

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI**

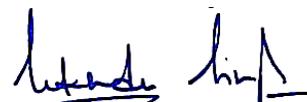
Original Application No. 570 of 2024

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

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Date: 19-08-2024

Place: AMRITSAR



(Sukhdev Singh)  
Environmental Engineer  
Punjab Pollution Control Board  
Regional Office, Amritsar.

**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 Punjab Pollution Control Board (respondent no.2) through  
Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Amritsar

**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. The Punjab Pollution Control Board is filing the present reply in compliance to the said order dated 13.05.2024.
- 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. The dump site at Bhagatanwala is violating the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Board is pursuing the matter 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. The Punjab Pollution Control Board has imposed Environmental Compensation amounting of Rs. 4.5 cores upon Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for violation of the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 for the period of violation from 01.07.2020 to 31.03.2024 in compliance to the directions and orders dated 10.01.2020 and 17.09.2020 already passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 606 of 2018.

4) 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. The observations of the visiting officer are mentioned herein below:

- a) Huge quantity of Municipal Solid Waste in heaps was present at the site which had caught fire. Thick smoke was arising from the heaps of waste at the time of visit. As per information obtained from the official of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar more than 10 Lakh MT waste is present at the site from last more than 30 years and fresh waste is being accumulated regularly.
- b) Further officials informed that the source of fire at the dumpsite was unknown.
- c) During visit uncovered vehicles carrying municipal solid waste from the city to dump site were inspected and found that vehicles were carrying mixed municipal solid waste (containing dry and wet waste) for dumping at dumpsite.
- d) Huge quantity of mixed municipal solid waste found piled up at the dumpsite.
- e) 05 nos. trommel and one no. ballistic separator were present at site and same found defunct. No remediation of the solid waste at site was being carried out by the MC authorities. Representative informed that bio-remediation machines are not in operation since May-2023.
- f) One no. MRF shed is also present at site which was not functioning. Compartments in MRF shed found vacant and no any segregated waste was present in these compartments.
- g) There are 11 no. composting pits is present at the site and no any type of wet waste was present in these compost pits. Old waste was laying in these compost pits without any treatment.
- h) MC has provided boundary wall around the dumpsite and same found broken from many sites.

- i) The authority has not developed green belt around the Municipal Solid Waste dumpsite.
  - j) At the back side of the site excavation of the earth was done by MC and as per representative same has been done for providing sanitary landfill.
  - k) The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has not provided any mechanism for treating leachate at the dumpsite.
- 5) That the Punjab Pollution Control Board has issued show cause notice vide letter no. 2480-81 dated 25.07.2024 to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for the violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 with an opportunity of hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 08.08.2024. A copy of letter 2480-81 dated 25.07.2024 is enclosed as **Annexure R 2/A**. The date of hearing was postponed and the hearing was held on 09.08.2024.
- 6) That Dr. Yogesh Arora, Medical Officer (Health), Municipal Corporation, Amritsar attended the hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 09.08.2024 and stated that the Corporation had signed concession agreement with M/s Amritsar MSW Limited (Concessionaire) on 18.03.2016 for the establishment of Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility and the scope of work of the concessionaire includes door to door collection of segregated waste, processing & disposal of solid waste and closure of dumping site through bio remediation of legacy waste. The officer further informed that Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar submitted the design and technology for the treatment of leachate to Municipal Corporation but the construction of same is yet to be started by the concessionaire. It was further apprised that approximately 4.05 lac MT of legacy waste has been remediated out of 10 lac MT of accumulated waste and all the machineries of the bio remediation have been stopped by the concessionaire since 20.05.2023. The officer further stated that Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has prepared the plan for the bio remediation of legacy waste and planning to descope the work of bio remediation of legacy waste from the scope of the concessionaire and a committee has been constituted by the Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Corporation (PMIDC) for exploring the feasibility. Dr. Yogesh Arora also informed that installation of methane detector is in progress and necessary arrangements have been made for controlling the fire at dump site.
- 7) That after hearing the officers of the Board, representative of the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar and considering facts on record, the Chairman of the Board decided as under:
- a. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall submit time targeted

action plan for the bio remediation of legacy waste dumped at Bhagtanwala dumpsite and other dumpsites such as Chabhal Road within one month period.

- b. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall devise mechanism for the effective collection and transportation of solid waste so that same may not be littered/ scattered at different locations/lanes/roads of the city within one month period.
- c. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall submit action plan and take action for compliance of directions issued by CPCB regarding prevention of fire at dump sites within one month period.
- d. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall install treatment facility for the treatment of leachate.
- e. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall construct boundary wall around dump site, provide green belt and make piezometers functional.
- f. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall apply for obtaining authorization under SWM Rules, 2016 within 10 days and Regional Office, Amritsar shall process authorization case of Municipal Corporation on merits.
- g. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall deposit Bank Guarantee of Rs. 50 lac to the Board as an assurance to comply with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- h. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall deposit Environmental Compensation of Rs. 4.5 Crores to the Board which was imposed earlier for the violation of the SWM Rules, 2016 for the period w.e.f. 01/07/2020 to 31/03/2024.
- i. Regional Office, Amritsar shall calculate the Environmental Compensation for the violation of the SWM Rules, 2016 for the period w.e.f. 01/04/2024 to 31/07/2024.
- j. The MC shall devise the ways & means to minimize the generation of all kind of wastes through REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE activities. The generated waste, if any, shall be properly handled and managed as per the provisions of the Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2016 in an environmentally sound manner.
- k. The MC may also develop the vermicomposting /composting to manage the biodegradable solid waste.

1. MC will take regular inspections and appropriate actions against the violators of ban on single use plastic, plastic carry bags as well as persons/vendors who throw, burn or bury any solid wastes in open, outside premises or in drain / water bodies.
- 8) That the proceedings of personal hearing held on 09.08.2024 were conveyed to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar by the Board for compliance vide letter no.2837-39 dated 14.08.2024 and a copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure R 2/B**.
- 9) That the Punjab Pollution Control Board has taken action for the past violations of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 against Municipal Corporation, Amritsar by imposing Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 4.5 Crore for the period of violation from 01.07.2020 to 31.03.2024 and is taking further action in accordance with the provisions of law as explained herein above. In this regard, the competent authority of the Board has directed the Regional Office, Amritsar to calculate the Environmental Compensation for violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 for the period from 01.04.2024 to 31.07.2024. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has also been directed to take corrective measures as explained in para no. 7 above.
- 10) That the reply of the Board is hereby submitted in compliance to order dated 13.05.2024 for kind consideration of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Date: 19-08-2024

Place: AMRITSAR

Submitted by



(Sukhdev Singh)

Environmental Engineer  
Punjab Pollution Control Board  
Regional Office, Amritsar.



## PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Zonal Office, Plot No. 164, Focal Point, Mehta Road, Amritsar

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No. 2480

Regd.

Date: 25/07/2024

To

The Commissioner,  
Municipal Corporation,  
C-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar.

**Sub: Show cause notice for violations of the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (20964548)**

Whereas, the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India, New Delhi in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

And whereas the under these rules, the Municipal Authority is responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, including infrastructure development for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing & disposal of municipal solid waste.

And whereas, the solid waste generation of Amritsar city is about 550 TPD. The dump site at Chabhal Road and at Chheharta are not in operation and at present dump site at Bhagtanwala in an area of 25 acres is in operation. Due to violations of provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 the Municipal Corporation Amritsar was given personal hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 11/06/2019 and 12/03/2020. The monitoring committee constituted by hon'ble NGT has also taken very serious views for non-management of solid waste effectively as per law by Municipal Corporation, Amritsar. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has deposited Rs. 20 Lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs to Regional Office, Amritsar as Environmental Compensation imposed by Monitoring Committee in his recommendations. The B.G. of Rs. 25 Lakh submitted by Municipal Corporation has been en-cashed for non-compliance of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. The Municipal Corporation has not deposited Interim Environmental Compensation of Rs. 5 Lakhs as was decided during hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 12/03/2020.

And whereas, environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 180 lakhs has been imposed to Municipal Corporation, Amritsar vide Board's letter no. 72 dated 27-04-2022 written to Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Local Govt., for non-compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 and legacy waste remediation in compliance to order of Hon'ble NGT, for the period 01/07/2020 to 31/03/2021. Further Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 220 lakhs has been imposed to Municipal Corporation, Amritsar vide Board's letter no. 107 dated 29-04-2022 written to Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Local Govt., for non-compliance of Sr. no. 1 to 10 and Sr. no. 11 of Rule 22 of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 in compliance to order of Hon'ble NGT for the period 01/04/2021 to 28/02/2022. The Municipal Corporation has not deposited Environmental Compensations imposed and still is violating the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules as the bio-remediation of legacy waste is not being carried out, green belts is not developed around the dump site and segregation is not proper and untreated leachate is being discharged into sewer.

And whereas personal hearing for the violation of the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 was given to Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar before the Chairman of the Board on 17.08.2022 and after hearing the officers of the Board, representatives of the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, the Chairman of the Board decided as under:-

1. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall deposit Environmental Compensation amounting Rs. 180 Lakh for the period 01/07/2020 to 31/03/2021 and Rs. 220 Lakh for the period 01/04/2021 to 28/02/2022, already imposed, immediately.

2. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall pursue NIT, Jalandhar to get report for treatment of leachate and start the process for installation of treatment plant for treatment of leachate by 30/11/2022.
3. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall take all necessary steps, immediately to operate the machinery installed for bio-remediation of legacy waste, on regular basis and submit monthly progress report to Punjab Pollution Control Board.
4. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall complete the work for providing proper boundary wall / fencing along with gate, all around the dumping site, within 01-month.
5. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall immediately plant trees for development of green belt around the dump site.
6. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall ensure to achieve targets as per time lines of District Environment Plan prepared for compliance of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 and submit monthly progress report in this regard to Punjab Pollution Control Board.
7. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall take all necessary steps, immediately for installation of waste to energy plant, for which required permissions are granted to Municipal Corporation.
8. The Regional Office, Amritsar shall submit latest status report to EPA Cell, Head Office, Patiala for imposition of Environmental Compensation to Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for non-compliance of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 for the period 01/03/2022 onwards.

And whereas the proceedings of personal hearing were conveyed to the authority vide Board's letter no. 2852-53 dated 05.09.2022 for compliance but authorities failed to submit any compliance of the decisions of the personal hearing. And whereas, the Municipal Solid Waste dump Site at Bhagtanwala, Amritsar was visited by Officer of Regional office, Amritsar on 19/06/2023 and observed as under:-

1. The bio-remediation of legacy waste is carried out with the help of 05 no. trammels (earlier there were 06 no. trammels but now one is lying dysfunctional) and one no. ballistic separator at the site. None of the trammels at site was in operation during the visit. The legacy waste was found on the right side of the dump site, as observed at the time of visit.
2. The electricity supply to the trammels is provided with 02 no. DG sets but none of them were in operation during the visit. As per their condition the D.G. sets were not in operation since long.
3. There are two no. compost pads at the dump site, out of which construction work of one compost pad has been completed and for the other compost pad the work of construction is pending, as observed at the time of visit.
4. Out of total 3600 ft length of boundary wall, the construction of app. 3000 ft length has been completed and the remaining is pending, as observed during the visit.
5. MC, Amritsar has not provided green belt around the dump site as well as provision for collection of leachate at the site. The leachate waste was being discharged into sewer.
6. No arrangement for the segregation of the municipal solid waste was seen at the dump site.
7. No data was shown during the visit as there was no representative present at the site at the time of visit.
8. The fresh waste collected is being dumped on the earlier waste at site without any arrangement or without covering with the layer of soil as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
9. MRF facility has been provided but the same is inadequate as per the total waste present at site.

And whereas, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar was violating the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and accordingly show cause notice for violation of the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 vide letter no. 2733 dated 05.10.2023 was issued to the authority with an opportunity of personal hearing

dated 17.10.2023 before Chairman of the Board. After hearing the officers of the Board, representatives of the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, the Chairman of the Board decided as under:-

1. The Regional Office to conclude the report of NIT and submit comments within 10- days.
2. M.C. shall provide data to Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Amritsar i.e. plastic waste, e-waste which was sent to recycler for verification.
3. M.C. Amritsar will apply for Authorization under MSW Rules and C&D Waste Rules within 07-days and will contact the nodal officer at Head office Patiala.
4. M.C. Amritsar shall submit the record quantity of wet waste of MRF facility located in Amritsar.

And whereas the proceedings of personal hearing were conveyed to the authority vide Board's letter no. 3248 dated 23.11.2023 for compliance but authorities failed to submit any compliance of the decisions of the personal hearing.

And Whereas, a news item titled "major fire at the Bhagtanwala garbage dump last night" was published in various newspapers dated 11.05.2024. The news item relates to eruption of a major fire at Bhagtanwala dumpsite. As per news item almost all heaps of garbage on 20 acre dumping ground caught fire which created a panicky situation in localities around the dump. 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. And whereas, dumpsite was visited by officers of Regional office, Amritsar on 11.05.2024 in the presence of official of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar and it was observed as under:-

1. Huge quantity of Municipal Solid Waste in heaps was present at the site which had caught fire. Thick smoke was arising from the heaps of waste at the time of visit. As per information obtained from the official of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar more than 10 Lakh MT waste is present at the site from last more than 30 years and fresh waste is being accumulated regularly.
2. Further officials informed that the source of fire at the dumpsite was unknown.
3. During visit uncovered vehicles carrying municipal solid waste from the city to dump site were inspected and found that vehicles were carrying mixed municipal solid waste (containing dry and wet waste) for dumping at dumpsite.
4. Huge quantity of mixed municipal solid waste found piled up at the dumpsite.
5. 05 nos. trommel and one no. ballistic separator were present at site and same found defunct. No remediation of the solid waste at site was being carried out by the MC authorities. Representative informed that bio-remediation machines are not in operation since May-2023.
6. One no. MRF shed is also present at site which was not functioning. Compartments in MRF shed found vacant and no any segregated waste was present in these compartments.
7. There are 11 no. composting pits is present at the site and no any type of wet waste was present in these compost pits. Old waste was lying in these compost pits without any treatment.
8. MC has provided boundary wall around the dumpsite and same found broken from many sites.
9. The authority has not developed green belt around the Municipal Solid Waste dumpsite.
10. At the back side of the site excavation of the earth was done by MC and as per representative same has been done for providing sanitary landfill.
11. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has not provided any mechanism for treating leachate at the dumpsite.

And whereas, the status of solid waste management in Municipal Corporation area of Amritsar is being discussed in meetings of District Environment Committee. Latest District Environment Committee meeting was held on 29.04.2024 under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (UD), Amritsar wherein the

representative of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar were also present. During meeting as per data produced by the representative of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar total door to door collection of municipal solid waste is 80 % and source segregation is 39 %. Total quantity of legacy waste treated is 32%.

And whereas, a CWP no. 21940 of 2018 titled as Sukhdev Singh & ors V/s State of Punjab and ors is pending before the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh which is fixed for hearing on 11.09.2024.

And whereas, Hon'ble NGT vide original application no. 570/2024 has registered suo-moto on the basis of the news item titled "Major fire breaks out at Bhagtanwala Dump " appeared in The Tribune dated 11.05.2024 wherein PPCB has implead as respondent no. 2 and has directed to file response/reply atleast one week before the next date of hearing i.e before 27.08.2024.

And whereas, as per decision of the personal hearing dated 17.10.2023 the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has failed to provide any data related to plastic waste, e- waste which has been sent to recycler. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has failed to apply for obtaining authorization under Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and C & D Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has also not submitted any record showing quantity of wet waste being generated from compost pits provided by them. As above, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is violating the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and C&D Waste Management Rules, 2016.

As such you are hereby given an opportunity of personal hearing, to file objections, if any, on the proposed action before the **Chairman of the Board at Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala on 08-08-2024 at 11:00 AM**, failing which it will be presumed that the Authority has nothing to say and the Board shall go ahead to take action under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 without giving any further notice/opportunity.

Endst No... 248

ds-25/7/24  
 For and on behalf of  
 Punjab Pollution Control Board  
 Dated... 25/07/2024

A copy of the above is forwarded to Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, **Amritsar** for information & necessary action. He is requested to this letter must be delivered to the Authority well before the date of hearing

ds-25/7/24  
 For and on behalf of  
 Punjab Pollution Control Board

	<b>PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD</b> <b>Zonal Office, Plot No. 164, Focal Point, Mehta Road, Amritsar</b> Tele Fax:- 0183-2581420 Website:- <a href="http://www.ppcb.gov.in">www.ppcb.gov.in</a> email:- <a href="mailto:seezoasr@yahoo.com">seezoasr@yahoo.com</a>
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No. 2837

Regd.

Date: 14/08/2024

To

The Commissioner,  
Municipal Corporation,  
Amritsar.

**Sub: Proceedings of the personal hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 09.08.2024 in reference to show cause notice for violations of the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**

Following were present :-

On behalf of the Board :- Dr. Krunesh Garg, CEE, Jalandhar  
Er. Sukhdev Singh, EE, RO, Amritsar

On behalf of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar: - Dr. Yogesh Arora, Medical Officer Health, MC, Amritsar

At the outset, the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Amritsar brought out that the Amritsar City is governed by Municipal Corporation for the functions mentioned in Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976. Amritsar City is generating approx 550 Ton of solid waste daily. Presently, dump site in an area of 25 acres at Bhagtanwala in operation. The dump site at Bhagtanwala is violating the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Board has given personal hearings to the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for the violation of said Rules before the Competent Authority time to time such as on 11/06/2019, 12/03/2020, 17/08/2022 and 17/10/2023.

It was further informed that the Monitoring Committee constituted by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA no. 360 of 2018 in the matter of Shree Nath Sharma Vs Union of India & Ors had also imposed Environmental Compensation of Rs. 20 lac and Rs. 10 lac on Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for the violations of said Rules. The Bank Guarantee of Rs. 25 lac submitted by Municipal Corporation has been en-cashed by the Board for non-compliance of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.

A news item titled "major fire at the Bhagtanwala garbage dump last night" was published in various newspapers dated 11.05.2024. The news item relates to eruption of a major fire at Bhagtanwala dumpsite. As per news item almost all heaps of garbage on 20 acre dumping ground caught fire which created a panicky situation in localities around the dump. 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.

The Bhagtanwala dumpsite was visited by officers of Board on 11.05.2024 in the presence of officials of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar and observed that huge quantity of Municipal Solid Waste in heaps was present at the site which had caught fire. Thick smoke arising from the heaps of waste was seen at the time of visit. As per information obtained from the official of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar more than 10 Lac MT waste is present at the site from last more than 30 years and fresh waste is being accumulated regularly. Further officials informed that the source of fire at the dumpsite was unknown. Uncovered vehicles carrying municipal solid waste from the city to dump site were inspected and found that vehicles were carrying mixed municipal solid waste (containing dry and wet waste) for dumping at dumpsite. Huge quantity of mixed municipal solid waste found piled up at the dumpsite. 05 no. trommelsand one no. ballistic separator were provided at site and same were found defunct. No bio

remediation of the solid waste at site was carried out by the MC authorities. Representative informed that bio-remediation machines are not in operation since May-2023. One no. MRF shed is also provided at site which was not functioning. Compartments in MRF shed found vacant and no any segregated waste was found in these compartments. Besides this there are 4 MRFs situated at Naraingarh Chheharta, Chabhal Road, Chalis Khoo and Goal Bagh, Amritsar and Municipal Corporation is not providing the record of waste collected in these MRFs as decided during personal hearing held on 17.10.2023. 11 no. composting pits are provided at the site and no wet waste was found in these compost pits. Old waste was lying in these compost pits without any treatment. MC has provided boundary wall around the dumpsite and same found broken from many sites. The authority has not developed green belt around the dumpsite. At the back side of the site excavation of the earth was done by MC and as per representative same has been done for providing sanitary landfill. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has not provided any mechanism for treating leachate at the dumpsite. Piezometers installed earlier by the Corporation were found buried under the heaps of Solid Waste. The legacy waste is lying dumped on old dump sites situated at Chabhal Road. Further dumping of solid waste in unscientific manner was also found at many scattered places of city such as Ranjit Avenue Ground near Anand Amrit Park, Near ESI Hospital Majitha Road and Opp. Milk Plant Verka, Mehta Road near Railway Bridge, Sakatri Bagh, Gurnam Nagar Park, Katra Sher Singh near Telephone Exchange, Sultanwind Nehar and Near Suraj Chanda Tara cinema which attracts entry of stray animals.

It was further apprised that CPCB has issued directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of the SWM Rules, 2016 regarding fire incidents at MSW Dumpsites on 26/05/2022 which was conveyed to the Municipal Corporation vide Board's letter no. 1340-52 dt. 14/09/2022 for meticulous compliance, however the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has not submitted any compliance of same.

It was further informed that the Board has imposed Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 4.5 Crores w.e.f. 01/07/2020 to 31/03/2024 for the violation of SWM Rules, 2016 and the authorities has not deposited the same. The Municipal Corporation has not applied for obtaining authorization under SWM Rules, 2016.

The activities related to Solid Waste mentioned in District Environment Plan are being regularly reviewed during District Environment Committee meetings.

Dr. Yogesh Arora, Medical Officer Health, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar informed that Corporation signed concession agreement with M/s Amritsar MSW Limited (Concessionaire) on 18/03/2016 for the establishment of integrated solid waste management facility and the scope of work of the concessionaire includes door to door collection of segregated waste, processing & disposal of solid waste and closure of dumping site through bio remediation of legacy waste. He further informed that Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar submitted the design and technology for the treatment of leachate to Municipal Corporation but the construction of same is yet to be started by the concessionaire. It was further apprised that approx. 4.05 lac MT of legacy waste has been remediated out of 10 lac MT of accumulated waste and all the machineries of the bio remediation has been stopped by the concessionaire since 20/05/2023. It was also informed that Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has prepared the plan for the bio remediation of legacy waste and planning to descope the work of bio remediation of legacy waste from the scope of the concessionaire and a committee has been constituted by the PMIDC for exploring the feasibility. Dr. Yogesh Arora also

informed that installation of methane detector is in progress and necessary arrangements have been made for controlling the fire at dump site.

After hearing the officers of the Board, representative of the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar and considering facts on record, the Chairman of the Board decided as under:-

1. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall submit time targeted action plan for the bio remediation of legacy waste dumped at Bhagtanwala dumpsite and other dumpsites such as Chabhal Road within one month period.
2. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall devise mechanism for the effective collection and transportation of solid waste so that same may not be littered/ scattered at different locations/lanes/roads of the city within one month period.
3. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall submit action plan and take action for compliance of directions issued by CPCB regarding prevention of fire at dump sites within one month period.
4. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall install treatment facility for the treatment of leachate.
5. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall construct boundary wall around dump site, provide green belt and make piezometers functional.
6. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall apply for obtaining authorization under SWM Rules, 2016 within 10 days and Regional Office, Amritsar shall process authorization case of Municipal Corporation on merits.
7. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall deposit Bank Guarantee of Rs. 50 lac to the Board as an assurance to comply with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
8. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall deposit Environmental Compensation of Rs. 4.5 Crores to the Board which was imposed earlier for the violation of the SWM Rules, 2016 for the period w.e.f. 01/07/2020 to 31/03/2024.
9. Regional Office, Amritsar shall calculate the Environmental Compensation for the violation of the SWM Rules, 2016 for the period w.e.f. 01/04/2024 to 31/07/2024.
10. The MC shall devise the ways & means to minimize the generation of all kind of wastes through REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE activities. The generated waste, if any, shall be properly handled and managed as per the provisions of the Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2016 in an environmentally sound manner.
11. The MC may also develop the vermicomposting/composting to manage the biodegradable solid waste.
12. MC will take regular inspections and appropriate actions against the violators of ban on single use plastic, plastic carry bags as well as persons/vendors who throw, burn or bury any solid wastes in open, outside premises or in drain / water bodies.

*dw-14/02/24*  
Environmental Engineer

For Chairman Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst No. 2838

dt. 14/02/2024

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company, Chandigarh with a direction to comply with following directions being a Nodal Agency :-

- a) To take adequate steps/action for resolving the issues of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for preventing the littering of solid waste at different locations of the city and other issues in question as explained above.
- b) To monitor the progress of Municipal Corporation, Amritsar for the compliance of SWM Rules, 2016.
- c) To either direct Municipal Corporation, Amritsar to deposit Bank Guarantee and Environmental Compensation to the Board as per decision no.8 and 9 above or to deposit on its own level.

d) To ensure meticulous compliance of SWM Rules, 2016.

Endst No. 2839

*ds-14/8/2024*  
Environmental Engineer  
For Chairman Punjab Pollution Control Board  
dt. 14/08/2024

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Amritsar for information and necessary action.

*ds-14/8/2024*  
Environmental Engineer  
For Chairman Punjab Pollution Control Board