

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

Original Application No.379 of 2022

In the matter of

G.S. Bansal

..... Applicant

V/s

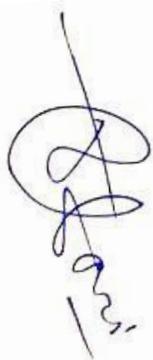
State of Punjab and others

..... Respondent

Submission of factual and action taken report in compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 and 30.11.2022.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

1. That the applicant officer is presently working as Environmental Engineer in the Regional Office of the Punjab Pollution Control Board at Amritsar and is nominated in the case by the Punjab Pollution Control Board and also been authorized by the Joint Committee for submission of report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. As such the applicant officer is conversant with the facts of the present case and is duly authorized and competent to file the present application for submission for report of the Joint Committee.
2. That briefly stated the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has taken cognizance of the case in Original Application No. 379 of 2022 and vide order dated 5.7.2022 has constituted a Joint Committee comprising of Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary, Health Department, Government of Rajasthan and Punjab, Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Board, Rajasthan and Punjab and District Magistrate / Deputy Commissioner, Sri Ganganagar and Ferozepur respectively and called for report of the Joint Committee within two months.
3. That in order to make compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the meeting of the Joint Committee was held on 10.11.2022 through virtual model, wherein Secretary, Health, Family Welfare,



Punjab ; Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Rajasthan; Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board; Chief Environmental Engineer (Water), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Ludhiana; Scientist-D of Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi; Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepur (Punjab); Deputy Commissioner of Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan); Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar; Regional Officer, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (Hanumangarh); Scientific Officer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Laboratory, Jalandhar had participated.

4. That after deliberating various issues involved in the case at length, it was decided in the meeting as under that:

- i) District Magistrate / Deputy Commissioner, Sri Ganganagar and Ferozepur shall collect year wise data regarding number of people, affected due to water borne disease with type of disease, residing around the catchment area of gang canal from respective Health Department of their State for the last 3 years.
- ii) The Central Pollution Control Board / Punjab Pollution Control Board shall provide water quality data of Rajasthan Feeder Canal for the last two years which can be perused for further study.
- iii) The concerned Department of Rajasthan responsible for supplying drinking water in various parts of Rajasthan should also be called in the next meeting of the Joint Committee alongwith analysis record and system followed by them to ensure supply of potable water to public.

A copy of the proceedings of the meeting held on 10.11.2022 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A** for kind perusal.

4) That on the request made for extension of time by the Nodal Officer-cum-Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar vide email dated 29.11.2022, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to grant time of three months vide order dated 30.11.2022 for

submission of report by email at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF / OCR supported PDF and not in the form of image PDF.

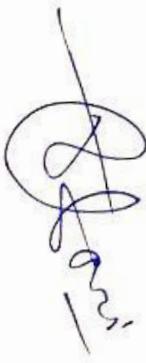
- 5) That the second meeting of the Joint Committee as constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 5.7.2022 was held on 27.2.2023 through virtual mode wherein following officers of the State of Punjab and Rajasthan had participated:

- a) Sh. Veerendra Kumar Meena, IAS
Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab
- b) Dr. Prithvi Raj, IAS
Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Rajasthan
- c) Sh. Rajesh Dhiman, IAS
Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur
- d) Sh. Saurabh Swami, IAS
District Collector, Sriganganagar
- e) Sh. G.S. Majithia,
Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala
- f) Sh. Gulshan Rai, Chief Environmental Engineer (Water),
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Ludhiana
- g) Sh. Vishal Gandhi, Scientist D,
Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi.
- h) Sh. Dheeraj Chawla, Superintending Engineer,
Public Health Engineering Department Circle Sriganganagar
- i) Shri Pradeep Kumar Asnani, Regional Officer,
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Hanumangarh
- j) Sh. Jatinder Soni, Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar
- k) Sh. Sandeep Gupta, Scientific Officer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Lab, Jalandhar

- 6) That the issues involved in the case were deliberated by the Joint Committee members and the key observations and discussion of various stakeholders are summarized herein below:

- i) Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur (Punjab) informed that cases of people affected by water borne diseases has been only 08 nos. in the last 03 years, residing near to the catchment area of gang canal.
- ii) District Collector, Sriganganagar (Rajasthan) informed that the District

has been receiving good quality of water throughout the year, except in the months of May & June in which quality of water gets deteriorated due to stagnation near the gates during closure period of canal.

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- iii) Superintending Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Circle Ganganagar informed that the raw water is stored in the sedimentation tank through the inlet channel from the canal and it is then filtered through the slow sand established at various water supply schemes, then disinfection of filtered water is done by chlorination process and after this drinking water is made available to the public through the distribution system and as per the analysis results of water samples taken at different levels for chemical & bacteriological parameters and heavy metals from January 2022 till February 2023, no heavy metal has been detected and various parameters have been found within the permissible value as per BIS 10500:2012. He further informed that although they have provided treatment system consisting of filtration and disinfection at various water supply schemes for drinking water supply to public through the distribution system, however at certain points people residing on the bank of the canal in rural areas take unauthorized supply of canal water through direct pumping without treatment and disinfection.
- iv) Scientific Officer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Lab, Jalandhar informed that quality of water in Rajasthan Feeder canal as per DBU (Designated Best Use) is categorized as "C" which signifies the water in the canal as drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection as per analysis results of samples in last 02 years.
- v) Chief Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board informed that sources of pollution discharging effluent into drains leading to rivers have already been identified by the Punjab Pollution Control Board and the installation of Treatment systems for the same are under process and same will be implemented in time bound manner. It was further informed that standard operating procedure (SOPs), already prescribed for opening of gates at Harike Barrage for cleaning of the Gang canal were implemented last year through a Joint Committee

comprising of members of BBMB, PPCB, RSPCB, Department of Water Resources, Punjab & Rajasthan.



vi) Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board informed that recently STPs of capacity 225 MLD at Ludhiana and 50 MLD capacity at Jalandhar have been commissioned. Also STPs of capacities 15 MLD and 05 MLD at Basti Peer Dad, Jalandhar and Focal Point Jalandhar respectively will be commissioned in March 2023. He further informed that with these treatment plants coming into operation and after commissioning of other ongoing projects being implemented at various outlets for treatment of effluent, the quality of water in the canal will improve further.

vii) Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Rajasthan informed that Govt. of Punjab and Punjab Pollution Control Board have been continuously supporting efforts of the Rajasthan Government regarding mitigation of the disposal of untreated wastewater into the river/canal. He further observed that based on the existing data, cancer patients in the area cannot be attributed to canal water and suggested that a study in the matter should be got conducted from ICMR or any other Institute of Repute (IOR) by CPCB regarding the problem and the status report w.r.t. same may be filed in the Hon'ble NGT.

viii) Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Punjab concurred with the suggestion of his counterpart from the State of Rajasthan regarding conducting of study in the matter from Institute of Repute (IOR) by CPCB to examine the causes behind cancer patients in the area including canal water, agricultural pesticides etc so that root cause of the problem can be identified and corrective action may be taken accordingly.

7) That after detailed discussion in the matter, the Joint Committee has decided as under:

A. Since quality of water in the Rajasthan Feeder Canal as per DBU is category "C", therefore, Govt. of Rajasthan shall ensure that the raw water from the canal reaching the urban and rural areas of the District shall receive conventional treatment and disinfection before its supply

to the public to be used for potable purpose and to ensure that no unauthorized supply of canal water without required treatment and disinfection is available to the public, specifically in rural areas.

B. In order to find out the root cause of cancer patients in District Sriganganagar, a study shall be got conducted from ICMR or any other Institute of Repute (IOR) to examine all the possible causes including canal water, agricultural pesticides etc.

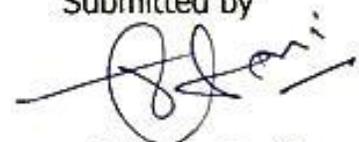
C. The report w.r.t. above deliberation and decisions taken in the Joint Committee meeting shall be prepared and submitted in the Hon'ble NGT by the nodal agency on behalf of the Joint Committee.

8) That a copy of the minutes of the second meeting of Joint Committee issued by the Nodal Officer-cum-Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar vide letter no.604-11 dated 14.3.2023 after the approval of the Joint Committee members is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-B** for kind perusal.

9) That the above report containing the observations and decisions of the Joint Committee is hereby submitted in compliance to order dated 5.7.2022 and 30.11.2022 for kind perusal and appropriate orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Date: 16-03-2023

Place: Amritsar

Submitted by


(Jatinder Soni)

Nodal Officer
 -cum-
 Environmental Engineer,
 Punjab Pollution Control Board
 Regional Office, Amritsar



Punjab Pollution Control Board

REGIONAL OFFICE, AMRITSAR

ADDRESS: PLOT NO. 164, FOCAL POINT, AMRITSAR

E-mail: ppcbroadamritsar@gmail.com

website: www.ppcb.gov.in

Phone/FAX: 0183-2582790

No. 2781-86

Date. 23/11/2022

To

1. The Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Health and Family Welfare,
Chandigarh.
2. The Secretary to Government of Rajasthan,
Department of Health and Family Welfare,
Jaipur.
3. The Member Secretary,
Central Pollution Control Board,
Delhi.
4. The Member Secretary,
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board,
Jaipur.
5. The Deputy Commissioner,
Sri Ganganagar.
6. The Deputy Commissioner,
Ferozepur.

Sub:- Minutes of meeting held on 10.11.2022 at 12:30 pm through VC mode in compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 379/2022 titled as G.S. BansalVs State of Punjab.

In reference to above, please find enclosed minutes of meeting held on 10.11.2022 at 12:30 pm through VC mode in compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 379/2022 titled as G.S. BansalVs State of Punjab for information and necessary action.

DA/As Above.

o/c


Nodal Officer Cum Environmental Engineer
Regional Office, Amritsar.

Endst No. 2787

Dated. 23/11/2022

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala for kind information, please.

DA/As Above.

o/c


Nodal Officer Cum Environmental Engineer
Regional Office, Amritsar.

Endst No. 2788

13

Dated 23/11/2022

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Chief Environmental Engineer (Water), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Ludhiana for kind information, please.
DA/As Above.

g
u


Nodal Officer Cum Environmental Engineer
Regional Office, Amritsar.

Minutes of meeting held on 10.11.2022 at 12:30 pm through VC mode in compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 379/2022 titled as G.S. Bansal Vs State of Punjab

The list of participants is attached as Annexure-A.

At the outset, the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board welcomed all the officers of the Joint Committee constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and apprised about background of the case that a public grievance had been received in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal from Sh. G.S. Bansal, a resident of Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan who has alleged that Punjab is constantly polluting drinking water of Gang Canal in Sri Ganganagar. Hundreds of the people are getting sick everyday by drinking the polluted water.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has taken cognizance of the application and has constituted a Joint Committee comprising of Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary, Health Department, Government of Rajasthan and Punjab, CPCB, State PCB, Rajasthan and Punjab and District Magistrate / Deputy Commissioner, Sri Ganganagar and Ferozepur respectively. The National Green Tribunal further directed that the Joint Committee may meet within four weeks, undertake site visits, look into the grievances of the applicant and take requisite action by following due process of law particularly the orders passed by the Tribunal in O.A. No. 916/2018 (Earlier O.A. No. 101/2014) titled as Sobha Singh & Ors. Vs. State of Punjab & Ors and order dated 08.01.2020 passed by hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 83/2020 titled as the State of Punjab and Anr. Vs. Sobha Singh & Ors. The case is now listed for next hearing on 30.11.2022.

The various issues involved were deliberated at length and it was decided as under:

1. District Magistrate / Deputy Commissioner, Sri Ganganagar and Ferozepur shall collect yearwise data regarding number of people, affected due to water borne diseases with type of disease, residing around the catchment area of Gang canal from respective Health Departments of their State for the last 3 years.
2. The CPCB / PPCB shall provide water quality data of Rajasthan Feeder Canal for the last two years which can be perused for further study.
3. The concerned Deptt. of Rajasthan responsible for supplying drinking water in various parts of Rajasthan should also be called in the next meeting of the Joint Committee along with analysis record and system followed by them to ensure supply of potable water to public.

It was further decided that the next meeting in the matter may again be convened after one week to decide next course of action.

Annexure-A

List of Participants present in the meeting through VC mode held on 10.11.2022 at 12:30 pm in reference to O.A. No. 379/2022 titled as G.S. Bansal V/s State of Punjab.

1. Sh. Ajoy Sharma, IAS,
Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Punjab.
2. Dr. Prithvi Raj, IAS,
Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Rajasthan.
3. Er. Krunesh Garg,
Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board.
4. Er. Gulshan Rai,
Chief Environmental Engineer (Water), PPCB, Ludhiana.
5. Sh. Vishal Gandhi, Scientist D,
Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi.
6. Smt. Amrit Singh, IAS,
Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur.
7. Sh. Sourabh Swami, IAS
Deputy Commissioner, Sri Ganganagar.
8. Er. Harpal Singh,
Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Regional Office, Amritsar.
9. Shri Pradeep Kumar Asnani,
Regional Officer, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Hanumangarh.
10. Sh. Sandeep Gupta, Scientific Officer, PPCB,
Zonal Lab, Jalandhar.



Punjab Pollution Control Board

REGIONAL OFFICE, AMRITSAR

ADDRESS: PLOT NO. 164, FOCAL POINT, AMRITSAR

E-mail: ppcbroadamritsar@gmail.com

website: www.ppcb.gov.in

Phone/FAX: 0183-2582790

No. 604-09

Date: 14/3/23

To

1. The Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Health and Family Welfare,
Chandigarh.
2. The Secretary to Government of Rajasthan,
Department of Health and Family Welfare,
Jaipur.
3. The Member Secretary,
Central Pollution Control Board,
Delhi.
4. The Member Secretary,
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board,
Jaipur.
5. The Deputy Commissioner,
Sri Ganganagar.
6. The Deputy Commissioner,
Ferozepur.

Sub:- **Minutes of 2nd meeting of Joint Committee formed in compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 379/2022 titled as G.S. Bansal Vs State of Punjab, held on 27.02.2023 at 12:30 PM through VC mode.**

In reference to above, please find enclosed minutes of meeting held on 27.02.2023 at 12:30 PM through VC mode in compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 379/2022 titled as G.S. Bansal Vs State of Punjab for information and necessary action.

DA/As Above.

[Signature]
o/c Nodal Officer Cum Environmental Engineer
Regional Office, Amritsar.

Dated: 14/3/23

Endst No... 610

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala for kind information, please.

DA/As Above.

[Signature]
o/c Nodal Officer Cum Environmental Engineer
Regional Office, Amritsar.

Dated: 14/3/23

Endst No... 611

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Chief Environmental Engineer (Water), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Ludhiana for kind information, please.

DA/As Above.

[Signature]
o/c Nodal Officer Cum Environmental Engineer
Regional Office, Amritsar.

Minutes of 2nd meeting of Joint Committee formed in compliance of order dated 5.7.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 379/2022 titled as G.S. Bansal Vs State of Punjab, held on 27.02.2023 at 12:30 PM through VC mode

The list of participants is attached as **Annexure-A**.

At the outset, Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board welcomed all the officers of the Joint Committee constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Thereafter Nodal Officer apprised all stakeholders regarding 1st meeting of the Joint Committee held on 10/11/2022 through virtual mode wherein it was decided to get year wise data regarding number of people affected due to water borne diseases residing around the catchment area of gang canal, water quality data of Gang canal/Rajasthan Feeder Canal for last two years and analysis record as well as system followed by concerned Department of Rajasthan responsible to ensure supply of potable water to public.

Further, it was apprised by the Nodal Officer that a request was filed by Punjab Pollution Control Board before the Hon'ble NGT praying that extension of time be granted for submission of the factual and action taken report as collection of data and information will take some time and the Joint Committee will conclude the matter after deliberating the issues in detail on the basis of the available data. The request was considered by the Hon'ble NGT and time period of 03 months was given and the next date of hearing in the matter has been fixed before the Hon'ble NGT on 21.03.2023.

The Nodal Officer further informed that as per the data received, there are hardly any cases of patients affected and no case of death due to water borne diseases among the people residing near to the catchment area of gang canal in District Ferozepur. However, there are some cases of people affected with water borne diseases such as

Vomiting, Diarrhea, Jaundice and Typhoid and some cases of Cancer patients have been reported in the District Sriganganagar.

The above mentioned issues were deliberated in detail in the meeting and key observations/discussion from various stakeholders is as under:-

- Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur (Punjab) informed that cases of people affected by water borne diseases has been only 08 nos. in the last 03 years, residing near to the catchment area of gang canal.
- District Collector, Sriganganagar (Rajasthan) informed that the District has been receiving good quality of water throughout the year, except in the months of May & June in which quality of water gets deteriorated due to stagnation near the gates during closure period of canal.
- Superintending Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Circle Ganganagar informed that the raw water is stored in the sedimentation tank through the inlet channel from the canal and it is then filtered through the slow sand established at various water supply schemes, then disinfection of filtered water is done by chlorination process and after this drinking water is made available to the public through the distribution system and as per the analysis results of water samples taken at different levels for chemical & bacteriological parameters and heavy metals from January 2022 till February 2023, no heavy metal has been detected and various parameters have been found within the permissible value as per BIS 10500:2012. He further informed that although they have provided treatment system consisting of filtration and disinfection at various water supply schemes for drinking water supply to

public through the distribution system, however at certain points people residing on the bank of the canal in rural areas take unauthorized supply of canal water through direct pumping without treatment and disinfection.

- Scientific Officer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Lab, Jalandhar informed that quality of water in Rajasthan Feeder canal as per DBU (Designated Best Use) is categorized as "C" which signifies the water in the canal as drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection as per analysis results of samples in last 02 years.
- Chief Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board informed that sources of pollution discharging effluent into drains leading to rivers have already been identified by the Punjab Pollution Control Board and the installation of Treatment systems for the same are under process and same will be implemented in time bound manner. It was further informed that standard operating procedure (SOPs), already prescribed for opening of gates at Harike Barrage for cleaning of the Gang canal were implemented last year through a Joint Committee comprising of members of BBMB, PPCB, RSPCB, Department of Water Resources, Punjab & Rajasthan.
- Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board informed that recently STPs of capacity 225 MLD at Ludhiana and 50 MLD capacity at Jalandhar have been commissioned. Also STPs of capacities 15 MLD and 05 MLD at Basti Peer Dad, Jalandhar and Focal Point Jalandhar respectively will be commissioned in March 2023. He further informed that with these treatment plants coming

into operation and after commissioning of other ongoing projects being implemented at various outlets for treatment of effluent, the quality of water in the canal will improve further.

- Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Rajasthan informed that Govt. of Punjab and Punjab Pollution Control Board have been continuously supporting efforts of the Rajasthan Government regarding mitigation of the disposal of untreated wastewater into the river/canal. He further observed that based on the existing data, cancer patients in the area cannot be attributed to canal water and suggested that a study in the matter should be got conducted from ICMR or any other Institute of Repute (IOR) by CPCB regarding the problem and the status report w.r.t. same may be filed in the Hon'ble NGT.
- Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Punjab concurred with the suggestion of his counterpart from the State of Rajasthan regarding conducting of study in the matter from Institute of Repute (IOR) by CPCB to examine the causes behind cancer patients in the area including canal water, agricultural pesticides etc so that root cause of the problem can be identified and corrective action may be taken accordingly.

After discussing the matter in length, it was decided as under:

1. Since quality of water in the Rajasthan Feeder Canal as per DBU is category "C", therefore, Govt. of Rajasthan shall ensure that the raw water from the canal reaching the urban and rural areas of the District shall receive conventional treatment and disinfection before its supply to the public to be used for potable purpose and to ensure that no unauthorized supply of canal water without

required treatment and disinfection is available to the public, specifically in rural areas.

2. In order to find out the root cause of cancer patients in District Sriganaganagar, a study shall be got conducted from ICMR or any other Institute of Repute (IOR) to examine all the possible causes including canal water, agricultural pesticides etc.
3. The report w.r.t. above deliberation and decisions taken in the Joint Committee meeting shall be prepared and submitted in the Hon'ble NGT by the nodal agency on behalf of the Joint Committee.

List of Participants who attended the meeting in reference to OA No. 379/2022 titled as G.S Bansal V/s State of Punjab through VC mode held on 27.02.2023 at 12:30 PM.

1. Sh. Veerendra Kumar Meena, IAS
Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab
2. Dr. Prithvi Raj, IAS
Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Rajasthan
3. Sh. Rajesh Dhiman, IAS
Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur
4. Sh. Saurabh Swami, IAS
District Collector, Sriganaganagar
5. Sh. G.S. Majithia,
Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala
6. Sh. Gulshan Rai, Chief Environmental Engineer (Water),
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Ludhiana
7. Sh. Vishal Gandhi, Scientist D,
Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi.
8. Sh. Dheeraj Chawla, Superintending Engineer,
Public Health Engineering Department Circle Sriganaganagar
9. Shri Pradeep Kumar Asnani, Regional Officer,
Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Hanumangarh

10. Sh. Jatinder Soni, Environmental Engineer,

Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar

11. Sh. Sandeep Gupta, Scientific Officer,

Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Lab, Jalandhar