BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 546/2024

In the matter of:

News Item Titled "Ludhiana PPCB Report Flags 54 Dyeing Units In Buddha Nullah's Catchment" Appearing In The Hindustan Times Dated 25.04.2024

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(Kamlesh Singh)
Scientist 'E'
Central Pollution Control Board

Place: Delhi
Dated: 13.08.2024

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 546/2024

News Item Titled "Ludhiana PPCB Report Flags 54 Dyeing Units In Buddha Nullah's Catchment" Appearing In The Hindustan Times Dated 25.04.2024

REPLY ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB) i.e. RESPONDENT NO 2

Most Respectfully Showeth: -

1. That Hon'ble NGT vide Order dated 13.05.2024 and Notice dated 20.05.2024 impleaded the Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) as Respondent no. 2. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.

2. That CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. That, the Hon'ble NGT took a suo motto matter vide Original Application No. 546 of 2024 based on News item titled "Ludhiana PPCB report flags 54 dyeing units in Buddha Nallah's catchment" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 25.04.2024".

4. That the matter in the news article relates to the findings of the Punjab Pollution Control Board in response to NGT's directives in the case, Nitin Dhiman V State of Punjab Original Application No. 225/2022 (hereinafter referred as OA). The report reveals that the water from Buddha Nallah in Ludhiana is unfit for

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irrigation due to high Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) levels. According to the report, about 54 dyeing units are not connected to the common effluent treatment plants (hereinafter referred as CETP) due to geographical reasons and scale of the industries. Out of these 54 dyeing units, 12 are large scale, 16 are small category scattered at different places and 26 units are situated at Industrial Area A, Ludhiana. It states that there were 300 dyeing units operating in the district, out of which about 265 fall in the catchment area of Buddha Nallah, which originates in Koom Kalan village and runs parallel to Sutlej river on its south till it joins the river at Walipur Kalan village. The report further adds that there are 108 dyeing units connected to CETP of capacity 50 MLD (Full form), 67 dyeing units connected to CETP of capacity 40 MLD and 36 dyeing units are connected with CETP that has a capacity of 15 MLD.

5. That the Hon'ble NGT in Original Application No. 225 of 2022 with I.A No, 596/2023 and I.A No.815 of 2023 in the matter titled as *"Nitin Dhiman Vs State of Punjab and Others"* directed the Punjab State Pollution Control Board and Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana to file status report to the action taken against the non-compliance Units, present status of closure, compliance status of all dyeing industries not connected to CETPs, status of dyeing industries with regard to withdrawal and utilization of groundwater, wastewater generated by dyeing industries, wastewater of dyeing industries received in the CETPs, production capacity and share in CETPs. Punjab Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as PPCB) has filed the status report in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 04.01.2024 (in OA No. 225/2022). The copy of the status report filed by PPCB in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT order dated 04.01.2024 is annexed as **Annexure-I.**

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6. That, it is humbly submitted that, the 18th meeting of Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) was held on 11.01.2024 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, wherein following was directed:

"The water quality testing of Budhha Nallah may be taken up by CPCB and State PCB in order to ascertain the improvement in water quality in the drain and ensuring the effectiveness of the completed STP projects. NRCD is to review the Buddha Nallah Rejuvenation project separately before the next CMC meeting".

7. That in compliance of directions of the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC), CPCB has carried out inspection and monitoring of the Buddha Nallah and River Sutlej on 02.04.2024. Accordingly, CPCB vide its letter dated 27.05.2024 provided the water quality data of Buddha Nallah and River Sutlej to the National River Conservation Directorate (hereinafter referred as NRCD), Dept. of Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The major findings of the said monitoring are:

i. The monitored water quality parameters of Buddha Nalla, when compared with the General Standards for Discharge of Environmental Pollutants prescribed under Schedule-VI of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, for inland surface water and land irrigation, reveal that the water quality was found non-complying w.r.t BOD, COD and TSS parameters for the inland surface water standard and non-complying w.r.t BOD and TSS parameters for land irrigation standard.

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ii. The analysis results of River Sutlej upstream (U/s) and downstream (D/s) of Buddha Nalla were compared with the Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing and it was observed that River Sutlej D/s

of Buddha Nalla was found non-complying w.r.t. the criteria.

iii. Comparative analysis of water quality of Buddha Nalla and river Sutlej at D/s of Buddha Nalla for the year 2022 and 2024 reveals that concentration of BOD, COD and TSS increased from the year 2022 to 2024.
The true copy of the letter dated 27.05.2024 is annexed as **Annexure-II**.

8. That, it is humbly submitted that, CPCB also carried out the inspection of 04 common effluent treatment plant (CETPs) located in Ludhiana during April 22-23, 2024 to verify the compliance status. It was observed that out of 04 CETPs, 01 CETP of 500 Kilo Litre per day (KLD) is a zero liquid discharge (ZLD) plant and 03 CETPs were found exceeding the discharge standards. As per environment clearance (hereinafter referred as 'EC') granted to the CETPs, the treated water shall not be discharged into Buddha Nallah, however the three (03) CETPs are reportedly discharging into Buddha Nallah and not complying with the disposal condition stipulated in the environmental clearance issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereinafter referred as 'MoEF&CC'). The overall compliance status of the three CETPs are tabulated below:

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Sr. No.	1	2	3
Location of CETP	**CETP 40 MLD** (Focal point Module) Tajpur Road Near Central Jail, Ludhiana (Punjab)	**CETP 50 MLD** Tajpur Road, Near Central Jail, Ludhiana Punjab.	**CETP, 15 MLD,** Bahadur Ke Road, District Ludhiana (Punjab).
Industrial Area	Dyeing Industrial area Focal Point (Phase 1 to Phase 8)	Dyeing industries Tajpur Road Ludhiana	Textile & Knitwear Dyeing units Industrial Zone Bahadur Ke Road, Ludhiana

Treatment system of CETP	Physico-chemical followed by biological (SBR) process SBR	Physico-chemical followed by biological (SBR) process	Physico-chemical followed by biological (SBR) process
Designed capacity	40 MLD	50 MLD	15 MLD
Status of operation during inspection	Operational	Operational	Operational
OCEMS Installed	Yes	Yes	Yes
Validity of Water Consent/Authorization	No	No	No
Compliance Status	Non-compliance (w.r.t BOD, COD and Chloride, sulphide parameter) and discharge condition of MoEF&CC	Non-compliance (w.r.t BOD, COD and chloride parameters) and discharge condition of MoEF&CC	Non-compliance (w.r.t BOD, COD, Chloride and Sulphide) and discharge condition of MoEF&CC
Final discharge	Buddha Nallah	Buddha Nallah	Buddha Nallah

Further, it is humbly submitted that based on the observed non-compliance in the CETPs discharging into Buddha Nallah, CPCB has issued Direction dated 12.08.2024 under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to Punjab Pollution Control Board to take appropriate action including imposing environmental compensation. The true copy of the direction dated 12.08.2024 issued to Punjab PCB is annexed as **ANNEXURE-III**.

9. The answering respondent craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply, in future, if required.

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10. That in the light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering Respondent, i.e., CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant Original Application.

(Kamlesh Singh)
Scientist 'E'
Central Pollution Control Board

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 546/2024

News Item Titled "Ludhiana PPCB Report Flags 54 Dyeing Units In Buddha Nullah's Catchment" Appearing In The Hindustan Times Dated 25.04.2024

AFFIDAVIT

I, Kamlesh Singh, working as Scientist 'E' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 2 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under:-

1. That I, the deponent herein is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.

2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.

3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

DEPONENT

कमलेश सिंह / Kamlesh Singh
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
M/o Env. Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली–110 032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

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VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this day of 13 AUG 2024 2024 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

DEPONENT

कमलेश सिंह / Kamlesh Singh
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
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13 AUG 2024

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

Original Application No. 225 of 2022

with

I.A No. 596/2023 and I.A No.815 of 2023

In the matter of

Nitin Dhiman

..... Applicant

V/s

State of Punjab and Others

..... Respondent

Status Report of Punjab Pollution Control Board through Er. Gurmit Singh, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office -3, Ludhiana in compliance of order dated 04.01.2024.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

1) That the subject cited case is pending for adjudication before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 04.01.2024 thereby directing the Punjab Pollution Control Board to take samples from Buddha Nallah at different locations in the District Ludhiana and get the same analyzed for quality with respect to all parameters prescribed for treatment of sewage/industrial effluents and file its report regarding the same one week before the date of hearing fixed hereinafter. At the same time, the Hon'ble Tribunal has directed the Punjab State Pollution

Control Board and Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana to file status report in tabular format relating to the action taken against the non-compliant units, present status of closure, compliant status of all dyeing industries not connected to CETPs, status of dyeing industries with regard to withdrawal and utilization of groundwater, wastewater generated by dyeing industries, wastewater of dyeing industries received in the CETPs, Production capacity and share in CETPs. The Punjab State Pollution Control Board and Municpal Corporation, Ludhiana have been further directed to include their response to the observations made by the Amicus Curiae in his report. In this regard, the relevant extract of para no. 18 and 19 of the order dated 04.01.2024 is reproduced herein below for kind perusal and reference.

18. As per report submitted by the PSPCB, all CETPs are discharging their treated effluent into Buddha Nallah leading to River Sutlej. The PSPCB is directed to take samples from Buddha Nallah at different locations in the district Ludhiana and get the same analyzed for quality with respect to all parameters prescribed for treatment of sewage/industrial effluents and file its report regarding the same one week before the date of hearing fixed hereinafter.

19. The PSPCB and the MC, Ludhiana are directed to file status reports in tabular format regarding (i) action taken against all the non- compliant units; (ii) present status of units which are stated to be closed as to whether the same have been temporarily or permanently closed; (iii) detailed compliance status of all the dyeing industries which are not connected to the three CETPs; (iv) the compliance status of all the dyeing industries with respect to withdrawal and utilization of ground water and compliance with conditions, if any, imposed at the time of grant of permission by the Punjab State Ground Water Authority particularly condition regarding re-charge of ground water; and (v) the wastewater generated by each of the dyeing industries

connected with all the three CETPs, the wastewater from each of the said dyeing industries received in the CETPs, the production capacity and the share in the CETP of each of the said dyeing industries. The PSPCB and the MC, Ludhiana are also directed to include in their status report their response to the observations made by the Amicus Curiae in his report filed vide email dated 03.08.2023.

COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

2) That in compliance to order dated 04.01.2024 of the Hon'ble Tribunal, it is submitted that the Punjab Pollution Control Board had collected water samples from various locations of Buddha Nallah in District Ludhiana on 19.01.2024. The samples so collected were got analyzed for quality with respect to parameters prescribed for treatment of sewage as well as industrial effluents. The examination of the analysis report has revealed that the concentration of different parameters of water flowing in Buddha Nallah are more than the prescribed standards for STP, thus making the water not fit for irrigation w.r.t. parameters like coliform, COD and BOD etc. Analysis report of the samples collected from various locations of the Buddha Nallah is enclosed herewith as Annexure-A.

3) That in further compliance to order dated 04.01.2024 of the Hon'ble Tribunal, it is respectfully submitted that about 300 (315) dyeing units are operating in the area of Ludhiana District, out of which about 265 units fall in the catchment area of Buddha Nallah, which originates in village Koom Kalan of District Ludhiana and runs parallel to River Sutlej on its south till Buddha Nallah joins River Sutlej at Village Walipur Kalan, District Ludhiana.

For the treatment of wastewater of the dyeing industries, 03 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) of total capacity 105 MLD have been installed at Ludhiana by the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). The details regarding dyeing cluster, capacity of CETPs, site of installation, technology with name of SPV and existing member units are given herein below:

S.No.	Dyeing Cluster of Ludhiana City	Capacity of CETP	Site of installation	Name of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)	Based on Technology	Existing Member Units	Disposal of treated wastewater
1	Bahadurke Road	15 MLD	Bahadurke Road	Bahadurke Textile and Knitwear Association (BKTKA), Ludhiana	SBR	36	Buddha Nallah
2	Tajpur Road	50 MLD	Tajpur Road	Punjab Dyers Association (PDA), Tajpur Road, Ludhiana	SBR	108	Buddha Nallah
3	Focal Point	40 MLD	Tajpur Road	Punjab Dyers Association (PDA), Focal Point, Ludhiana	SBR	67	Buddha Nallah
Total	03	105 MLD	03		-	211	

4) That apart from the above mentioned 211 dyeing units, about 54 dyeing units are such which could not join the CETPs due to geographical reasons and scale of the industries. Out of these 54 dyeing units, 12 units are of large scale category, 16 units are of small category scattered at different places and 26 units are situated at Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana. All these 54 dyeing units are having their own captive effluent treatment plants for the treatment of wastewater and discharge their treated wastewater into public sewer for which standards have been laid down by the MOEF&CC, Government of India.

5) That after the installation and commissioning of CETPs for the wastewater treatment of dyeing industries, the domestic and industrial effluent of these industries stands segregated from the domestic sewerage of Ludhiana city. However, the treated wastewater of 54 dyeing units which are having captive effluent treatment plants is being discharged and further treated in Sewage

Treatment Plants installed by Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana for domestic sewage.

6) That the three Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) are being monitored on monthly basis by the Punjab Pollution Control Board and recently the effluent samples of the CETP 50 MLD, 40 MLD and 15MLD were collected by the officers of the Board in the month of February, 2024 and March, 2024. The analysis results of the samples collected by the Board officers reveals as under:

   a) The CETP of 50 MLD capacity was found to be achieving the prescribed standards of MOEF&CC, Government of India except the parameter of TDS only.

   b) The CETP of 40 MLD capacity was found to be achieving the prescribed standards of MOEF&CC, Government of India except the parameters of TDS only.

   c) The CETP of 15 MLD capacity was found to be achieving the prescribed standards of MOEF&CC, Government of India except the parameter of TDS only.

7) That reply to the queries raised by the Hon'ble Tribunal in paragraph 19 of the order dated 04.01.2024 containing the direction of the Hon'ble Tribunal and the reply of the Punjab Pollution Control Board may kindly be read as under:

   i) **ACTION TAKEN AGAINST NON-COMPLIANT UNITS**

   12 number of dyeing units were found to be in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Notices were issued and appropriate action in the form of levying of environmental compensation, Bank Guarantee, directions for shifting of the industries to CETP compatible area was taken. List of 12 number of non- compliant units along with present status is enclosed as **Annexure-B.**

   ii) **PRESENT STATUS OF UNITS WHICH ARE STATED TO BE CLOSED AS TO WHETHER THE SAME HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY CLOSED.**

Total 04 number of dyeing units have been closed after the issuance of directions by the Punjab Pollution Control Board. 03 units have been closed permanently and one unit has been closed on temporary basis due to various violations of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The list of 04 units is enclosed as **Annexure-C.**

iii) DETAILED COMPLIANCE STATUS OF ALL THE DYEING INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE NOT CONNECTED TO THE THREE CETPS;

About 54 dyeing units are such which could not join the CETPs due to geographical reasons and scale of the industries. Out of these 54 dyeing units, 12 units are of large-scale category, 16 units are of small category scattered at different places and 26 units are situated at Industrial Area-A. All these 54 dyeing units are having their own captive effluent treatment plants for the treatment of wastewater and discharge their treated wastewater into public sewer for which standards have been laid down by the MOEF&CC, Government of India. It is pertinent to mention here that out of 54 dyeing industries, 05 units have been permanently closed. The list of 54 dyeing industries is enclosed as **Annexure-D.**

iv) THE COMPLIANCE STATUS OF ALL THE DYEING INDUSTRIES WITH RESPECT TO WITHDRAWAL AND UTILIZATION OF GROUND WATER AND COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS, IF ANY, IMPOSED AT THE TIME OF GRANT OF PERMISSION BY THE PUNJAB STATE GROUND WATER AUTHORITY PARTICULARLY CONDITION REGARDING RE-CHARGE OF GROUND WATER;

It is submitted that the Board has considered the case and observed that whenever NOC for abstraction of Ground Water is granted to any project proponent / industry, a condition is imposed to provide ground water recharging system in the premises. Such condition to recharge the ground water by way of rain water harvesting system is not viable / advisable in the case of trade effluent generating industries. It is apprehended that such

system can easily be used for discharge of treated or untreated trade effluent by the erring / defaulting industries, which will be very difficult for the Board to detect / prevent. Such rain water harvesting / recharging system will act as "by-pass" in the industries.

The Board has taken up the matter separately with the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), recommending thereby the non-imposition of condition, to provide rain water harvesting recharging system in the trade effluent generating industries.

In view of above facts, the Board has issued letter bearing no. 19049-74 dated 19.06.2018 to all the officers including Regional Officers advising them to ensure that no red category trade effluent generating industry is allowed to provide the rain water harvesting recharging system. A copy of the letter no. 19049-74 dated 19.06.2018 is enclosed as **Annexure-E**.

v) THE WASTEWATER GENERATED BY EACH OF THE DYEING INDUSTRIES CONNECTED WITH ALL THE THREE CETPs, THE WASTEWATER FROM EACH OF THE SAID DYEING INDUSTRIES RECEIVED IN THE CETPS, THE PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND THE SHARE IN THE CETP OF EACH OF THE SAID DYEING INDUSTRIES.

Presently 108 dyeing units are connected with CETP 50 MLD, 67 dyeing units are connected with CETP 40 MLD and 36 dyeing units are connected with CETP 15 MLD. The facts given in para no.3 above may kindly be read as part of this reply. The detail of industries connected with all three CETPs, alongwith production data, consented discharge and the shareholding is given in **Annexure-F.**

8) That apart from the above the Hon'ble Tribunal vide the said order dated 24.01.2024 has also directed the Punjab State Pollution Control Board and the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana to include in their Status Report their Response to the observations made by the Amicus Curiae in his report filed vide email dated 03.08.2023. In this regard, the reply of the Board has been given in a

separate annexure enclosed herewith as **Annexure-G.** The same may kindly be perused.

9) That the status report on behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board is hereby submitted in compliance to order dated 24.01.2024 for kind consideration and appropriate orders.

Submitted by

Date: 22-04-2024
Place: Ludhiana

(Gurmit Singh)
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office-3, Ludhiana

On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board

Annexure-II

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA

Speed Post

F. No. A-14011/1/2024-WQM-I 1837 **27/05/2024**

To

Sh. S. K. Shrivastava,
Scientist 'F',
National River Conservation Directorate
Department of Water Resources, RD & GR
Ministry of Jal Shakti, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

Subject: Water Quality data of Buddha Nalla drain and River Sutlej

Reference: Your Letter No. F.No. J-24018/1/2020-NRCD-II dated 15.02.2024

Sir,

With reference to above, this is to inform that Central Pollution Control Board has conducted water quality monitoring of River Sutlej and Buddha Nalla jointly with Punjab Pollution Control Board during the month of April 2024.

Accordingly, a brief note on water quality of Buddha Nalla and River Sutlej upstream & downstream of Buddha Nalla monitored during April 2024 and also monitored on September 2022 are attached. In addition, water quality data of River Sutlej upstream and downstream of Ludhiana for the year 20 23 monitored under NWMP is also attached herewith for your kind reference.

Yours faithfully

(Vishal Gandhi)
Scientist –E, WQM-I

Encl: As above

'परिवेश भवन' पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110032
दूरभाष/Tel: 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाईट/Website : www.cpbc.nic.in

BRIEF NOTE ON WATER QUALITY OF BUDDHA NALLA AND RIVER SUTLEJ AT UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM OF BUDDHA NALLA

In pursuance to communication received from NRCD regarding water quality of Buddha Nalla Drain, CPCB has carried out water quality monitoring of River Sutlej and Buddha Nalla jointly with Punjab Pollution Control Board during the month of April 2024. Further, the water quality data of River Sutlej U/s and D/s Ludhiana for the year 2023 is attached as **Annexure.**

Water Quality of Buddha Nalla and River Sutlej at Upstream (u/s) and Downstream (d/s) of Buddha Nalla with respect to Physico-chemical and Biological parameters are placed in table 1 and 2.

Table 1: Analytical results of Buddha Nalla

Sr. no.	Monitoring Locations	Sampling Date	Parameters					
			pH	BOD (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	TSS (mg/L)	Chloride (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform (MPN/100 ml)
General Effluent Discharge Standards as per Schedule-VI of E (P) Rules, 1986			**5.5-9.0**	**30**	**250**	**100**	**-**	**-**
1	Buddha Nalla	02.04.2024	7.2	**161**	**456**	**328**	**-**	49×10^5
2	Buddha Nalla	29.09.2022	6.7	**77**	**322**	**322**	272	**-**

Table 2: Analytical Results of River Sutlej

Sr. No.	Monitoring Location	Sampling Date	Parameters			
			DO (mg/L)	pH	BOD (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform (MPN/100 ml)
Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing			**> 5 mg/L**	**6.5-8.5**	**<3 mg/L**	**< 2500 MPN/ 100mL**
1	River Sutlej U/s Buddha Nalla	02.04.2024	8.9	8.1	1.7	200
2	River Sutlej D/s Buddha Nalla	02.04.2024	**4.7**	7.6	**8**	**13×10^5**
3	River Sutlej U/s Buddha Nalla	29.09.2022	6.8	7.9	1.9	**33×10^2**
4	River Sutlej D/s Buddha Nalla	29.09.2022	5.5	7.8	3	230

Close examination of Water quality data reveals following observations:

1. The water quality data of Buddha Nalla were compared with the General Effluent Discharge Standards as per Schedule-VI of E (P) Rules, 1986. The analytical reveals that the water quality was found non- complying w.r.t. BOD, COD and TSS.

2. The analysis results of River Sutlej U/s and D/s of Buddha Nalla were compared with the Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing and it was observed that River Sutlej D/s of Buddha Nalla was found non-complying w.r.t. the criteria.

3. Comparative analysis of water quality of Buddha Nalla and river Sutlej at d/s of Buddha Nalla for the year 2022 and 2024 reveals that concentration of BOD, COD and TSS increased from the year 2022 to 2024.

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Annexure

NWMP WATER QUALITY DATA OF RIVER SUTLEJ U/s & D/s LUDHIANA 2023:

Sr. No.	Sampling Month	Name Of Monitoring Location	Dissolved O2 (mg/L)	pH	BOD (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform (MPN/100 ml)
1	Jan	RIVER SUTLEJ AT LUDHIANA U/S	8.0	8.0	1(BDL)	260
	Feb		8.8	8.1	1(BDL)	780
	Mar		8.4	8.2	1(BDL)	310
	Apr		7.6	8.1	1(BDL)	460
	May		7.6	7.8	1(BDL)	320
	Jun		6.3	8.0	1.8	330
	Jul		6.8	8.1	1(BDL)	380
	Aug		7.1	7.9	1(BDL)	270
	Sep		7.0	7.6	1(BDL)	230
	Oct		6.8	7.8	1(BDL)	310
	Nov		7.6	8.3	1(BDL)	260
	Dec		7.2	8.2	1(BDL)	130
2	Jan	RIVER SUTLEJ AT LUDHIANA D/S	3.5	7.2	13.0	47000
	Feb		1.6	7.4	25.0	260000
	Mar		3.9	7.2	45.0	330000
	Apr		0.3(BDL)	7.4	75.0	1700000
	May		0.3(BDL)	7.6	32.0	490000
	Jun		0.3(BDL)	7.3	45.0	940000
	Jul		5.7	7.9	2.3	46000
	Aug		6.6	7.9	4.5	20000
	Sep		3.2	7.4	8.0	79000
	Oct		3.9	7.4	4.0	17000
	Nov		6.4	7.3	7.0	49000
	Dec		6.0	7.6	7.0	39000

Annexure-III

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA

Speed Post

CPCB/IPC-VII/CETP-Ludhiana/ 3054 Dated: 12.08.2024

To

The Member Secretary
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road
Patiala Punjab

Subject: **Directions under section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 regarding non-compliance status of four CETPs namely A. 40 MLD CETP- near Central Jail, Tajpur Road (Focal Point Module), Ludhiana, Punjab, B. 50 MLD CETP Tajpur-Rahon Road Cluster, Ludhiana, near Central Jail, Tajpur Road, Ludhiana, Punjab, C. 15 MLD CETP- Bahadurke Road, Ludhiana, Punjab and D. 500 KLD CETP, Plot No. D-260-261, Phase-VIII, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab.**

WHEREAS, amongst others, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, one of the functions of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), (or Pollution Control Committee for Union Territories) constituted under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to plan a comprehensive programme for prevention, control or abatement of pollution of streams and wells located in the State and to secure the execution therefore; and

WHEREAS, amongst others, under Section 16 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, one of the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), constituted under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to coordinate activities of the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees and to provide technical assistance and guidance to SPCBs/PCCs; and

WHEREAS, amongst others, under Section 16 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, one of the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), is to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Central Government has notified the standards for discharge of environmental pollutants from various categories of industries, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules framed there under; and

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
निविदा
दिनांक 12/08/24

'परिवेश भवन' पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110032
दूरभाष/Tel: 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाईट/Website : www.cpbc.nic.in

WHEREAS, there is a need to inculcate the habit of self-monitoring within the CETPs for complying with the prescribed standards and this can be achieved by installing Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS); and

WHEREAS, four CETPs namely (i) CETP - 40 MLD near Central Jail, Tajpur Road (Focal Point Module), Ludhiana, Punjab, (ii) CETP - 50 MLD Tajpur-Rahon Road Cluster, Ludhiana, near Central Jail, Tajpur Road, Ludhiana, Punjab, (iii) CETP - 15 MLD Bahadurke Road, Ludhiana, Punjab and (iv) CETP - 500 KLD CETP, Plot No. D-260-261, Phase-VIII, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab were inspected by CPCB officials along with officials of Punjab PCB during 22.04.2024 and 23.04.2024 based on the communication of the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) with CPCB. Following major observations were made:

A. **CETP - 40 MLD, near Central Jail, Tajpur Road (Focal Point Module), Ludhiana, Punjab (herein after referred as CETP):**

I. During the visit on 22.04.2024, the CETP was found operational with the flow rate of 29 MLD. The CETP receives effluent through dedicated underground pipeline and the treatment is based on Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) technology. It was informed that the CETP is discharging the treated effluent into Budha Nallah (which meets River Sutlej) through underground pipeline from CETP. However, as per the Environmental Clearance (EC) issued by MoEF&CC to the CETP dated 03.05.2013, "the treated wastewater will be used for irrigation" and it is also mentioned in the special terms & conditions that, "*There shall be no discharge into Budha Nallah*".

II. The consent under the Air Act, 1981 is valid upto 29.12.2024 and the Authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 is valid upto 19.12.2024 for the operation of 40 MLD CETP. However, the consent under the Water Act, 1974 was valid till 15.05.2023. The CETP has applied for renewal of consent to PPCB on 07.09.2023.

III. It was reported that 72 Dyeing and Printing units have obtained membership from CETP. It was also informed by the CETP operator that inlet norms for CETP is not prescribed in the consent.

IV. Grab samples were collected from the CETP during monitoring. The analysis result of samples collected from CETP outlet reveals that BOD:54 mg/l (Standard: 30 mg/l), COD:262 mg/l (Standard:250 mg/l), Chloride:2284 mg/l (Standard: 1000 mg/l)) and Sulphide:2.4 mg/L (Standard: 2 mg/l) exceeds the notified effluent discharge standards for CETP. Remaining monitored parameters are within the prescribed standards.

V. Grab sample were also collected from the Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) tank for MLSS & MLVSS. The analysis result reveals that the concentration of MLSS: 4661 mg/l (Designed range: 5000-7000 mg/l) and concentration of MLVSS: 3000 mg/l (Designed range: 3500-4200 mg/l) are less than the designed range, which indicates the poor operation of the SBR.

VI. The CETP has installed Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at the final outlet of treated effluent for the parameters- pH, TSS, COD, BOD with connectivity to PPCB & CPCB servers. During the visit, the OCEMS was found operational and variation in OCEMS reading compared with the monitored results was also reported which indicates the improper working / validation / calibration of OCEMS system.

VII. The CETP has provided sludge storage facility and obtained membership from M/s Re-sustainability Limited (M/s Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited). The CETP had disposed 3517.235 MT sludge (as per the log book records) during the year 2023-24.

B. **CETP - 50 MLD, Tajpur-Rahon Road Cluster, Ludhiana, near Central Jail, Tajpur Road, Ludhiana, Punjab.**

I. During the visit on 22.04.2024, the CETP was found operational with the flow rate of 46 MLD. The CETP receives effluent through dedicated underground pipeline and the treatment is based on Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) technology. It was informed that as per the consent, the CETP is permitted to discharge the treated effluent into Budha Nallah (which meets River Sutlej) through underground pipeline from CETP. However, as per the EC issued by MoEF&CC to the CETP dated 03.05.2013, "the treated wastewater will be used for irrigation" and it is also mentioned in the special terms & conditions that, "*There shall be no discharge into Budha Nallah*".

II. The consent under the Air Act, 1981 is valid upto 31.03.2026 for the operation of 50 MLD CETP. However, the Authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was valid till 04.12.2023 and the consent under the Water Act, 1974 was valid till 22.08.2023. The CETP has applied for renewal of consent and authorization to PPCB on 31.08.2023.

III. It was reported that 110 Dyeing and Printing units have obtained membership from CETP. It was also informed by the CETP operator that inlet norms for CETP is not prescribed in the consent.

IV. Grab samples were collected from the CETP during monitoring. The analysis result of samples collected from CETP outlet reveals that BOD: 128 mg/l (Standard: 30

mg/l), COD: 382 mg/l (Standard: 250 mg/l) and Chloride: 1713 mg/l (Standard: 1000 mg/l) exceeds the notified effluent discharge standards for CETP. Remaining monitored parameters are within the prescribed standards.

V. Grab sample were also collected from the Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) tank for MLSS & MLVSS. The analysis result reveals that the concentration of MLSS: 300 mg/l (Designed value: 5000 mg/l) and concentration of MLVSS: 215 mg/l (Designed value: 4000 mg/l) are less than the designed values, which indicates the poor operation of the SBR.

VI. The CETP has installed Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at the final outlet of treated wastewater for the parameters- pH, TSS, COD, BOD with connectivity to PPCB & CPCB servers. During the visit, the OCEMS was found operational and variation in OCEMS reading compared with the monitored results was also reported which indicates the improper working / validation / calibration of OCEMS system.

VII. During the visit, it was observed that the CETP has provided sludge storage facility and obtained membership from M/s Re-sustainability Limited (M/s Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited) for disposal of sludge. The CETP had disposed 1597.20 MT sludge during the year 2023-24 through TSDFand further, as per log book records, about 173 MT was stored in the premises.

C. CETP - 15 MLD CETP- Bahadurke Road, Ludhiana, Punjab.

I. During the visit on 22.04.2024, the CETP was found operational with the flow rate of 11.26 MLD. The CETP receives effluent through dedicated underground pipeline and the treatment is based on Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) technology. It was informed that the CETP is discharging the treated effluent into Budha Nallah (which meets River Sutlej) through underground pipeline from the CETP. However, as per EC issued by MoEF&CC on 08.12.2014, the CETP is required to establish a Zero Liquid Discharge system.

II. The consent under the Air Act, 1981 is valid upto 31.03.2025 for the operation of 15 MLD CETP. However, the consent under the Water Act, 1974 was valid till 04.01.2023 and the Authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was valid till 04.10.2022 for which the CETP has applied for renewal to PPCB.

III. It was reported that 36 Dyeing/Printing/washing units have obtained membership from CETP and connected to the CETP at the time of visit. It was also informed by the CETP operator that inlet norms for CETP is not prescribed in the consent.

IV. Grab samples were collected from the CETP during monitoring. The analysis results of sample collected from CETP outlet reveals that BOD: 243 mg/l (Standard: 30 mg/l), COD: 587 mg/l (Standard: 250 mg/l), Chloride: 1904 mg/l (Standard: 1000 mg/l) and Sulphide: 16 mg/l (Standard: 2 mg/l) exceeds the notified effluent discharge standards for CETP. Remaining monitored parameters are within the prescribed standards.

V. Grab samples were collected from the Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) tank for MLSS & MLVSS. The sample analysis results reveals that the concentration of MLSS: 2639 mg/l (Designed value: 4840 mg/l) and concentration MLVSS: 1179 mg/l (Designed value: 3872 mg/l) are less than the designed values, which indicates the poor operation of the SBR.

VI. The CETP has installed Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at the final outlet of treated effluent for the parameters- pH, TSS, COD, BOD with connectivity to PPCB & CPCB servers. During the visit, the OCEMS was found operational and variation in OCEMS reading compared with the monitored results was also reported which indicates the improper working / validation / calibration of OCEMS system.

VII. During the visit, it was observed that the CETP has provided sludge storage facility and obtained membership from M/s Re-sustainability Limited (M/s Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited) for disposal of sludge. The CETP had disposed 602.685 MT sludge during the period of 02.04.2023 to 31.03.2024, through TSDF.

D. **CETP - 500 KLD CETP, Plot No. D-260-261, Phase-VIII, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab.**

I. During the visit on 23.04.2024, the CETP was found operational with the flow rate of 450 KLD. It is informed that the CETP receives effluent through dedicated tankers from member units through vehicles (56 in number) equipped with GPS system for carrying effluent. The CETP comprised of physico-chemical process followed by filtration, two stage Reverse Osmosis (RO) followed by evaporator to achieve ZLD as per the consent and EC condition.

II. The Air consent is valid upto 30.06.2028 and the Water consent is valid upto 30.06.2027 for the operation of 500 KLD CETP. However, the Authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was valid till 16.06.2021. It was informed that the CETP has applied for renewal of authorization to PPCB on 01.10.2021.

III. It was reported that 1613 Electroplating industries / Metal Surface Treatment units have obtained membership from CETP and connected to the CETP at the time of

visit. It was also informed by the CETP operator that inlet norms for CETP is not prescribed in the consent.

IV. On the day of visit, it was observed that the flow meters are installed at RO Feed, RO Reject, Evaporators Vessels feed and Evaporator concentrate. It was reported that the CETP have not installed differential pressure gauge system at Cation-Anion and Carbon filter systems which can be used to indicate the choking/scaling of filtration system.

V. During the visit, grab samples were collected from the RO outlet of CETP. The analysis result reveals that treated effluent is complying with the notified discharge standards. Discharge of effluent from the CETP premises was not observed during visit. It is reported that treated effluent (RO Permeate and Condensate) is used for cooling tower makeup water, plantation, gardening, watering to MC parks, DC office, NH-95, construction work. The CETP has also made agreement with M/s Vardhman Special Steels Limited C-58, Focal point Phase-3, Ludhiana, to take 100 KLD treated effluent through tankers for using in different purpose as per requirement. Furthermore, the CETP operator has maintained the records of the treated effluent taken by the users for gardening, construction activities & industrial use and others. The CETP has established an Environmental laboratory.

VI. The CETP has installed OCEMS (Electromagnetic flow meter, PTZ camera) at the final outlet / RO permeate which is connected to CPCB/PPCB portal in compliance of CPCB directions.

VII. The CETP has installed 05 KLD STP with Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) for treatment of domestic wastewater.

AND, NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of powers conferred under section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1981, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) is hereby directed to take appropriate action including imposing environmental compensation and to ensure that CETPs are operated ensuring.

a. Operation/augmentation of the treatment system, appropriately, so as to meet the prescribed discharge standards and to comply with the disposal condition mentioned in the Environmental clearance by MoEF & CC dated 03.05.2013 and 08.12.2014 in the aforesaid 40 MLD, 50 MLD and 15 MLD CETPs. Further, to stop discharging of treated effluent into Buddha Nallah from the 50 MLD CETP, 40 MLD CETP and 15 MLD CETPs.

b. With valid consent under the Water Act-1974 / Authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 from PPCB and comply with all the conditions mentioned thereof.

c. Undertaking regular calibration, maintenance and validation of the OCEMS analysers as per standard operating procedures/recommendations of the suppliers, so as to ensure generation of continuous & reliable data.

Further, PPCB is also hereby directed:

a. To prescribe disposal condition to respective CETPs in accordance with the Environmental clearance by MoEF&CC dated 03.05.2013 and 08.12.2014.

b. To prescribe the inlet standard for CETP in accordance to the CETP notification dated 01.01.2016.

c. To regularly undertake verification of member industries of the CETP for ensuring proper operation of PETP/ETP by individual member industry.

The action taken by PPCB be intimated to CPCB within 15 days of receipt of these directions.

(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Member Secretary

Copy to:

1. **The Chairman** : for information, please.
   Punjab Pollution Control Board
   Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road
   Patiala Punjab

2. **The Additional Secretary (CP Division)** : for information, please.
   Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
   Prithvi Wing, 2nd Floor, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
   New Delhi-110 003.

3.	**The Regional Director (Chandigarh)** Central Pollution Control Board BSNL Telephone Exchange, 2nd Floor Sector – 49C, Chandigarh - 160047	:	for follow-up, please.
4.	**Divisional Head, WQM-I,** CPCB, Delhi	:	for information, please.
5.	**Divisional Head, IPC-VI,** CPCB, Delhi	:	for information, please.
6.	**Divisional Head, IT** CPCB, Delhi	:	for uploading on CPCB website, please.

(Bharat Kumar Sharma)

O/C

Item No. 08 Court No. 1

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 546/2024

News item titled "Ludhiana PPCB report flags 54 dyeing units in Buddha Nullah's catchment" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 25.04.2024

Date of hearing: 13.05.2024

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER

ORDER

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Ludhiana PPCB report flags 54 dyeing units in Buddha Nullah's catchment" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 25.04.2024.

2. The matter relates to the findings of the Punjab Pollution Control Board in response to NGT's directives in the case, Nitin Dhiman V State of Punjab (OA No. 225/2022). The report reveals that the water from Buddha Nallah in Ludhiana is unfit for irrigation due to high Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) levels from dyeing units. However residents of the area have claimed that the colour of the water is pitch black and showcases the chemical mixed, but the reports of the PPCB show concentration of COD and BOD, which do not involve the dyeing units waste._

3. According to the report, about 54 dyeing units are not connected to the common effluent treatment plants (CETP) due to geographical reasons and scale of the industries. Out of these 54 dyeing units, 12 are

large scale, 16 are small category scattered at different places and 26 units are situated at Industrial Area A, Ludhiana. It states that there were 300 dyeing units operating in the district, out of which about 265 fall in the catchment area of Buddha Nallah, which originates in Koom Kalan village and runs parallel to Sutlej river on its south till it joins the river at Walipur Kalan village. The report further adds that there are 108 dyeing units connected to CETP of capacity 50 MLD, 67 dyeing units connected to CETP of capacity 40 MLD and 36 dyeing units are connected with CETP that has a capacity of 15 MLD.

4. The article alleges that despite substantial investments in the rejuvenation of Buddha Nullah, environmental activists have raised concerns over the findings of the report and stated that the NGT should conduct sampling from the independent body and with the presence of locals, without any prior warning to the industrialists. The article alleges that the PPCB is not doing its duty. It comes up with baseless reports which do not match with the current status and it always does inspection and checking at dyeing units after prior information.

5. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms

6. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of *"Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors." reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.*

7. Hence, we implead following as respondents in this matter:

(i). Punjab Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary Head Office, Vatavaran Bhawan, PPCB, Nabha Road, Patiala

(ii). Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

(iii). Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner Office, Ludhiana– 141001

8. Let notice be issued to the above Respondents for filing their response, at least one week before next date of hearing.

9. Another matter being O.A. No. 225/2022 is pending before the Tribunal involving the same issue.

10. This OA be listed along with O.A. No. 225/2022 on 14.08.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

May 13, 2024
OA No. 546/2024
HB