

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
(PRINCIPAL BENCH)
(Court No.2)**

Original Application No. 490 of 2022

In the matter of

Sunaina

..... Applicant

V/s

State of Punjab and Others

..... Respondent

Short reply of Er.Gursharan Dass Garg, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Mohali on behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

- 1) That the present application has been filed by the applicant seeking issuance of appropriate directions to the respondents to ensure supply of potable and clean water to the residents of Zirakpur-Banur-Rajpura belt and to draw comprehensive plan to find out the root causes of contamination of water and suggest remedial measures.
- 2) That in view of the allegations made in the application, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to constitute a Joint Committee comprising of representative of State PCB; Principal Secretary, Department of Health, Government of Punjab; Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Deputy Commissioners, Patiala and Mohali respectively vide order dated 8.7.2022 to undertake field visits, look into the allegations made in the application, verify the factual position, draw samples of drinking water supplied to the residents of the localities involved and take remedial action for ensuring supply of clean and safe drinking water to the residents of the concerned localities on sustained basis by following due process of law.
- 3) That in compliance to the orders dated 8.7.2022 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the Joint Committee has filed its report vide email dated 7.10.2022.

Considering the Joint Committee report, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to call response of the other respondents in the case by issuing notice vide order dated 10.10.2022. At the same time the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to direct the personal appearance of the Director, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Member Secretary of the State Pollution Control Board through V.C on the next date of hearing on 10.1.2023 to assist the Hon'ble Tribunal in just and proper adjudication of the questions involved in the case.

4) That in compliance to the order dated 10.10.2022, it is respectfully submitted that the Punjab Pollution Control Board has no active role to play in the case as the subject matter relating to the supply of potable and clean drinking water to the residence of Zirkpur-Banur-Rajpura belt falls under the purview and jurisdiction of Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board. It is pertinent to mention here that the Joint Committee of officers constituted by this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 8.7.2022 after detailed examination of the case has given recommendations which are to be complied by the Municipal Councils of Banur, Zirakpur and Rajpura for supply of potable water. The recommendations given by the Joint Committee are reproduced herein below for kind perusal and reference:

- i. MC, Banur, Zirakpur and Rajpura shall ensure to supply potable water complying with the parameters as prescribed in IS:10500:2012, to the residents.
- ii. MC, Banur, Zirakpur and Rajpura shall identify all the water supply pipelines which are leaking and either replace or provide new water supply line.

5) That in view of the above stated facts and the report of the Joint Committee, it is respectfully reiterated that the supply of potable and clean drinking water falls under the purview of the Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board and the Punjab Pollution Control Board being the nodal agency as per the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal has only facilitated the submissions of report of the Joint Committee before the Hon'ble Tribunal for consideration and appropriate orders. However, the Punjab Pollution Control Board being the regulatory authority for the prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution undertakes to extend all possible technical assistance in the matter to the Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board as per the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.



- 6) That further, it is submitted that in compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal as contained in order dated 10.10.2022, the Member Secretary of the Board will appear and participate in the proceedings of the case before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 10.1.2023.
- 7) That the above reply of the Punjab Pollution Control Board is hereby submitted for kind consideration and appropriate orders in compliance to the orders dated 10.10.2022 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Submitted by



Date: 05.01.2023

Place SAS Nagar

(Gursharan Dass Garg)
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Mohali
On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board

Verification

Verified that the contents of para no.1 to 6 of the above reply are true and correct to my knowledge as derived from the official record. Para no.7 is prayer. No part of the above reply is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.



Date: 05.01.2023

Place SAS Nagar

(Gursharan Dass Garg)
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Mohali
On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board