

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 632 of 2023

In the matter of Suo Moto Cognizance

In Re: News Item published in The Hindu dated 06.10.2023 titled **"Pollution takes a front seat as Stubble Fires Spike in Punjab"**

Status report on behalf of the State of Punjab through Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board in compliance to order dated 20.11.2023.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

1. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to take Suo Motto Cognizance of a News Item published in The Hindu dated 06.10.2023 titled **"Pollution takes a front seat as Stubble Fires Spike in Punjab"** and issued notice to the State of Punjab through its Chief Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through its Secretary and the Director Commission for Air Quality Management.
2. That the case was heard by the Hon'ble Tribunal on 08.11.2023 and 20.11.2023 wherein the status reports were filed by the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board on the behalf of the State of Punjab elaborating the steps being taken by the Government for prevention and control of stubble Burning.
3. That during the hearing of the case on 20.11.2023, the Hon'ble Tribunal has considered the date wise farm fire incidents in the State till 19.11.2023 and observed that adequate measures have not been taken by the State to prevent farm fire incidents in spite of the fact that the matter is pending before the Hon'ble Tribunal and is also consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of



India. The counsel of the State requested for some time to file further report before the Hon'ble Tribunal indicating positive results. The Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 20.11.2023 accordingly.

4. That in compliance to order dated 20.11.2023, it is respectfully submitted that the State of Punjab is fully committed and dedicated to make compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. The Civil Administration and local Police alongwith the concerned departments had worked together as a team to stop stubble burning incidents in the State. Extensive efforts were made by the Police by launching social media campaigns through various state level and district level social media handles to sensitize the public and all other stakeholders to stop and prevent stubble burning in the State. Farmers were engaged and informed that stubble burning is violative of law and action would be taken against them. The alternative mechanisms available for stubble management were fully utilized. The Station House Officers have held meeting with the farms and farm leaders to convince them not to burn paddy straw.
5. That with the sincere continuous and concerted efforts of various departments of Government of Punjab and resulted into decreasing trend in farm fire incidents. The details of date wise farm fire incidents in the State of Punjab from 20.11.2023 to 27.11.2023 showing decreasing trend is giving herein below:

S.No.	Date	No. of Farm fire incidents
1	20 Nov 2023	634
2	21 Nov 2023	513
3	22 Nov 2023	512
4	23 Nov 2023	205
5	24 Nov 2023	191
6	25 Nov 2023	37



7	26 Nov 2023	63
8	27 Nov 2023	0

6. That it is further relevant to mention here that the total fire incidents in the State of Punjab have shown a considerable decline of 26.6% in the year 2023 for the period from 15 September to 27 November in comparison to the year 2022 during the same period as depicted in the table below:

Percentage Reduction in Stubble Burning Incidents of Punjab			
Time Period	Year 2022	Year 2023	Percentage Reduction
15 Sept to 27 Nov	49888	36614	26.6

7. That the State of Punjab is sincerely endeavouring to make the State of Punjab a zone free of stubble burning incidents in the coming years. However, it is stated that the problem of stubble burning which is continuing for the last so many years will gradually decrease and vanish with the collective efforts of the State of Punjab and the Central Government.
8. That the deponent may kindly be allowed to place on record the present affidavit for kind consideration and appropriate orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Submitted by

Date: 28.11.2023

Place: PATIALA


(Gurindar Singh Majithia)
Member Secretary,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Patiala

On behalf of the State of Punjab