

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

Original Application No. 676 of 2023

In Re: News Item Appearing in The Times of India dated 12.10.2023 entitled "Agriculture Runoff causing groundwater pollution in Punjab, making Drinking Water unsafe Reveals Study".

Short reply on behalf of respondent Punjab Pollution Control Board.

Respectfully Showeth

1. That briefly stated, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to take suo moto cognizance of a new item appearing in The Times of India dated 12.10.2023 titled "Agriculture Runoff causing groundwater pollution in Punjab, making Drinking Water unsafe Reveals Study". The news item was treated as Original Application no. 676 of 2023 and notices were issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal to the Central Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary; Punjab Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary and the Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh for appearance before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 3.11.2023
2. That the news item published in the Times of India dated 12.10.2023 has been examined and it is respectfully submitted that the study report titled as "Agriculture Runoff causing groundwater pollution in Punjab, making Drinking Water unsafe Reveals Study" and the full research paper referred in the news item is not available with the Board. The study report will be examined by the Board and requisite report will be filed accordingly before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
3. That in the preliminary facts and circumstances of the case, it is submitted that the ground water of the State of Punjab is regularly been monitored by the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation for the purpose of supplying drinking water to the people of the State. On the other hand, the data relating to the usage of ground water from deeper geological strata which is alleged to be used by the farmers may be available with the Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Punjab. Hence, the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation and the Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Punjab

would be in a better position to explain the facts mentioned in the news item.

4. That in view of the above stated facts, it is prayed that a reasonable time period may kindly be granted to the Punjab Pollution Control Board to file report to the news item published in the Times of India dated 12.10.2023.

Date: 01/11/2023
Place: Ludhiana

Submitted by

Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board