers Association
12. Sh. Jagmohan Data, Member, Small Scale Steel Re-Rollers Association (SMASRA)
13. Sh. Gaurav Jain, Member, All India Steel Rollers Association
14. Sh. Bhavya Gupta, IRM Energy Ltd. Mandi Gobindgarh

At the outset of the meeting, the officer of the Punjab Pollution Control Board apprised that the applicant Sh. Dimpal Kumar has filed OA no. 295 of 2023 before the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 complaining against unregulated violation of air quality norms by 220 coal fired furnaces operating in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab, engaged in recycled steel production, Ceramics/Refractory, Cupola Furnaces, Forging Induction furnaces, Lead Smelting units, Rolling mills, Ply board Milk Plant and Pyrolysis Plants. The applicant has referred to earlier orders of this Tribunal dated 08.10.2018 in O.A. No. 681/2018, News Item Published In 'The Times of India' Authored by Shri. Vishwa Mohan Titled "NCAP with Multiple Timelines to Clear Air in 102 Cities to be released around August 15", order of this Tribunal dated 01.10.2020 in O.A. No. 924/2019, Neeraj Goyal vs. State of Punjab, order of this Tribunal dated 10.07.2019 in O.A. No. 1038/2018, News item published in "The Asian Age" Authored by Sanjay Kaw Titled "CPCB to rank industrial units on pollution levels". Further, the applicant has submitted that carrying capacity has not been assessed till now and air quality remains polluted as shown by the ambient air quality status of January-February, 2022.

He further informed that The Hon'ble NGT has passed an order dated 21/04/2023 constituting a joint committee of CPCB, State PCB and District Magistrate to undertake visit to the site, interact with stakeholders and furnish a factual and action taken report in the matter. The next date of the hearing has been fixed on 14.07.2023 before the Hon'ble NGT.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner, Fatehgarh Sahib has requested the stakeholders to give their suggestions for adoption of PNG gas in the industries which are using coal or other conventional fuel and measures to be adopted by the industries and concerned departments so that the Ambient Air Quality of the Mandi Gobindgarh can be improved.

Sh. Rajan Garg, President of SMASRA apprised the house that as per the earlier directions given by the Hon'ble NGT in OA no. 924/2019 titled as Neeraj Goyal vs State of Punjab and Punjab Pollution Control Board, rolling mills of Mandi Gobindgarh had started the shifting of their units from coal to PNG and about 80 % of the units have been converted on the PNG. Further, earlier the price of the PNG was about Rs. 19/m<sup>3</sup> and now the price of the PNG is about Rs. 50/ m<sup>3</sup> whereas the price of the coal is about Rs. 12/Kg as such it is not possible for the industries to run their unit on PNG due to heavy financial loss. About 20% of the industries which had earlier shifted their units on PNG have been closed on its units permanently and removed their plant and machinery from the site. As per directions of the Punjab Pollution Control Board about 40 industries have been again shifted on coal from PNG. He also informed that air pollution is not contributed by the rolling mills on coal but the other factors like road dust, vehicular emissions burning of scrap, traffic concessions, traffic jams, poor conditions of industrial roads, uncontrolled construction activity etc. are contributing significant air pollution in the Mandi Gobindgarh. As such the authorities of NHAI, PWD and MC should be accounted for contribution in the air pollution as the road conditions of Mandi Gobindgarh are very poor and deteriorated. Source Apportionment study to determine carrying capacity of the Mandi Gobindgarh should be published and action plan as per the suggestion of the said study should be prepared and implemented in time bound manners and the responsibility of the concerned industries and department should be fixed. He suggested that ambient air quality before shifting of the industries on PNG, after shifting of the industries on PNG and again shifting on coal from PNG should be analyzed so that effect of shifting of industries PNG may be ascertained. (Annexure-A).

Sh. Mohinder Gupta, President of Induction furnaces informed that Mandi Gobindgarh is an industrial town and more than 600 industries are running within the radius of 5 Km. Mandi Gobindgarh is known as Steel City of Punjab or "Loha Mandi" due to its large number of steel factories. Apart from the industrial pollution, there is significant roll of vehicular emissions for increasing the air pollution in the Mandi Gobindgarh. About 18000 heavy loaded vehicles are entering and leaving the

Mandi Gobindgarh daily. Most of the vehicles are more 10-12 years old with very bad conditions and emitting significant emissions in the atmosphere.

The representative of the MC, Mandi Gobindgarh informed that it has purchased anti-smog gun to reduce the air pollution. He also informed that sprinkling of treated domestic effluent of the STP is being carried out in different hot spots to suppress the dust emissions. Mechanical Sweeping will be purchased shortly as all the paper formalities like tendering etc. have been completed.

The representative of the IRM Energy which is PNG gas provider in the Mandi Gobindgarh informed that their company providing PNG gas at the lowest price as compared to the other Districts of the Punjab. It has laid its gas pipeline network in entire industrial cluster of Mandi Gobindgarh after the NGT order and PPCB mandate to Industries to shift from coal to PNG. Now the PNG pipeline network is available at the door step to all the industries in Mandi Gobindgarh. IRMEL has reduced its prices by 16% in last few months and it will further be reduced in next few months also. IRMEL has commissioned 171 nos. of industries on PNG and 77 nos of industries have registered but they are not ready for taking gas connection. As on 23/06/2023, out of this 171 PNG using industries, 44 nos of industries have been shifted back to polluting fuels like Coal and FO.

After hearing of the industrial associations and stakeholder departments, the ADC (G) decided that the field visits of the area including industries will be conducted with the various stakeholder departments like Central Pollution Control Board, Punjab Pollution Control Board, District Administration, Municipal Councils and representative of the industries so that the factual position of the Mandi Gobindgarh with respect to the air pollution may be ascertained and action taken report on the basis of the field visits may be prepared and sent to the Hon'ble NGT.

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks of the Chair.

  
**Additional Deputy Commissioner (G)**  
Fatehgarh Sahib