

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

Original Application No. 284 of 2025

In the matter of:

INDUSTRIAL AREA-A DYERS ASSOCIATION

.....Appellant

V/S

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ORS.

.....Respondent(s)

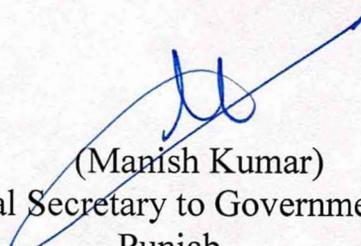
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Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment for abatement of pollution in Buddha Nallah.		
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Date: 09.02.2026

Place: Chandigarh

  
(Manish Kumar)  
Special Secretary to Government of  
Punjab,  
Department of Science, Technology  
and Environment  
(On behalf of respondent no. 1)



**MR. UDIT MALIK**  
**ADVOCATES FOR RESPONDENT ,1**  
PH: 9811981128  
EMAIL: OFFICE@UDITMALIK.IN  
B - 33, LGF, JANGPURA EXTENSION NEW  
DELHI - 110014

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

**Original Application No. 284 of 2025**

**In the matter of:**

**INDUSTRIAL AREA-A DYERS ASSOCIATION**

.....Applicant

V/S

**STATE OF PUNJAB AND ORS.**

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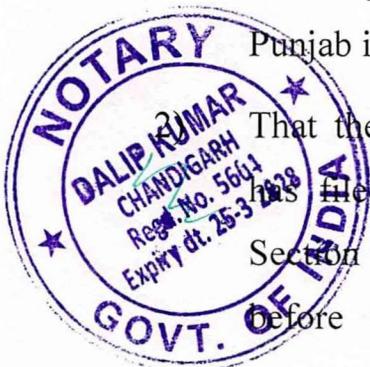
Short Reply by way of affidavit of Manish Kumar, Special Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment on behalf of the State of Punjab (Respondent No. 1) in compliance to order dated 23.09.2025.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

**RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH**

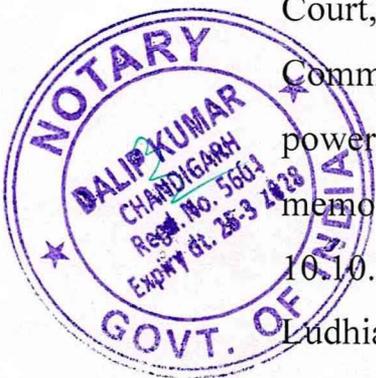
1) That the deponent namely Manish Kumar is presently working as Special Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment and as such is well conversant with the facts of the case and is competent and authorized to swear and file the present short reply by way of affidavit on behalf of the State of Punjab i.e. respondent no. 1.

That the appellant, Industrial Area-A Dyers Association has filed the present appeal under Section 14, 15 and Section 18 (1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal thereby



seeking appropriate directions from this Hon'ble Tribunal for allowing the operation of associate units of the Industrial Area-A Dyers Association at their existing location without insistence on Zero Liquid Discharge (in short ZLD). It is alleged that the present application for directions is necessitated by the recent insistence of the authorities, particularly, the respondent no.2 on the installation of Zero Liquid Discharge System (ZLD) as a precondition for permitting the Textile Dyeing Unit to continue their operations even though they are complying with the requisite pollution norms.

- 3) That in order to understand the legal matrix involved in the case, it would be appropriate to mention the brief facts of the case, which may kindly be read in the following paragraphs.
- 4) That the Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Punjab after considering all the aspects relating to the problem of pollution in Buddha Nallah at Ludhiana including various recommendations and decisions of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and other Committees has issued certain directions by invoking the powers u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide memo no. 10/228/2019/STE-5/1594066/1 dated 16.10.2019 for abatement of pollution in Buddha Nallah at Ludhiana.
- 5) That the mandate of these directions stipulates that the industrial effluent whether treated/partially treated or untreated shall not be discharged into municipal sewer of



Ludhiana. As per GIS mapping, several small-scale scattered units fall within one or two km distance from the conveyance system of 3 CETPs. PPCB shall ensure that these units are mandatorily made to join CETPs. In order to ensure segregation of industrial effluents from the domestic waste water as per the recommendations of P Ram Committee and NEERI, the remaining scattered units shall either relocate to the catchment area of CETPs being set up or upgrade their treatment systems to ZLD so that these units don't discharge into Municipal Sewer.

A copy of memo no.10/228/2019/STE-5/1594066/1 dated 10.10.2019 vide which directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 were issued by the Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment for abatement of pollution in Buddha Nallah is enclosed as **Annexure R 1/A**.

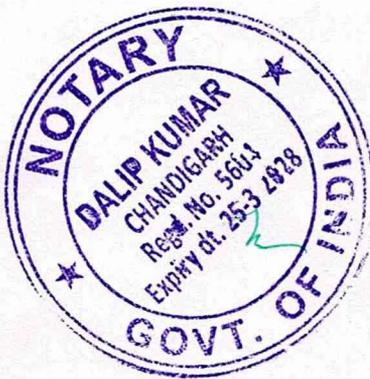
- 6) That it is relevant to mention here that with the constant efforts of the state government, 03 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP's) of total capacity of 105 MLD have been installed at Ludhiana by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV's) for treatment of wastewater of dyeing industries. The details regarding dyeing clusters, capacity of CETPs, site of installation, technology of the CETP with name of SPV and existing number of units are given in the tabular form herein below:



Sr.No	Dyeing Cluster of Ludhiana City	Capacity of CETP	Site of installation	Name of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)	Based on Technology	Existing Member Units	Disposal of treated wastewater
1	Bahadurke Road	15 MLD	Bahadurke Road	Bahadurke Textile and Knitwear Association (BTKTA), Ludhiana	SB R	36	Buddha Nallah
2	Tajpur Road	50 MLD	Tajpur Road	Punjab Dyers Association (PDA), Tajpur Road, Ludhiana	SB R	108	Buddha Nallah
3	Focal Point	40 MLD	Tajpur Road	Punjab Dyers Association (PDA), Focal Point, Ludhiana	SB R	67	Buddha Nallah
Total	03	105 MLD	03	-	-	211	-



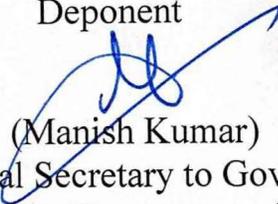
- 7) That, however, due to non-feasibility to connect these units to the existing CETPs, the associate units of Industrial Area-A could not be joined with the above three CETPs. Further, the Associations of these industrial units had not been able to find the suitable land for the establishment of CETP for their member units. Due to non-availability of land, Common Effluent Treatment Plant cannot be set up for the dyeing, textile units situated in Industrial Area-A and for other scattered units.
- 8) That it is pertinent to mention here that the Punjab Pollution Control Board is the Statutory regulatory authority which is implementing the provisions of the Environmental Laws in the State of Punjab namely the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules made thereunder.
- 9) That the Punjab State Pollution Control Board is working under the Administrative Control of the Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment. The Punjab Pollution Control Board has also been impleaded as respondent no. 2 in the case and is the main contesting party. The Punjab Pollution Control Board has filed a separate detailed reply in the case mentioning therein the relevant facts. The reply filed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board has been examined, it is decided to adopt the reply of the Punjab Pollution Control Board on behalf of State of Punjab.



- 10) That the Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment may kindly be allowed to adopt the reply filed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board which has been impleaded by the respondent no. 2 in the case.
- 11) That the deponent may kindly be allowed to place on record the present short reply by way of affidavit on behalf of the State of Punjab (respondent no. 1) for kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Date: 09.02.2026  
 Place: Chandigarh

Deponent

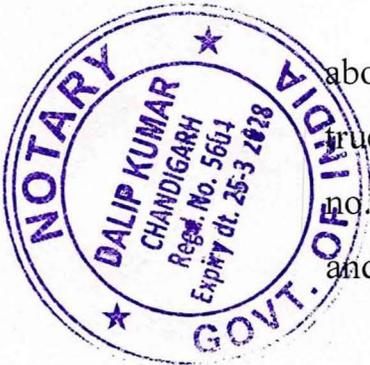
  
 (Manish Kumar)

Special Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment  
 (on behalf of respondent no. 1)

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 09 FEB 2026

**Verification**

Verified that the contents of Para No. 1 to 10 of the above short reply by way of affidavit of the deponent are true and correct as derived from the official record. Para no. 11 is prayer. No part of the above short reply is false and no material has been kept concealed therein.

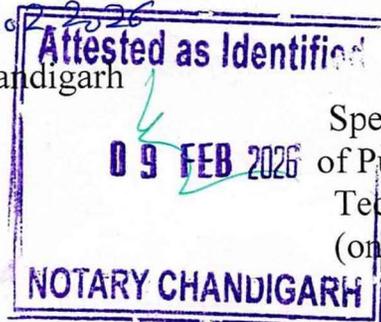


Deponent

Date: 09.02.2026  
 Place: Chandigarh

  
 (Manish Kumar)

Special Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment  
 (on behalf of respondent no. 1)



Certified & the Affidavit verified & explained to the Deponent & the Executant who seemed to understand the same at the time of signing the documents.

**Government of Punjab**  
**Department of Science, Technology & Environment**  
 (STE Branch)

No. 10/228/2019/STE-5/1594066/1

Dated, Chandigarh the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

**Directions for Abatement of Pollution in Buddha Nallah u/s 5 of the**  
**Environment Protection Act, 1986**

1. WHEREAS, Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court in CWP No. 7036 of 2005 along with four other writ petitions No. 13881 of 2006, 14744 of 2007, 4472 of 2009 and 8970 of 2009 dealt in detail on various issues to make Budha Nallah and Ludhiana pollution-free and ensure public hygiene so that the contaminated water passing through Budha Nallah, which ultimately merges in the river Sutlej, does not become a source of health hazard and cause epidemic.
2. And whereas, during the course of hearing of the case by Hon'ble P&H High Court, the Government of Punjab vide order dated 11.10.2006 appointed Shri P.Ram, IAS, Principal Secretary Technical Education & Industrial Training as Project Coordinator for Cleaning of Budha Nallah and constituted Technical Committee comprising of officers from various departments to assist the Project Coordinator for evolving a long term strategy for its execution. Further, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (PSCST) was asked to provide all the required secretarial/ technical support to the Project Coordinator.
3. And whereas, P. Ram Committee filed 10 Status Reports in the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court from February, 2007 to March, 2010. The major recommendations made by P.Ram Committee regarding treatment of industrial effluents and domestic wastewater are as under:
  - (i) Industrial Effluents must be segregated from the domestic sewage
  - (ii) No effluents or sewage, whether treated or untreated shall be allowed to be discharged into Budha Nallah or river Sutlej
  - (iii) Assessment of wastewater generation from the city of Ludhiana
  - (iv) All the textile dyeing & bleaching units in Ludhiana to set up treatment plants individually or collectively to achieve zero liquid discharge
  - (v) All electroplating units in Ludhiana to achieve zero liquid discharge
  - (vi) Industry to install, "Online Monitoring System" for ensuring regular & un-interrupted operation & maintenance of ETPs & CETPs
  - (vii) The treated sewage of all the STPs in Ludhiana be used for irrigation.
  - (viii) Setting up of power plants based on cow dung being generated from the city
  - (ix) De-silting of all the sewers by using latest technology
  - (x) Connecting all drains with main sewers and laying of sewers in un-sewered areas
  - (xi) PPCB should strengthen its scientific staff to monitor the industry in Ludhiana to ensure 100% compliance



(xii) Release of 500 cusec of water into Budha Nallah

4. And whereas, during the pendency of the case in the Hon'ble High Court, Punjab Pollution Control Board engaged the services of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur in March, 2008 for conducting an in-depth study for effective wastewater management in textile dyeing and electroplating industries in Ludhiana. NEERI submitted its report in May, 2009. The major recommendations are as under:

- (i) The Budha Nallah has no assimilative capacity to sustain any waste water discharges, as there is no surface water flow available in the nallah except during peak monsoon. Therefore, direct discharge of domestic sewage or industrial effluent including washings from cattle sheds into Budha Nallah must not be allowed for protection of natural water resources used for drinking and agriculture purposes.
- (ii) Considering the fact that no dilution water is available in Budha Nallah due to non-availability of surface water and lean flow in river Sutlej during critical season, the waste water generated from textile dyeing and electroplating industries must aim at zero liquid effluent discharge facilitating recycling/reuse for industrial uses and other purposes.
- (iii) Zero Liquid Effluent Discharge (ZLD) treatment scheme recommended for large scale Textile Dyeing Units which would require an implementation period of 6 - 8 months.
- (iv) The small and medium scale textile dyeing units should set up common effluent treatment plant (CETP) based on zero liquid effluent discharge. The implementation period for CETPs would be around 18 - 24 months.
- (v) The textile dyeing units discharging directly onto land also need to implement treatment facility based on zero liquid effluent discharge including reject management.
- (vi) In case of scattered units, either these units must install their own ETPs aiming at zero liquid effluent discharge including reject management or shift to some suitable locations to avail the facility of CETP.
- (vii) The large and medium scale electroplating industries at individual level also need to upgrade their ETPs aiming at zero liquid effluent discharge including reject management.
- (viii) All the small-scale electroplating units with individual ETP to join the CETP for ensuring effective treatment of toxic effluents and the CETP must be upgraded through implementation of advance treatment system including reject management aiming at zero liquid effluent discharge.
- (ix) The industrial effluents and washing from cattle sheds be segregated from domestic sewage. The STPs must therefore treat only domestic sewage for which the plants have been basically designed.
- (x) The STPs must be taken up for capacity expansion and upgraded through implementation of appropriate technology at secondary stage to meet the inland surface water discharge norms including disinfection and minimum DO concentration of safe level for sustainability of biological life in the aquatic system.
- (xi) The treated effluent from STPs meeting the discharge norms for inland surface water must be reused for irrigation purpose as against the existing practice of discharging into surface water bodies. This will not only lead to protection of natural water resources but also facilitate conservation of water.

- (xii) In future, for any proposal on industrial development projects in and around Ludhiana (within 15 km radius from the periphery of Budha Nallah) the endeavour of the Regulatory Authorities must be to ensure appropriate wastewater management aiming at zero liquid effluent discharge including reject management. This will facilitate recycle/reuse of the renovated water leading to conservation of natural resource in the area vis-à-vis improvement in the quality of surface and ground water.

5. And whereas, Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court passed various orders during the pendency of the case towards implementing a series of steps to control pollution in Budha Nallah/River Sutlej. The High Court vide order dated 14.11.11 disposed of CWP No. 7036 of 2005 along with other civil writ petitions concerning the matter by directing that the High Powered Committee already constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary concerning Budha Nallah shall continue to meet periodically and shall also monitor actively, protection and preservation of Budha Nallah, its environment and ecology and that of Ludhiana city.

6. And whereas, Hon'ble High Court in its final order disposing of the petitions also observed that

*"So far as the writ petitions filed by Tajpur Road Dyeing and Industries Associations and Dyeing Effluent Treatment Society i.e. CWP No. 4472 of 2009 and CWP No.8970 of 2009 respectively are concerned, we are of the view that no direction as prayed for can be issued as industry for its profits and gains cannot show its back to responsibilities and demands, towards betterment of the community. The industry cannot turn blind towards its social role. Let industry at first instance install CETP or achieve zero liquid discharge as prescribed by expert bodies. Thereafter, it may raise claim before the appropriate forum for disbursement of subsidy. As and when the same is done, we are of the view that the State Government shall take a pragmatic view and consider the demands of the industry raised in these two writ petitions, while balancing the legitimate concerns of all classes or sections of people."*

7. And whereas, NGT is hearing OA 916 of 2018 (earlier OA no. 101 of 2014) regarding pollution in river Sutlej. NGT has vide order dated 24/07/2018 constituted a Monitoring Committee to closely monitor the status of pollution and steps being taken to control the pollution in river Sutlej. Based on the report of the Committee, NGT vide order dated 14.11.2018 imposed a penalty of Rs. 50 crores on State of Punjab.

8. And whereas, NGT vide order dated 28/02/2019 expanded the Monitoring Committee and made Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge Punjab and Haryana High Court as Chairman and included Sh. Subodh Agrawal, ex-Chief Secretary as Senior Member and Sh. Babu Ram, ex-Member Secretary as Member. The expanded monitoring committee has held 5 meetings so far and has reviewed various matters connected with pollution in rivers/ Budha Nallah and passed various directions as follows:

- (i) Prepare Comprehensive Plan to address the problem of pollution in Budha Nallah
- (ii) Mapping of all the industries, conveyance systems and other related details
- (iii) Strengthening of inspections by including senior officers and third-party inspections
- (iv) Sealing of the Bypass mechanism of Sewage Treatment Plants

- (v) O&M manual for Sewage Treatment Plants
- (vi) Levy of penalties on the Operators of STPs
- (vii) Fixing the responsibility of supervisory officers
- (viii) Composite sampling for quality of effluents at STPs
- (ix) Levy of environmental compensation on non-compliant units
- (x) Legal framework for working of CETPs
- (xi) Handling of Dairy Waste

9. And whereas, NGT has taken note of the news item published regarding polluted stretches of various rivers in the country. NGT vide order dated 20/09/2018 in O.A. No. 673/2018 directed all the States/ UTs to frame action plans to restore the polluted stretches to the prescribed standards. Further, NGT has also constituted River Rejuvenation Committees for preparation and subsequent monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plans. NGT has also directed Chief Secretary to personally monitor the progress. Accordingly, State Apex Committee has been set up under Chief Secretary.

10. And whereas, NGT vide order dated 07/03/2019 in O.A. No. 606/2018 has directed the Chief Secretary to monitor various environment protection plans at personal level and submit quarterly report to NGT. NGT has also directed personal appearance of Chief Secretary.

11. And whereas, Ludhiana city is currently under critically polluted industrial cluster as per the assessment of CPCB and Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. No new or expansion of existing water polluting industry is allowed causing a setback to the industrial growth of the city. Concerted efforts are required to bring the city out of critically polluted industrial cluster.

12. And whereas, the State Government has also set up Steering Committee under Chief Secretary for monitoring of various initiatives for abatement of pollution in Budha Nallah.

13. And whereas, the Government has considered all the aspects of the matter including various recommendations and decisions of the High Court, NGT and Other Committees, the Government is satisfied that directions are required to be issued u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 for ensuring abatement of pollution in Budha Nallah/River Sutlej.

14. And therefore, the Government has decided to issue following directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986:

**Segregation of Industrial effluents**

- (i) Industrial effluents and dairy waste whether treated/ partially treated or untreated shall not be discharged into municipal sewer.

**Measures to be taken by PPCB**

- (ii) PPCB to be nodal agency to ensure setting up of CETPs and segregation of Industrial effluents



PPCB has the requisite legal and administrative powers under Water (Control and Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct, supervise and secure execution of CETPs and segregation of industrial effluents. PPCB shall accordingly be the nodal agency to ensure setting up of CETPs and segregation of effluents as per the Action Plan.

(iii) Setting up of CETP for Industrial Area-A Units

PPCB shall facilitate setting up of CETP to cater to industrial units located in Industrial Area cluster. Necessary action shall be taken by PPCB under Water Act, 1974.

(iv) Connecting Scattered Units

As per GIS mapping, several small-scale scattered units fall within one or two km distance from the conveyance system of 3 CETPs. PPCB shall ensure that these units are mandatorily made to join CETPs.

(v) Stringent Standards for remaining scattered units

In order to ensure segregation of industrial effluents from the domestic waste water as per the recommendations of P Ram Committee and NEERI, the remaining scattered units shall either relocate to the catchment area of CETPs being set up or upgrade their treatment systems to ZLD so that these units don't discharge into Municipal Sewer.

(vi) Legally binding mechanism for CETPs

PPCB shall prepare detailed mechanism for successful operation of the CETPs and issue necessary directions under Water Act, 1974.

(vii) CETPs to be made operational as per time schedule

All CETPs to be made operational as per time schedule given in Action Plans, failing which PPCB shall take action against industry including levying of Environmental Compensation.

(viii) No new consent or enhancement of existing consent by PPCB

No new consent or enhancement of existing consent to discharge industrial effluents into municipal sewer shall be given by PPCB.

(ix) Dairies shall also be brought under regulatory regime by PPCB

**Measures to be taken by Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana**

(x) Disconnection from Municipal Sewer



MC Ludhiana shall disconnect the connection to municipal sewer once connection to CETP conveyance system is established, which shall carry industrial effluents as well any domestic waste from the industrial unit

- (xi) No new connection or enhancement of existing connection by MC Ludhiana

MC Ludhiana shall not grant any new connection or enhancement of existing connection to municipal sewer for discharging industrial effluents.

- (xii) Design of Sewage Treatment Plants

Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana shall design the Sewage Treatment Plant by taking into account the current discharges and not on the basis of per capita norms. Further, all the uncovered areas whether authorized or unauthorized, should be taken into account for estimating the discharge for setting up of STPs to ensure that no outlet is directly discharging into Budha Nallah.

- (xiii) Installation of Flow Meter, CCTV and OCEMS on STPs

MC Ludhiana shall install ultrasonic flow meters, CCTVs and OCEMS on all the existing and proposed STPs for their effective monitoring. The data captured should be uploaded on the website of PPCB, DECC and CPCB.

- (xiv) Reuse of treated waste water for irrigation

MC Ludhiana shall reuse the treated waste water for irrigation, construction, thermal power plants, horticulture, green belts, etc.

- (xv) Management of Dairy Waste

MC Ludhiana shall set up Effluent Treatment Plants and Bio Gas Plants of adequate capacity for the management of Dairy Waste being generated from Tajpur and Haibowal Dairy Complex to ensure that no outlet is directly discharging into Budha Nallah.

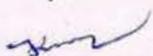
**Measures to be taken by Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (PSCST)**

- (xvi) Setting up of Project Management Unit

PSCST shall set up Project Management Unit to provide technical and managerial support and assist the Department of Environment, Chief Secretary and NGT Committee in monitoring the progress of activities assigned to PPCB and MCL.

- (xvii) Real time and online monitoring systems

PSCST shall setup real time monitoring of industrial effluents and domestic waste water for Directorate of Environment and Climate Change and PPCB. All the online systems installed by the industries and sewage treatment plants shall be connected



on single dashboard for effective monitoring of the industrial effluents and domestic waste water.

(xviii) Monitoring of River Water Quality

PSCST shall collaborate with IIT Ropar for River Sutlej Water Quality Modelling to analyse the data being captured by the Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Stations installed on it.

15. In case of failure to comply with the aforementioned directions, action in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 shall be taken.

Place: Chandigarh

**R.K.VERMA, IAS**  
Principal Secretary Science, Technology  
& Environment, Punjab

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Endst. No. 10/228/2019/STE-5/1594066/2-3

Dated, Chandigarh the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019

A copy is forwarded to the following for information please.

- (i) Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab
- (ii) Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab

*Jahnu Kumar*  
Superintendent

Endst. No. 10/228/2019/STE-5/1594066/4-13

Dated, Chandigarh the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action.

- (i) Administrative Secretary, Local Government, Punjab
- (ii) Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Punjab
- (iii) Administrative Secretary, Water Supply & Sanitation, Punjab
- (iv) Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Punjab
- (v) Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company
- (vi) Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board
- (vii) Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana
- (viii) Commissioner, MC, Ludhiana
- (ix) Chairman, PPCB
- (x) Member Secretary, PPCB

*Jahnu Kumar*  
Superintendent