

**Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench (Court no. II) New Delhi**

Original Application No. 498 of 2022

Sandeep Singh

--Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab & Others

--Respondents

Short reply on behalf of the Punjab Pollution Control Board.

Respectfully showeth:

1. Briefly submitted, Sh. Sandeep Singh resident of VPO Khanpur, Tehsil and District Malerkotla has complained about discharge of sewage water in the drain passing by village Saroud Road to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal by writing a letter, wherein, it was informed that the water from the drain is used by the farmers for irrigation of their crops and also by the birds and animals for drinking and contamination of the water of the drain may prove lethal to the health of human beings as well as of the animals and birds.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal had taken cognizance of the matter in O.A No. 498 of 2022 and in view of the allegations made in the application, the Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 29.8.2022 had constituted a Joint Committee of Punjab Pollution Control Board and Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla to look into the grievance by associating the applicant and the representative of the project proponent and to file report by email at judicial-ngt@gov.in before the Hon'ble Tribunal.

2. That in compliance to the orders dated 29.8.2022, the site in question at village Khanpur was visited and inspected by Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla along-with officers of the concerned departments on 2.11.2022 and the applicant complainant Sh. Sandeep Singh was also associated by the team of officers during visit. Following officers had visited the site on 2.11.2022.



19

- a) Sh. Sanyam Aggarwal, IAS,
Deputy Commissioner,
Malerkotla.
 - b) Smt. Rajdeep Kaur, PCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (D),
Malerkotla.
 - c) Sh. Karandeep Singh, PCS,
Sub Divisional Magistrate,
Malerkotla.
 - d) Smt. Navdeep Kaur,
Block Development & Panchayat Officer,
Malerkotla.
 - e) Sh. Simarpreet Singh,
Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Sangrur.
 - f) Smt. Kamalpreet Kaur,
Sub-Divisional Engineer,
Sub-Division-I,
Department of Water supply & Sanitation, Punjab,
Malerkotla.
 - g) Sh. Varinder Singla, SDE
Asstt. Engineer,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab
Malerkotla.
- 3) That during the visit, the representative of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats informed that an estimate of amount of Rs. 12.50 lacs had been prepared and submitted for the allocation of funds and an amount of Rs. 8.0 lacs has been received from the office of Panchayat Samiti, Malerkotla-I. Accordingly, the construction work of treatment plant as per Thapar model had been started at the site. The said amount has got consumed in the construction of 3 number of wells, which is the part of the treatment facility. The representative requested for allocation of funds to complete the construction of treatment facility.

The applicant complainant Sh. Sandeep Singh informed that the sewer line of only one street of the village is attached to the treatment facility and requested to attach the sewer line of whole village to the treatment facility.

After, confirming availability of funds, the Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla directed BDPO, Ahmedgarh to provide Rs. 4.50 lacs to Executive Engineer, Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Malerkotla for the completion of the said project. The Deputy Commissioner also directed that the project shall get commissioned within one month after the allocation of funds. It was also directed that the sewer



line of whole of the village shall also get connected to the treatment facility. The Assistant Environmental Engineer of Punjab Pollution Control Board was directed to ensure compliance of the above direction by respective departments and to file the necessary report with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

The Joint Committee report / proceeding of the visit performed by the team of officers on 2.11.2022 signed by Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla and Assistant Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Sangrur is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A** for kind perusal of the Hon'ble Tribunal. The report has also been filed separately by the Administration.

- 4) That in compliance to the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla, a copy of the proceedings of the visit performed by the team of officers on 2.11.2022 also containing the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla was forwarded to the following concerned officers of various departments by the Assistant Environmental Engineer Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Sangrur vide letter no. 5262-5266 dated 15.11.2022 for compliance
- a) Smt. Rajdeep Kaur, PCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (D),
Malerkotla.
 - b) Sh. Karandeep Singh, PCS,
Sub Divisional Magistrate,
Malerkotla.
 - c) Smt. Navdeep Kaur,
Block Development & Panchayat Officer,
Malerkotla.
 - d) Smt. Kamalpreet Kaur,
Sub-Divisional Engineer,
Sub-Division-I,
Department of Water supply & Sanitation, Punjab,
Malerkotla.
 - e) Sh. Varinder Singla, SDE
Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab
Malerkotla.



A copy of letter no. 5262-5266 dated 15.11.2022 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-B**.

- 5) That the Assistant Environmental Engineer of Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Sangrur had pursued the matter with different departments for compliance of the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla. Accordingly, the Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj Public Works Divisions, Malerkotla has prepared and submitted revised estimate of Rs. 18.50 Lakh for liquid waste treatment plant which was received by the office of Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Ahmedgarh on 9.12.2022. The Executive Officer, Panchayat Samitti, Ahmedgarh has released a sum of Rs. 10.50 Lakh to the Panchayat of Village Khanpur and on 16.12.2022 the office of Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj Public Works Divisions, Malerkotla has transferred the said amount. In this regard, a letter of confirmation dated 16.12.2022 as issued by the Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Ahmedgarh to the District Development and Panchayat Office, Malerkotla is placed at **Annexure-C**.
- 6) That it is relevant to mention here that a committee of officers constituted by the State Government has approved two types of models for wastewater treatment of villages namely the Thapar Model and the Seechewal Model. The work in rural areas for rejuvenation of village ponds is being performed by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats.
- 7) That as far as the present case is concerned, it is submitted that the requisite internal approval for tendering process has been obtained by the Department and the work of waste treatment plant based on Thapar Model will be completed in Village Khanpur within three month. The remedial action has already been initiated and the grievance of the complainant stands resolved. The Board is in agreement of the Joint Committee report and the action being taken by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats for completion of the Thapar Model of wastewater treatment system in Village Khanpur.
- 8) That the response of the Board is hereby submitted in compliance to order dated 29.8.2022 for kind perusal and appropriate orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Dated:- 3-2-2023

Submitted by

(Ramandeep Singh)
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Sangrur

Verification

Verified that the contents of para no.1 to 7 of the above reply are true and correct to my knowledge as derived from the official record. Para no.8 is prayer. No part of the above reply is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.

Dated:- 3-2-2023



(Ramandeep Singh)

**Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Sangrur**

23

Subject : Proceedings of the visit on 02/11/2022 to check the status of treatment facility provided for treatment of waste water at Vill. Khanpur in compliance to NGT order in the OA no. 498/2022 titled as Sandeep Singh Vs State of Punjab dated 29/08/2022.

In the subject cited matter, it is submitted that as per the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla, the site of the village Khanpur, Tehsil & Distt. Malerkotla was visited on 02/11/2022 to check the status of treatment facility provided for treatment of waste water. During visit, following officers were present at site:

1. Sh. Sanyam Aggarwal, IAS,
Deputy Commissioner,
Malerkotla.
2. Smt. Rajdeep Kaur, PCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (D),
Malerkotla.
3. Sh. Karandeep Singh, PCS,
Sub Divisional Magistrate,
Malerkotla:
4. Sh. Navdeep Kaur,
Block Development & Panchayat Officer,
Malerkotla.
5. Sh. Simarpreet Singh,
Asstt. Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Sangrur.
6. Smt. Kamalpreet Kaur,
Sub-Divisional Engineer,
Sub-Division-I,
Department of Water supply & Sanitation, Punjab,
Malerkotla.
7. Sh. Varinder Singla, SDE
Asstt. Engineer,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab,
Malerkotla.

During visit, the Worthy Deputy Commissioner asked the representative of Deptt. of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to explain the position of the said project. The representative of said department informed that office of Panchayat Samiti, Malerkotla-I vide its office letter no. 1933 dated 18/08/2021 has issued funds amounting to Rs. 8.0 lacs for construction of treatment plant at Vill. Khanpur. Further, he informed that an estimate of amount of Rs. 12.50 lacs had been prepared and submitted for the allocation of funds. He also informed that only amount of Rs. 8.0 lacs has been received from the office of Panchayat Samiti, Malerkotla-I. Accordingly, the construction work of treatment plant as per Thapar model had been started at site. The said amount has got spent in the construction of 3 no. of wells, which is the integral part of the treatment facility. He further requested for allocation of remaining funds in order to complete the construction of treatment facility.

During visit, the complainant Sh. Sandeep Singh also informed that the sewer line of only one street of the village is attached to the treatment facility and he requested to attach the sewer line of whole village to the treatment facility.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the BDPO, Ahmedgarh that is there any funds available for the construction/ completion of the said project? The BDPO intimated that the funds are available in 15th finance commission and same can also be utilized for the completion of the project.

Accordingly, the Deputy Commissioner directed that the office of BDPO, Ahmedgarh to provide remaining funds amounting to Rs. 4.50 lacs to Executive Engineer, Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Malerkotla for the completion of the said project. He also directed that the project shall get commissioned within one month after the allocation of funds. Lastly, it was also mentioned that the sewer line of whole of the village shall also get connected to the treatment facility. Assistant Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, was also directed to ensure the compliance of above directions by respective departments and to file the necessary report with Hon'ble NGT as per the directions passed in the present case in a time bound manner.


Asstt. Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Sangrur


Deputy Commissioner,
Malerkotla

No. 5262-5266

Through email also

Date 15-11-2022

1. Smt. Rajdeep Kaur, PCS,
Addl. Deputy Commissioner (D),
Malerkotla.
2. Sh. Karandeep Singh, PCS,
Sub Divisional Magistrate,
Malerkotla.
3. Sh. Navdeep Kaur,
Block Development & Panchayat Officer,
Malerkotla.
4. Smt. Kamalpreet Kaur,
Sub-Divisional Engineer,
Sub-Division-I,
Department of Water supply & Sanitation, Punjab,
Malerkotla.
5. Sh. Varinder Singla, SDE
Asstt. Engineer,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab,
Malerkotla.

Subject : Proceedings of the visit on 02/11/2022 to check the status of treatment facility provided for treatment of waste water at Vill. Khanpur in compliance to NGT order in the OA no. 498/2022 titled as Sandeep Singh Vs State of Punjab dated 29/08/2022.

In the subject cited matter, it is submitted that as per the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Malerkotla, the site of the village Khanpur, Tehsil & Distt. Malerkotla was visited on 02/11/2022 to check the status of treatment facility provided for treatment of waste water.

Now, please find enclosed herewith the proceedings of the said visit for taking necessary action in the matter at your end please. You are requested to send the action taken report of your department at earliest so that the final report can be compiled and submitted in Hon'ble NGT in a time bound manner.

Treat it as most urgent being NGT matter.

DA/ As above


14/11/2022
Asst. Environmental Engineer

Office of Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Ahmedgarh

To

District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Malerkotla.

No.....

Dated.....

Subject:- Regarding taking legal action against Harbhajan Singh Sarpanch Village Khanpur for discharging sewerage water into drain and violation order Hon'ble High Court and about fund transfer to office Executive Officer Panchayat Raj Lok Nirman Mandal, Malerkotla (PR).**Reference:- Office Development Panchayat Officer, Malerkotla letter no. 239 dated 09/12/2022**

About mentioned matter under reference letter of office Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Lok Nirman Mandal Malerkotla (PR) regarding revised estimate of liquid waste treatment plant of Rupees 18.50 lacs received today dated 09/12/2022. Regarding this Executive Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Ahmedgarh has issued amount 10.50 lacs to Panchayat and office of Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Lok Nirman Mandal Malerkotla has transfer the amount on dated 16/12/2022.

Sd/-

**Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Ahmedgarh****Endst. No 1347****Dated 16/12/2022**

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Lok Nirman Mandal, Malerkotla (PR) for information.

Sd/-

**Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Ahmedgarh**