

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

O.A no.570 of 2024

In the matter of

News item titled "Major fire breaks out at Bhagtanwala Dump" appearing in The Tribune dated 11.05.2024

Reply of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar i.e. respondent no.4 in compliance of order dated 13.05.2024 of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Respectfully showeth:

- 1) That briefly submitted, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has registered the above-mentioned Original Application no. 570 of 2024 in exercise of suo moto powers on the basis of the news item titled "Major fire breaks out at Bhagtanwala Dump " appearing in The Tribune dated 11.05.2024. The News item relates to eruption of a major fire at the Bhagtanwala garbage dump on 10.05.2024. As per the news item, almost all heaps of garbage on the 20-acre dumping ground caught fire which created a panicky situation in localities around the dump. It was mentioned in the news item that the fire started around 10 pm and in a few minutes the whole dumping ground turned into "volcano". High flames were visible from a distance of 2 km. Residents of nearby localities assembled on the Jhabaal road as they feared that fire would spread in the residential areas. 
- 2) That the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 13.05.2024 thereby impleading the Central Pollution Control Board; the Punjab State Pollution Control Board through their Member Secretaries; Commissioner, Municipal Corporation and District Magistrate, Amritsar as respondents in the case with direction to file their response.
- 3) That in compliance to the order dated 13.05.2024 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, it is submitted that the city of Amritsar is generating approximately 550 Ton of Solid Waste daily. The dump site in an area of about 25 acres at Bhagatanwala is in operation at present.
- 4) That as per rule 12 (a) of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, deponent is entrusted with a duty to facilitate identification and allocation of suitable land as per clause (f) of rules 11 for setting up solid waste processing and disposal facilities to local authorities in district and in this regard, it is stated

that dump site at Bhagtanwala is incorporated in notified Master Plan of Amritsar as authorized dump site.

- 5) That as per rule 12 (b) of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, deponent is reviewing the performance of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar on waste segregation, processing, treatment and disposal on regular basis during District Environment Committee meetings and issuing directions to Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for taking corrective measures.
- 6) That a fire incident happened at night of 10th-11th May-2024 at Bhagtanwala dumping site, which is only one operational dumping site of Amritsar, where fresh waste is also dumped along with legacy waste.
- 7) That further it is submitted that immediately after the publishing of the news item in the news paper on 11.05.2024, the dump site was visited by the officers of the Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar in the afternoon of 11.05.2024 in the presence of the officials of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar and observed the violations of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- 8) That the Punjab Pollution Control Board being a regulator is pursuing the matter with the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for compliance of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and in this regard the notices have been issued and opportunities of hearings were afforded to Municipal Corporation, Amritsar from time to time. I have perused the reply filed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board for taking action against Municipal Corporation, Amritsar from time to time and I hereby endorse the reply submitted by the Punjab Pollution Control Board.
- 9) That Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is taking adequate steps for the compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as the Municipal Corporation has prepared bio remediation plan of legacy waste, capacity of composting pad has been augmented and plantation at dump site has been started.
- 10) That Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is taking adequate steps for the prevention of fire incidents at dump site as the Municipal Corporation has deputed 2 fire tenders permanently at the dumping site and installing methane gas detector.
- 11) That progress of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar with regard to compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 shall be reviewed by Deponent.
- 12) That the reply of the respondent no. 4 is hereby submitted in compliance to order dated 13.05.2024 for kind consideration of the Hon'ble Tribunal.



Submitted by

Date: 23/08/2024


Deputy Commissioner,
Amritsar

Place: AMRITSAR

(Respondent no.4)