

## BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 687 of 2023

In the matter of Suo Moto Cognizance

In Re: **Air Quality Index in various Cities.**

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Place: **SAS NAGAR (MOHALI)**Date: **04-12-2023**

  
**Member Secretary,**  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Nabha Road, Patiala  
on behalf of State of Punjab

  
**Member Secretary**  
**Punjab Pollution Control Board**  
**PATIALA**

## BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 687 of 2023

In the matter of Suo Moto Cognizance

In Re: **Air Quality Index in various Cities.**

Status report of the State of Punjab through Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board in compliance of order dated 22.11.2023.

Respectfully Showeth

1. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to take Suo Moto cognizance of the above mentioned case on the basis of the Air Quality Bulletins of CPCB posted on their website in the respect of Air Quality Index (AQI) for different cities from 20.10.2023 to 01.11.2023. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to issue notice to the States where the cities AQI has dipped to severe, very poor and poor with directions to take immediate remedial action and submit action taken report before the Tribunal on or before the next date of hearing. In compliance the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board has filed status report in the case dated 09.11.2023 and 17.11.2023 in the case on behalf of the State of Punjab.
2. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has further considered the AQI of different cities from 10.11.2023 to 21.11.2023 during the



hearing of the case on 22.11.2023. The Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass further order dated 22.11.2023, requiring the authorities to make concerted efforts so that the quality of air in the cities improves and certain directions were issued for compliance. In this regard, the relevant extract of paragraph 10 and 11 of the order dated 22.11.2023 is reproduced herein below for kind perusal and reference: -

" 10. Hence, the State Authorities are required to make concerted efforts so that the quality of air in the cities improves. The States have also been released funds for implementation of action plan to improve air quality for cities falling under Non-Attainment Cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and under 15th Finance Commission. The actions to be taken for improving air quality should be in accordance with the approved action plan with priority to address the cause which is governing the air quality as per source apportionment.

11. The States are directed to disclose in their next report the non-compliant cities for which the funds have been received, the extent of the funds received and the details of their utilization. The States are also directed to ensure that the air quality does not dip in the cities under consideration any further but it shows a positive trend of



improvement. Let the report covering the above aspects be filed within 2 days before the next date of hearing".

3. That in compliance to the order dated 22.11.2023, it is respectfully submitted that there are total 09 non-attainment cities in the State of Punjab. Out of said 09 non-attainment cities, 07 cities namely. Dera Baba Nanak, Dera Bassi, Mandi Gobindgarh, Jalandhar, Khanna, Naya Nangal and Patiala are covered under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and 02 cities namely Amritsar and Ludhiana are covered under 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. It is relevant to mention here that the above named 09 non-attainment cities are also part of 41 cities across India which falls in Indo-Gangetic Plan.
4. That the City Action Plan for 9 non-attainment cities for improvement of air quality had been prepared and submitted to CPCB. The action plans for clean air contains vision mission and strategy for clean air, sources of air pollution, major sources, vehicular emissions, road dust, burning of bio mass and garbage, industrial emissions, mining, construction and demolition activities etc. The action plans are being implemented in all the said 09 non-attainment cities. For implementation, monitoring and review of the said action plans, a three-tier mechanism for surveillances has been adopted by the State of Punjab as under:-



- A. State Apex Committee at the level of Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab.
  - B. Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) at the level of Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology & Environment.
  - C. District Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner of respective 09 non-attainment cities.
5. That it is pertinent to mention here that in compliance to the orders earlier passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. no. 681 of 2018, the State of Punjab has taken the following actions:
- a. The carrying capacity study of all the Non-Attainment Cities has been completed and submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board.
  - b. The Source Apportionment (SA) study of 2 non-attainment cities namely Jalandhar and Ludhiana have been completed and submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board. The Source Apportionment study of Jalandhar has been conducted by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi whereas the Source Apportionment study of Ludhiana has been conducted by the Punjab State Council for Science & Technology, Chandigarh and The Energy & Resources Institute, New Delhi.
  - c. The Source Apportionment (SA) study of the remaining 7

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cities (Patiala, Dera Bassi, Dera Baba Nanak, Khanna, Mandi Gobindgarh, Naya Nangal and Amritsar) is being conducted by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and is at advanced stage of finalization for incorporating suggestions of peer review group.

d. Public Grievance Redressal Portal (PGRP) has been developed for all 9 non-attainment cities to address air pollution complaints in time bound manner.

6. That the status with regard to the release and utilization of funds for implementation of action plans to improve air quality of non-attainment cities under National Clean Air Programme and 15 Finance Commission, is given hearing below:

a) The State of Punjab has received Rs. 75.92 crores under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) out of which Rs. 23.25 crores has been utilized. The city wise detail relating to the receipt and utilization of funds under NCAP is given in

**Annexure- A.**

b) The State of Punjab has received Rs. 159 crores under XV-FC (Fifteenth Finance Commission) out of which Rs. 126.65 crores has been utilized. The funds received by the State under the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission are utilized through Urban Local Bodies. The city wise detail of funds received and utilized is given in **Annexure- B.**

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7. That as far as the period from 22.11.2023 to 01.12.2023 is concerned, the prevalence of air quality index in Amritsar, Ludhiana, Mandi Gobindgarh, Patiala, Jalandhar and Khanna is tabulated here in below:

S. No	City	Date	Air Quality	Index Value
1	Amritsar	22.11.2023	Poor	224
		23.11.2023	Moderate	188
		24.11.2023	Poor	270
		25.11.2023	Poor	219
		26.11.2023	Poor	218
		27.11.2023	Poor	208
		28.11.2023	Moderate	195
		29.11.2023	Moderate	198
		30.11.2023	Moderate	167
		01.12.2023	Satisfactory	88
2	Bathinda	22.11.2023	Very Poor	340
		23.11.2023	Very Poor	353
		24.11.2023	Very Poor	384
		25.11.2023	Very Poor	337
		26.11.2023	Poor	296
		27.11.2023	Very Poor	355
		28.11.2023	Very Poor	307
		29.11.2023	Poor	216
		30.11.2023	Poor	203
		01.12.2023	Moderate	133
3	Jalandhar	22.11.2023	Poor	226
		23.11.2023	Poor	210
		24.11.2023	Poor	258
		25.11.2023	Poor	266
		26.11.2023	Moderate	155
		27.11.2023	Moderate	160
		28.11.2023	Poor	206
		29.11.2023	Poor	208
		30.11.2023	Moderate	165
		01.12.2023	Satisfactory	68
4	Khanna	22.11.2023	Poor	258
		23.11.2023	Poor	210
		24.11.2023	Moderate	183

		25.11.2023	Moderate	174
		26.11.2023	Moderate	198
		27.11.2023	Poor	210
		28.11.2023	Moderate	118
		29.11.2023	Poor	231
		30.11.2023	Moderate	110
		01.12.2023	Satisfactory	52
5	Ludhiana	22.11.2023	Poor	279
		23.11.2023	Poor	287
		24.11.2023	Poor	236
		25.11.2023	Poor	202
		26.11.2023	Poor	250
		27.11.2023	Poor	241
		28.11.2023	Poor	269
		29.11.2023	Moderate	185
		30.11.2023	Moderate	176
		01.12.2023	Satisfactory	66
6	Mandi Gobindgarh	22.11.2023	Very Poor	338
		23.11.2023	Moderate	155
		24.11.2023	Poor	235
		25.11.2023	Poor	241
		26.11.2023	Moderate	157
		27.11.2023	Moderate	159
		28.11.2023	Moderate	114
		29.11.2023	Poor	204
		30.11.2023	Satisfactory	82
		01.12.2023	Satisfactory	72
7	Patiala	22.11.2023	Poor	240
		23.11.2023	Poor	254
		24.11.2023	Moderate	166
		25.11.2023	Moderate	167
		26.11.2023	Moderate	162
		27.11.2023	Moderate	194
		28.11.2023	Moderate	124
		29.11.2023	Moderate	133
		30.11.2023	Moderate	153
		01.12.2023	Satisfactory	71

8. That it is pertinent to mention here that during the period from 15<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> November, the harvesting of paddy crop take place in the State of Punjab. The farmers get a very short window



of time to prepare their fields for sowing of next crop after the harvesting of paddy crop. To clear the fields, the farmers sometime set the paddy stubble to fire and the fluctuation in air quality index is attributed to the stubble burning incidents in the month of October and November. Apart from stubble burning, the fluctuation in air quality index is also attributed to unfavourable weather conditions when dispersion of particulate matter is not appropriate in comparison to summer season.

9. That it is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as well as the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has taken cognizance of the subject matter of stubble burning in the State of Punjab and other States falling in NCR area and orders have been passed for compliance. The State of Punjab is fully committed and dedicated to make compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. The Civil Administration and local Police alongwith the concerned departments had worked together as a team to stop stubble burning incidents in the State. Extensive efforts were made by the Police by launching social media campaigns through various state level and district level social media handles to sensitize the public and all other stakeholders to stop and prevent stubble burning in the State. Farmers were engaged and informed that stubble burning is violative of law and action would be taken against them.



The alternative mechanisms available for stubble management were fully utilized. The Station House Officers have held meeting with the farms and farm leaders to convince them not to burn paddy straw.

10. That with the sincere continuous and concerted efforts of various departments of Government of Punjab and resulted into decreasing trend in farm fire Incidents. The details of date wise farm fire incidents in the State of Punjab from 22.11.2023 to 30.11.2023 showing decreasing trend is giving herein below:

Sr. No.	Date	No. of Farm fire incidents
1	22 Nov 2023	512
2	23 Nov 2023	205
3	24 Nov 2023	191
4	25 Nov 2023	37
5	26 Nov 2023	63
6	27 Nov 2023	0
7	28 Nov 2023	18
8	29 Nov 2023	18
9	30 Nov 2023	13

11. That it is further relevant to mention here that the total fire incidents in the State of Punjab have shown a considerable decline of 26.6%

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in the year 2023 for the period from 15 September to 30 November in comparison to the year 2022 during the same period as depicted in the table below:

Percentage Reduction in Stubble Burning incidents of Punjab			
Time period	Year 2022	Year 2023	Percentage Reduction
15 Sept to 30 Nov	49922	36663	26.6 %

12. That the State of Punjab is sincerely endeavoring to make the State of Punjab a zone free of stubble burning incidents in the coming years. However, it is stated that the problem of stubble burning which is continuing for the last so many years will gradually decrease and vanish with the collective efforts of the State of Punjab and the Central Government.
13. That the status report is hereby filed on behalf of the State of Punjab in compliance to order dated 22.11.2023 for kind consideration and appropriate orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Place: SAS NAGAR (MOHALI)

Submitted by

Date: 04-12-2023

  
 Member Secretary,  
 Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
 Nabha Road, Patiala  
 on behalf of State of Punjab

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 Member Secretary  
 Punjab Pollution Control Board  
 PATIALA.  


## Annexure-A

City	Funds Received (Rs. Cr.) under NCAP					Fund Utilized (Rs. Cr.) under NCAP as on 30.11.2023
	2019-20	2020-21	2022-23	2023-24 (Till date)	Total fund received	
Jalandhar	0.12	4.00	10.53	15.40	30.05	4.42
Khanna	0.06	1.90	1.40	1.82	5.18	2.41
MGG	0.06	3.00	1.84	0.37	5.27	3.59
Patiala	0.06	4.00	4.49	6.31	14.86	2.96
Dera Bassi	0.06	0.38	0.45	0.23	1.12	0.44
Dera baba Nanak	0.06	0.76	1.91	2.00	4.73	2.02
Naya Nangal	0.06	1.00	1.01	0.65	2.72	0.92
Amritsar	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	4.94
Ludhiana	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	1.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.48</b>	<b>15.04</b>	<b>21.63</b>	<b>26.77</b>	<b>75.92</b>	<b>23.25</b>

  
 Member Secretary  
 Punjab Pollution Control Board  
 PATIALA.



## Annexure-B

City	Funds Received (Rs. Cr.) under XV-FC					Fund Utilized (Rs. Cr.) under XV-FC as on 30.11.2023
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Till date)	Total fund received	
Amritsar	19	19	29.25	0	67.25	60.92
Ludhiana	52	19.5	20.25	0	91.75	65.73
Total	71	38.5	49.5	0	159	126.65

  
Member Secretary  
Punjab Pollution Control Board  
PATIALA.

