



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ

PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

No.....255.....

Dated.....15/09/2022

To

The Consultant (Judicial),
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,
New Delhi.

Subject: - Original Application no. 169/2021; H.C. Arora vs. State of Punjab & Ors.

It is submitted that the Hon'ble NGT in the subject cited matter, vide orders dated 20/07/2021, directed as under:

"Accordingly, we direct a five-member joint Committee comprising CPCB, Regional Officer, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh, State PCB, a nominee of Secretary Environment Department, Punjab, and District Magistrate, Sangrur to visit the site, interact with the stake holders, assess the ground situation and recommend the measures required to be taken. The report may be furnished within two months by e-mail at judicialngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF. The Committee may ascertain the number of tube wells discharging coloured water, depth of such wells, aquifer status in terms of movement and extent of contamination, characteristics of contaminated water with reference to effluent sludge disposed by the industry in question - dyes and dye intermediate, effect on agricultural crops, bio- magnification in agro products. It may suggest short and long-term basis considering agronomy and public health, remediation plan, cost of such remediation. A copy of the report be forwarded to the Chief Secretary, Punjab for ensuring remedial measures, based on the facts found. The CPCB and State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. First meeting of the committee may be convened within two weeks."

As per above order of Hon'ble NGT in the above matter, the following directions were required to be complied with:

- i. Constitution of a five member Joint Committee and to convene the first meeting of the Joint Committee within two weeks.
- ii. Site visit and interaction with the stakeholders.
- iii. To ascertain the number of tube wells discharging coloured water, depth of such wells, aquifer status in terms of movement and extent of contamination, characteristics of contaminated water with reference to effluent sludge disposed by the industry in question - dyes and dye intermediate.
- iv. Study the effect on agricultural crops.

ਖੇਤਰੀ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ, ਇੰਡਸਟਰੀਅਲ ਫੋਕਲ ਪੁਆਇੰਟ, ਸੰਗਰੂਰ

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- v. Study the bio- magnification in agro products.
- vi. To suggest short and long-term remediation plan considering agronomy and public health and the cost of such remediation.
- vii. The report be forwarded to the Chief Secretary, Punjab for ensuring remedial measures, based on the facts found.

In compliance of the directions of Hon'ble NGT, a Joint Committee comprising of the following members was constituted:

- i. District Magistrate, Sangrur
- ii. Sh. Saurabh Gupta, IFS, Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, Chandigarh (Nominated by Principal Secretary, Science and Technology)/Sh. Charchill Kumar, IFS (w.e.f Dec 27, 2021)
- iii. Dr. Vimal Kumar Hatwal, Scientist - E, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Integrated Regional Office, Chandigarh
- iv. Dr. Narender Sharma, Additional Director, CPCB, Regional Directorate, Chandigarh
- v. Dr. Rajeev Gupta, Regional Officer, PPCB, Sangrur

The first meeting of the Joint Committee was held in the office of District Magistrate, Sangrur on 17/8/2021, wherein it was proposed and decided as follows:

- Sh. S.K. Mohiddin, Senior Hydro-geologist, Central Ground Water Board, Sector-26, Bhujal Bhawan, Chandigarh be co-opted as member to assist the committee w.r.t. ground water issues.
- M/s Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd, Unit - PWMP, Village- Nimbua, PO-Rampur Sanian, Teh-Derabassi, Distt-Mohali (Punjab) be requested to supply the data w.r.t. lifting of hazardous waste by the industrial units namely M/s Matharu Chemical Industries, M/s Mahaluxmi Orgochem, Matharu Steel Pvt. Ltd., Village Aloarakh, Tehsil Bhawanigarh, Distt. Sangrur, so that illegal disposal of hazardous waste by the said industrial units can be estimated.
- PPCB, RO, Sangrur to arrange analysis report of the ground waste prepared by Local Department of Agriculture, based on which it was concluded that the ground water under reference is fit for irrigation.
- PPCB, RO, Sangrur to provide copies of i) Application of CTE/CTO and Copy of the CTE/CTOs issued to the unit; ii) Violation done/recorded by the unit and action taken thereof by the PPCB and iii) Qualitative data/annual returns/records of Hazardous Waste Generation submitted by the unit under Hazardous Waste Management Rule.
- The site visit of the joint Committee alongwith CGWB Expert, to be conducted within two weeks, to prepare further plan of action, to conclude the matter, as per time-line given by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Besides above, the Joint Committee also referred to previous reports/studies conducted by CPCB, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology (TIET), CSIR-NEERI and PPCB, on the same issue.

The Approach followed by the Joint Committee for arriving at conclusion in this matter involved:-

- 1) Site visit and interaction with the local farmers to determine the affected area.
- 2) Ground water sampling from various bore-wells up-stream and down-stream of the closed Matharu Chemical Industry by involving CGWB expert, to establish the number of affected tube wells, depth/aquifer status, movement of contaminants and affected area. The water quality parameters alongwith heavy metals and TOC were analyzed by CGWB laboratory, whereas pollution parameters were tested by PPCB laboratory.
- 3) Sampling of agriculture Soil of the affected area established from the above Point No. 2, to determine the accumulation of contaminants in the soil over a period of time, by irrigation with contaminated water.
- 4) Sampling of agriculture crops and the produce (grains), to estimate the bio-magnification of contaminants in plant (fodder) and produce (seeds).
- 5) Calculation of Transfer Factor (TF), for determining the bio-accumulation of metals/contaminants in plants from soil and Health Risk Index (HRI) by considering daily intake and reference oral dose.
- 6) Preparation of short term and long term remediation plan and cost involved, considering agronomy and public health in the affected area, the control samples in the all the above cases (Point No. 2-4) were also taken from the area, which is not affected with the contaminated water, to establish the impact of contamination and the quantum of remediation required.

The Joint Committee has received the analysis report of ground water samples from the Central Ground Water Board, State Board and the analysis reports of soil, grain & crop samples from Punjab Biotechnology Incubator Laboratory, Mohali. Draft report has been prepared and the same is under consideration of the Joint Committee members for finalization.

It is pertinent to mention here that the State of Punjab is under electoral process for the constitution of State Assembly, 2022 and the election voting is slated for 20.2.2022. Due to Assembly Elections, the entire State machinery including the District Magistrates as well as all the Departments are engaged in the electoral process to conduct smooth and fair elections. Due to this reason, grant of a reasonable time period is requested for finalizing the Joint Committee report, so that the same is filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

It is, therefore, prayed that a time period of 15 days may please be granted to the Joint Committee for submission of report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.



15/2/2022

**Environmental Engineer
on behalf of Joint Committee**