

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

**M.A. NO.3/2026**

**IN**

**Original Application No.676/2023**

News Item titled "Agriculture Runoff causing groundwater pollution in Punjab making drinking water unsafe reveals study" appearing in The Times of India dated 12.10.2023


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<b>Sr . No .</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Dated</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1.	Reply by way of affidavit of Sh. Arun Kumar, Joint Director Agriculture (H.G) Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, State of Punjab, on the behalf of Respondent No.5 in compliance with the order of Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 03.02.2026.	23.06.26	01-06
2.	<b><u>Annexure R-5/1</u></b> (Clarification)	27.02.2026	07-08

Submitted by:

Place : SAS Nagar

Dated : 23.06.26

  
Joint Director Agriculture (H.G.)  
Directorate of Agriculture, Punjab,  
Kheti Bhawan, Phase-VI, S.A.S. Nagar

(on behalf of Respondent No. 5)

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

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**M.A. NO.3/2026**

**IN**

**Original Application No.676/2023**

News Item titled "Agriculture Runoff causing groundwater pollution in Punjab making drinking water unsafe reveals study" appearing in The Times of India dated 12.10.2023

Reply by way of Affidavit of Sh. Arun Kumar, Joint Director Agriculture (H.G) Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, State of Punjab, on the behalf of Respondent No.5 in compliance with the order of Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 03.02.2026.



**RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:-**

I, the above name deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

[1] That the case cited as above was fixed for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 03.02.2026, on which date this Hon'ble Tribunal passed an order in M.A. No.3 of 2016 in O.A. No.

23 JUN 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Arun Kumar", located at the bottom right of the page.

676 of 2023, operative part of which as in Para 4 is reproduced below:-

“4. The first interim report filed by the Government of Punjab reveals that uranium concentration in the irrigation water supply are found to be beyond the limits and standards fixed by the WHO. Same is the position in respect of the uranium concentration in the soil samples. Table 3 of this report did not show analysis of uranium in agricultural commodities such as vegetable, cereals, pulses etc. Therefore, in the further analysis the above aspects will be duly looked into by the State and this issue will also be examined by the CPCB while filing the report before the Tribunal.




[2] That a copy of the notice in the aforesaid M.A. was sent to the Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Punjab – an NABL Accredited State Analytical Agency vide Memo No. 228/Jda(H.G) dated 25.02.2026 for furnishing their comments.


[3] That the Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Punjab – an NABL

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Accredited State Analytical Agency, furnished clarification with respect to the observations of this Hon'ble Tribunal relating to Table 3 of the Report in question. The clarification is reproduced here in below for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Tribunal: -

Sr. No.	Particulars	Clarification
i.	Table 3 of this report did not show analysis of uranium in agricultural commodities such as vegetables, cereals, pulses etc.  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uranium has been analyzed in all the samples of agricultural commodities such as vegetables, cereals, pulses etc. and found below detection limit (Detection Limit: 0.1 mg/kg).</li> <li>- In 1<sup>st</sup> interim report, under the heading 'Parameters &amp; Test Methodology', Uranium is mentioned at Sr.No.10 in the list of heavy metals estimated in Agri - Food commodity, irrigation water &amp; soil.</li> <li>- Results for uranium not mentioned for Agri. - Food commodity under heading 'Result &amp; Key Findings', as in all the samples of Agri. -</li> </ul>

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		<p>Food commodity results were below detection limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Table-3 of the 1<sup>st</sup> interim Report reflects only the applicable regulatory requirements/ provisions for irrigation water, soil and agri – food commodities; no analytical results were presented therein.</li> </ul> <p>As there is no regulatory requirement for uranium in irrigation water, soil and agri – food commodities, hence the row pertaining to Uranium was left blank.</p>
ii.	<p>Uranium concentration in the irrigation water supply are found to be beyond the limits and standards fixed by the WHO. Same is the position in respect of the uranium concentration of soil samples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As per WHO, the limit for uranium has been specified for drinking water only, whereas for irrigation water and soil no limit has been specified for Uranium.</li> <li>- Out of 77 irrigation water samples analyzed for Uranium under 1<sup>st</sup> interim report, 14 samples were</li> </ul>



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		<p>below detection limit i.e. 0.005 mg/l. For rest 63 water samples Uranium was detected 0.005 mg/l to 0.131 mg/l.</p> <p>- Similarly out of 88 soil samples analyzed for uranium under 1<sup>st</sup> interim report, 20 samples were below detection limit i.e. 0.5 mg/kg. For rest 68 soil samples Uranium was detected 0.5 mg/kg to 6.7 mg/kg.</p>
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[4] That on the receipt of the aforesaid clarification the Respondent No.5 has duly looked into the clarification vis-à-vis the observations made by this Hon'ble Tribunal and agree with the aforesaid clarification. A copy of the clarification received from the Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Punjab – an NABL

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Accredited State Analytical Agency vide No. PBTI/1749-1750 dated 27.02.2026 is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-5/1.**

Place : SAS Nagar

Dated : 23.06.26

DEPONENT

(Arun Kumar)

Joint Director Agriculture (H.G.)  
Directorate of Agriculture, Punjab,  
Kheti Bhawan, Phase-VI, S.A.S. Nagar

(on behalf of Respondent No.5)

**Verification**

Verified that the contents of Para Nos. 1 to 4 of the reply are true and correct to my knowledge as derived from the official record. No Part of it is false and nothing material fact has been kept concealed there from.



Place : SAS Nagar

Dated : 23.06.26

DEPONENT

(Arun Kumar)

Joint Director Agriculture (H.G.)  
Directorate of Agriculture, Punjab,  
Kheti Bhawan, Phase-VI, S.A.S. Nagar

(on behalf of Respondent No.5)

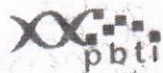


Attested As Identified

NEERU SHARMA  
Notary, Chandigarh (U.T.)

23 JUN 2026





# Punjab Biotechnology Incubator

Department of Science, Technology & Environment,  
Govt. of Punjab

An NABL Accredited State Analytical Agency



FSSAI Empanelled | EIC Approved | APEDA Approved | Notified State Water Lab - GoP | Notified Under EPA - GoI

No. PBT/17499/1750

Date: 27/02/2026

Joint Director Agriculture (H.G.)  
Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab  
Kheti Bhawan, Site No. 204, Phase-6, S.A.S. Nagar

Subject: Notice in M.A. No. 03/2026 in Original Application No. 676/2023

Reference: Memo No. 228/JDA (H.G.) dated 25.02.2026 received from  
Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab.

This is with reference to above referred Memo vide which comments have been sought in connection to 1<sup>st</sup> interim Report pursuant to the notice issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

The point-wise clarification is as under:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Clarification
i.	Table 3 of this report did not show analysis of uranium in agricultural commodities such as vegetables, cereals, pulses etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uranium has been analyzed in all the samples of agricultural commodities such as vegetables, cereals, pulses etc. and found below detection limit (Detection Limit: 0.1 mg/kg).</li> <li>- In 1<sup>st</sup> interim report, under the heading 'Parameters &amp; Test Methodology', Uranium is mentioned at Sr. No. 10 in the list of heavy metals estimated in Agri- Food commodity, Irrigation Water &amp; Soil.</li> <li>- Results for uranium not mentioned for Agri- Food commodity under heading 'Results &amp; Key Findings', as in all the samples of Agri- Food commodity results were below detection limit.</li> <li>- Table-3 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Report reflects only the applicable regulatory requirements/ provisions for irrigation water, soil and agri-food commodities; no analytical results were presented therein.</li> </ul> <p>As there is no regulatory requirement</p>

Attested

Joint Director Agriculture (H.G.)

Directorate of Agriculture, Punjab

Kheti Bhawan, Phase-VI, S.A.S. Nagar

National Referral Lab for LMO/GMO Detection under Seeds Act | Approved NRL by FSSAI | Referral Lab under FSSA 2006

Knowledge City, Sector-81, SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab - 140 306, India

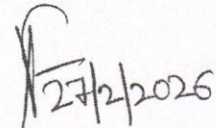
Phone : +91-172-2998601, 2998602, 2998603

Website : www.pbttilabs.com /pbti\_dst

		for uranium in irrigation water, soil and agri-food commodities, hence the row pertaining to Uranium was left blank.
ii.	Uranium concentration in the irrigation water supply are found to be beyond the limits and standards fixed by the WHO, Same is the position in respect of the uranium concentration of soil samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As per WHO, the limit for Uranium has been specified for drinking water only, whereas for irrigation water and soil no limit has been specified for Uranium.</li> <li>- Out of 77 irrigation water samples analyzed for Uranium under 1<sup>st</sup> interim report, 14 samples were below detection limit i.e. 0.005 mg/l. For rest 63 water samples Uranium was detected 0.005 mg/l to 0.131 mg/l.</li> <li>- Similarly out of 88 soil samples analyzed for Uranium under 1<sup>st</sup> interim report, 20 samples were below detection limit i.e. 0.5 mg/kg. For rest 68 soil samples Uranium was detected 0.5 mg/kg to 6.7 mg/kg.</li> </ul>

This is for your information and further necessary action please.

*Attended*  


  
27/2/2026  
Head QA

**Joint Director Agriculture (H.G.)**  
**Directorate of Agriculture, Punjab,**  
**Kheti Bhawan, Phase-VI, S.A.S. Nagar**

Copy to: PA to CEO PBTI for information of CEO please.