

## BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 52 of 2024

In the matter of

Navjot Singh Sidhu and Others

Appellant

Versus

State of Punjab and Others

Respondent(s)

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Date: 03/11/2025

Place: Rupnagar

*Vipin Kumar*  
 (Vipin Kumar)  
 Environmental Engineer,  
 Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
 Regional Office, Rupnagar  
 (On behalf of respondent Punjab  
 Pollution Control Board)

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

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State of Punjab and Others

Respondent(s)

Reply by way of Affidavit of Er. Vipan Kumar, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Rupnagar to seek time for submission of report in terms of order dated 21.04.2025.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby, solemnly affirm and state as under:

**Respectfully Showeth:**

- 1) That the above-mentioned Original Application No. 52 of 2024 relating to the grievance raised by the applicant for illegal sand mining in Rupnagar District is pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal.
- 2) That the deponent namely Er. Vipan Kumar is presently working as Environmental Engineer in the service of the Punjab Pollution Control Board and is posted in the Regional Office of the Board at Rupnagar. The deponent is well conversant with the facts of the case and is competent and authorized to swear and file the present reply by way of affidavit for seeking time to submit the report in the above-mentioned case on behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board before this Hon'ble Tribunal.
- 3) That after consideration of the matter, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 21.04.2025 thereby directing the Punjab Pollution Control Board to submit a report disclosing the compliance of consent to operate conditions by the Stone Crushers, ambient air quality and carrying capacity of the area within a period of six months. The relevant extract of paragraph 10 of the order dated 21.04.2025 in this regard is reproduced below for kind perusal and reference.

"10. The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) will also submit a report disclosing the compliance of the CTO conditions by the stone crushers and also disclose if ambient air quality in the area and the carrying capacity examination by the PPCB. Let the report in terms of the above be filed by the concerned Authorities within a period of six months."

- 4) That in compliance to the above direction of this Hon'ble Tribunal, it is submitted that as per the conditions laid down in the Environmental Clearance of mines issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Sand Sustainable Mining Guidelines, 2016 and 2020 and condition no. 26 of Form-L1 agreement in the Punjab Minor Mineral Rules, 2013, reverbed mining activity is not allowed during the monsoon period. In view of this condition and in order to stop the mining activities in Monsoon Season 2025, the Chief Engineer / Drainage-cum-Mines and Geology, Water Resources Department, Punjab, has issued memo no. 296-99/3/M(E521844) dated 03.07.2025 to all the Superintending Engineers, Drainage-cum-Mining Circle, Punjab and All Executive Engineers-cum-District Mining Officers, WRD, Punjab with direction to ensure that no mining activity take place in river bed mining sites during the monsoon period from 1<sup>st</sup> of July to 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2025. Hence, the stone crushers had not operated during the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.09.2025. A copy of memo no. 296-99/3/M(E521844) dated 03.07.2025 of the Water Resources, Department Punjab is enclosed as **Annexure-A**.
- 5) That it is pertinent to mention here that during the monsoon period 2025, heavy rainfall had triggered flooding in Rupnagar District and other districts of the State of Punjab in which main roads, link roads and bridges sustained severe damage. About 1200 villages and lacs of people have suffered during the flood disaster in the State. The situation in Ropar (Rupnagar) District had further deteriorated due to heavy rainfall in Kangra and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh, as water was discharged into the swan rivulet and Sutlej River, flows through Ropar district. The floods have also caused widespread damage to the houses, buildings, infrastructure and also the stone crushers of the area. The stone crushers of the area have now started their operations in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October 2025.
- 6) That officers / officials of all the Government Department including the Punjab Pollution Control Board were deputed by the State Government to provide relief to the effected people. In this regard an official communication dated 02.09.2025 of the Government of Punjab, Department of Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management signed by the Chief Secretary-cum-Chairman State Executive Committee constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2025 is enclosed as **Annexure-B**.

- 7) That it is relevant to mention here that as per the official record, about 172 stone crushers in the area of Rupnagar (Ropar) have obtained the consent to operate of the Punjab Pollution Control Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. However, due to the reasons explained herein above, the Punjab Pollution Control Board was not able to check the compliance of the consent to operate conditions by the stone crushers of the area of Ropar. Some of the stone crushers have been checked for compliance of consent to operate conditions recently but the report has to finalized. The further work to check all the stone crushers in this regard is in process and under progress.
- 8) That in view of the facts explained herein above, the Board requests for a period of six months to submit the report before this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in terms of orders dated 21.04.2025.

It is, therefore, prayed that a time period of six months may kindly be granted to the Board to submit the report about the compliance of consent to operate conditions by the stone crushers including ambient air quality and carrying capacity of the area of Ropar.

Date: 03/11/2025  
Place: Rupnagar

Deponent  
*Vipin Kumar*  
(Vipin Kumar)  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Office, Rupnagar  
(On behalf of respondent Punjab  
Pollution Control Board)

**Verification:**

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, as derived from the official record. No part of the above affidavit is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: 03/11/2025  
Place: Rupnagar

Deponent  
*Vipin Kumar*  
(Vipin Kumar)  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Office, Rupnagar  
(On behalf of respondent Punjab  
Pollution Control Board)

**Chief Engineer/Drainage-cum-Mines and Geology,  
Water Resources Department (Mining Branch), Punjab, Sector-18, Chandigarh**

No. 296-99 / 3/M(E-521844)

Date 03/07/2025

From

Chief Engineer/Drainage-cum-  
Mining & Geology,  
Water Resources Department,  
Punjab, Chandigarh.

To

1. All Superintending Engineers,  
Drainage-cum-Mining Circle,  
Punjab.
2. All Executive Engineers-cum-  
District Mining Officers,  
WRD, Punjab.

**Subject:- To stop the mining activities in Monsoon season-regarding.**

As per the conditions laid down in the environmental clearance of mines issued by MOEF&CC, Government of India, Sand Sustainable Mining Guidelines 2016 & 2020 and condition no. 26 of Form-L1 agreement in the Punjab Minor Mineral Rules 2013, riverbed mining activity is not allowed during the monsoon period.

In view of the above, you are hereby directed to ensure that no mining activity takes place in riverbed mining sites during the monsoon period viz. 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September.

  
Chief Engineer/Drainage-cum-  
Mines & Geology,  
Water Resources Department,  
Punjab, Chandigarh 

C.C.

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Punjab for information please.
2. Director, Mines and Geology Department, Punjab for information please.

**Government of Punjab  
Department of Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management**

**ORDER**

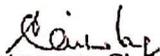
The State of Punjab is currently grappling with one of the worst flood disasters in decades, impacting more than 1200 villages and affecting lacs of people. Heavy monsoon rains, coupled with the release of waters from dams, have caused extensive flooding in many districts of Punjab. With the situation still evolving, there is a grave concern that conditions may further deteriorate in the coming days. At present, approximately 3.75 lakh acres of farmland, primarily paddy fields, remain submerged under floodwater, leading to devastating crop losses just weeks before harvest. In addition, there has been a widespread loss of livestock, which is severely impacting rural households whose livelihoods are heavily dependent on dairy and animal husbandry.

The District and State authorities have been proactively working to restore damaged and disrupted services and are making all-out efforts to provide relief to the affected people. However, these efforts need to be further accelerated and intensified, as the monsoon remains active and heavy spells may continue to affect the State.

In view of current situation and in order to reduce suffering to the people of the state, I, KAP Sinha, as Chief Secretary cum Chairman of the State Executive Committee constitute under the Disaster Management Act 2025, while exercising powers conferred on me under sub section (e) of Section 24 of the Act ibid to further strengthen implementation of the Act issue the following directions:

- i) The District Magistrates may issue all requisite orders under Section 34 of the Act, as empowered, in the event of a threatening disaster situation.
- ii) All DDMA's shall take prompt and adequate measures to provide relief to the affected population.
- iii) All Line Departments of the State shall strictly adhere to their designated Emergency Support Functions and take necessary actions to ensure timely and effective emergency response. For this all the line department employees shall ensure presence on duties as assigned to them without fail regardless of week days or weekends.
- iv) The PWD, Water Resources Department, and PSPCL shall take urgent measures to restore their respective services on a war footing.
- v) All Departments and DDMA's shall ensure smooth movement of people, goods, and essential services within their respective jurisdictions.
- vi) All Telecom Service Providers shall ensure immediate restoration and uninterrupted maintenance of mobile and landline connectivity across the State on a war footing.
- vii) All Local Authorities (Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies) shall take all necessary measures for emergency response, restoration, and relief in the affected areas, and extend full assistance to the DDMA's and State Departments.

C/o Chief Secretary,  
 Government of Punjab  
 Diary No. 1363  
 Date: 02/08/2025

  
 Chief Secretary-cum-Chairman SEC

Endst. No. 2/12/2022-2DM-1/ 16529-36 Chandigarh, Dated: 02.09.2025

Copy forwarded to the following for information and immediate necessary action:

1. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor, Punjab, Chandigarh
2. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab
3. Private Secretaries of all Hon'ble Ministers of the State
4. The OSD to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab
5. ~~All the Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Punjab~~
6. All the Divisional Commissioners of Punjab
7. All Deputy Commissioners-cum Chairman, DDMA, Punjab
8. All the Heads of the Departments of the Punjab.

SSTE Office  
No. 2380  
Date: 03/9/25

Spl. Secy. STZ  
Spl. Secy. PWR

Additional Chief Secretary-cum-  
Financial Commissioner Revenue

**URGENT**

Send a copy to  
1) PCEFC to PFI to pass directions  
at the field levels in all Distts  
2) Ch PPCB to direct all officers  
at Districts to provide all  
support to the DC's as and  
when required by them.

  
3/9  
(Priyank Bharti)  
Secretary,  
Government of Punjab