

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

Original Application No. 225 of 2022

In the matter of

Nitin Dhiman

..... Applicant

V/s

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

Reply of Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab (Respondent No.1), in compliance to order dated 24.01.2023.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

- 1) That briefly stated, the applicant Mr. Nitin Dhiman resident of 1203, Princeton Tower, Omaxe, Pakhowal Road, Ludhiana has filed letter petition before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal alleging the pollution of Budha Nallah, river Sutlej and groundwater.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 26.4.2022 has constituted a Joint Committee comprising of Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Board and Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana and called a report from the Committee. The Joint Committee has filed its report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in compliance of order dated 26.4.2022.

- 2) That in view of the averments made in the application and the observations and recommendations made by the Joint Committee in its report, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to call response of the respondents i.e. the State of Punjab through Chief Secretary, Punjab; State Pollution Control Board; Municipal Corporation Ludhiana and District Magistrate, Ludhiana by passing an order dated 10.10.2022.

In compliance to order dated 10.10.2022, a consolidated reply dated 4.1.2023 on behalf of all the respondents after due approval was filed by the Senior Environmental Engineer of the Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office-2, Ludhiana before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. However, considering the facts that the respondents have been assigned different roles,

have been subjected to different obligations and conferred different statutory powers under the Environmental Laws, the Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 24.1.2023, had issued directions for filing of separate replies by the respondents. The present separate reply is being filed by the undersigned as Chief Secretary in compliance of the order dated 24.1.2023 on behalf of the State of Punjab.

- 3) That in reference to the application, the Punjab Pollution Control Board has informed that about 300 dyeing units are operating in the area of Ludhiana District, out of which about 252 units fall in the catchment area of Budha Nallah.

For the treatment of wastewater of the dyeing industries, 03 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) of total capacity 105 MLD (15 MLD CETP for the dyeing cluster of Bahadurke road, 50 MLD CETP for the dyeing cluster of Tajpur road and 40 MLD CETP for the dyeing cluster of Focal Point) have been installed at Ludhiana by the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). All these CETPs are disposing of their treated wastewater into Buddha Nallah.

- 4) That the remaining 54 dyeing units which could not join the CETPs are having their own captive effluent treatment plants for the treatment of wastewater.
- 5) That after the installation and commissioning of CETPs for the wastewater treatment of dyeing industries, the domestic and industrial effluent of these industries stands segregated from the domestic sewerage of Ludhiana city.
- 6) That the Government of Punjab had already prepared and submitted Action Plan for Clean River Sutlej to the Central Pollution Control Board as per the directions and orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
- 7) That the progress of Action Plan for Clean River Sutlej is being regularly reviewed by the District Environment Committee (s) under the chairmanship of respective Deputy Commissioners, River Rejuvenation Committee at the State Level under the chairmanship of Administrative Secretary, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Govt. of Punjab and by the State Apex Committee under the chairmanship of the deponent, along with the stakeholder Departments.
- 8) That the last meeting (20th meeting) of the State Apex Committee was presided over by the deponent on 1.03.2023 wherein the progress of the various River Action Plan and Re-use of Treated wastewater Action Plan was reviewed besides other issues. Regarding the CETP of Ludhiana City, State Pollution Control Board was directed by the State Apex Committee to coordinate with the SPVs of 15 MLD, 40 MLD and 50 MLD CETPs at Ludhiana to make them fully compliant.

The minutes of meeting of the State Apex Committee held on 01.03.2023 are enclosed herewith as **Annexure R 1/A**.

- 9) That the report of the Joint Committee filed in the present case has also been examined and reply to the recommendations of the Joint Committee may kindly be read in the annotated form herein below:

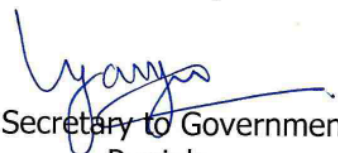
S.No	Recommendations of the Joint Committee	Consolidated reply
1	As per the term & condition of the approval of the proposal for 15 MLD CETP by MoEF&CC, M/s Bahadurke Textile and Knitwear Association Ltd. shall undertake implementation of the second phase of the proposal to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge and shall submit the complete proposal along with timelines for necessary approval from MoEF&CC within three months.	Punjab Pollution Control Board through the Department of Science, Technology & Environment is being directed by the deponent to coordinate with the Special Purpose Vehicle of 15 MLD CETP for providing the timelines to implement second phase of the proposal to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge.
2	As the CETPs of capacity 40 MLD and 50 MLD have now been installed by M/s Punjab Dyers Association; as a next step, the SPVs shall explore the possibility for utilizing the treated effluent onto land for plantation and irrigation and submit the complete proposal along with timelines, within 03 months.	Punjab Pollution Control Board through the Department of Science, Technology & Environment is being directed by the deponent to coordinate with the Special Purpose Vehicle of 40 MLD & 50 MLD CETP for providing the timelines to explore the possibility of utilizing the treated effluent for/onto land for plantation and irrigation within 3 months.
3	The Department of Local Government, Punjab shall provide necessary facilitation to the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana, so as to complete the installation of STP 225	The Sewage Treatment Plant of 225 MLD capacity at Jamalpur has already been commissioned. Further, the Administrative Secretary,

	MLD at Jamalpur and STP 60 MLD at Balloke along with rehabilitation of existing STPs as per the timelines	Department of Local Government is being directed by the deponent to facilitate the Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana for the completion of STP 60 MLD at Balloke along with rehabilitation of existing STPs as per the timelines.
4	Government of Punjab shall issue necessary directions to Water Resources Department and Department of Soil & Water Conservation to explore the possibility and submit the complete time bound plan within 06 months for utilizing the treated wastewater of STPs for the purpose of irrigation and plantation, so that there shall be zero liquid discharge in the Budha Nallah.	Administrative Secretary, Department of Soil & Water Conservation is being directed by the deponent to explore the possibility and submit the comprehensive plan for utilizing the treated wastewater of STPs, falling in the catchment area of Buddha Nallah for irrigation along with timeline.

10) It is respectfully submitted that the Government of Punjab, is making all out efforts for the prevention and control of pollution in Budha Nallah and River Sutlej with an objective to improve the water quality of the river and all the departments of the Government of Punjab are making sincere and concerted efforts to complete the pending works within the time lines to make Budha Nallah a pollution free zone.

11) That in view of the submissions made herein above, it is prayed that the application filed by Mr. Nitin Dhiman does not survive for any further consideration and is liable to be disposed of by this Hon'ble Tribunal with appropriate orders.

Submitted by



Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab

17/4/23

Date: 17/4/2023


Place: Chandigarh

Verification

Verified that the contents of para no.1 to 11 of the above reply are true and correct to my knowledge as derived from the official record. No part of the above reply is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.

Date: 17/4/2023

Place: Chandigarh


Chief Secretary to Government of
Punjab

17/4/23

Directorate of Environment & Climate Change
Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Government of Punjab

- (i) The Administrative Secretary,
Department of Local Government
- (ii) The Administrative Secretary,
Department of Rural Development & Panchayats
- (iii) The Administrative Secretary,
Department of Industries & Commerce
- (iv) The Administrative Secretary,
Department of Housing and Urban Development
- (v) The Administrative Secretary,
Department of Mines and Geology
- (vi) The Administrative Secretary,
Department of Soil and Water Conservation
- (vii) The Chief Executive Officer, PMIDC cum Mission Director,
Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban (SBM- U)
- (viii) The Special Secretary, Department of Water Supply and Sanitation cum Mission Director,
Swachh Bharat Mission- Grameen (SBM- G)
- (ix) The Chief Executive Officer,
Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board
- (x) The Chief Executive Officer,
Punjab Energy Development Agency
- (xi) The Member Secretary,
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Letter No. DECC/2023/ 432 - 442

Date: 09/03/2023

Subject: Proceedings of 20th Meeting of State Apex Committee to review progress of Implementation of various Environment Protection Action Plans held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab on 01.03.2023 at 4.30 PM in the Committee Room, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat - 1, Chandigarh

Respected Sir/Madam,

The proceedings of 20th meeting of State Apex Committee held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab on 01.03.2023 at 4.30 PM to review the progress of Implementation of various Environmental Protection Action Plans is attached herewith for your kind information and further necessary action please.

It is therefore, requested to submit the action taken report on the decision taken in the meeting by 23.03.2023 so that the same be incorporated in the agenda of next meeting.

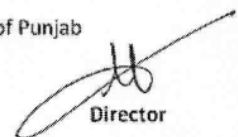

Director

Endst. No. DECC/2023/ 443 - 444

Date: 09/03/2023

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for their information:

- 1) OSD to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab for kind information of CS Punjab.
- 2) PS to Principal Secretary, Department of Science Technology & Environment, Govt. of Punjab


Director

Proceedings of 20th Meeting of State Apex Committee held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab on 01.03.2023 at 4.30 PM in the Committee Room, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat – 1, Chandigarh to review the progress of Environment Action Plans.

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The List of Participants is attached at **Annexure-I**.

Agenda No. 20.1 Compliance of NGT Order dated 22.09.2022 in O.A. No. 606/2018

- (i) The Committee was apprised that in compliance of NGT Order dated 22.09.2022 in O.A. No. 606/2018, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Administrative Secretary, Dept. of Local Govt. was constituted vide STE Order no. 3/17/2020-STE (5)/457018/I dated 11.11.22 to regularly assess the progress in bridging the gaps in sewage & solid waste management and to periodically report to CS, Punjab. Further, for ring fencing the funds of Rs. 2080 Cr, an order has been passed by the worthy Chief Secretary vide No. 3/17/2020-STE (5)/478 dated 22.11.22 through which funds of Rs 2110.57 Cr have been ring fenced and a copy of the same has been sent to all the stakeholder departments & Hon'ble NGT.
- (ii) Regarding works related to bridging of gaps in sewage and solid waste management, CEO, PMIDC informed that Rs. 292.87 Cr. have been allocated to ULBs out of the total funds of Rs. 2110.57 Cr ring fenced for said purpose.
- (iii) The Committee directed PS-LG to regularly monitor the progress for bridging the gaps in solid & sewage management and submit quarterly progress report to CS, Punjab.
- (iv) Further, the Committee directed CEO, PMIDC to timely submit the six-monthly progress report with verifiable progress to Hon'ble NGT which is getting due on 22.03.2023 in compliance of the above order.

Agenda No. 20.2 Utilization of Environmental Compensation (EC) Funds, in compliance of NGT Order dated 21.10.2022 in O.A. No. 976/2019

- (i) The Committee was apprised that in compliance of NGT Order dated 21.10.2022 in O.A. No. 976/2019, a High-Powered Committee comprising of three Administrative Secretaries of DLG, DRDP, & STE (Convenor) was constituted vide Notification No. 10/01/2023-STE2/03 dated 03.01.2023.
- (ii) Further, the first meeting of High-powered Committee was held on

05.01.23, wherein, it was decided to allocate Rs. 12 Cr to PMIDC for Setting up of Mechanized MRF Centre at MC, Jalandhar and Rs. 1.8 Cr to PBTI, Mohali for upgradation/ strengthening of Environment Monitoring Laboratory.

- (iii) PPCB is maintaining a separate account in the Axis Bank to receive EC funds on behalf of Chief Secretary, Punjab.
- (iv) MS, PPCB informed the Committee that funds of Rs. 12 Cr. and Rs. 1.8 Cr. have been released to PMIDC & PBTI respectively as per the decision of High-Powered Committee in its meeting dated 05.01.2023.
- (v) The Committee noted the same.

Agenda No. 20.3 Compliance of NGT Order dated 26.02.2021 in O.A. No. 360/2015 related to Mining in the State of Punjab

- (i) The Committee was apprised that in compliance of above said NGT order, 5 Member Review Committee headed by Chairman, SEIAA had inspected 5 Mining Sites in Nov. 21, 1 Desilting Site in Dec. 21, 4 Mining Sites in May, 22 & 3 Mining Sites in Oct. 22.
- (ii) Further, Chief Secretary, Punjab had conducted two meetings on 29.04.2022 & 23.11.2022 to review the status of preparation of District Survey Reports (DSRs) apart from other aspects of mining in compliance of above said NGT order.
- (iii) The Chief Engineer, Mining informed the Committee that 8 DSRs submitted by Mining Department through Deputy Commissioner for District Pathankot, Fazilka, Rupnagar, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Mohali, SBS Nagar & Tarn Taran have been approved by SEIAA, Punjab. Further, as per request made by the Mining Department, SEIAA vide letter dated 30.12.2022 permitted the Department to undertake sand mining in the sites identified in the approved DSRs till 31.03.2023, during which time, the ECs for the sites will be applied and obtained.
- (iv) The Committee noted the same.

Agenda No. 20.4 Monitoring of District Environment Plans (Compliance of Hon'ble NGT Order dated 18.08.2022 in O.A. No. 360/2018)

- (i) The Committee was apprised that the Hon'ble NGT vide above said order, after dissolution of Monitoring Committee headed by Justice Jasbir Singh, former judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court on 31.12.2022 directed that the monitoring work being undertaken by the said Committee may be taken over by the Chief Secretary,

Punjab for being continued through appropriate administrative monitoring mechanism under them.

- (ii) The Committee was informed that as decided by the State Govt., the directions have been issued to all the Divisional Commissioners on 17.01.2023 to monitor the District Environment Plans (DEPs) in their respective Districts on behalf of CS, Punjab from 1.01.2023 onwards. Further, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) being followed for monitoring the DEPs has also been conveyed along with the monitoring proforma. The Divisional Commissioners shall monitor each District under their jurisdiction at least once in a period of two months and shall submit their bi-monthly report which will be reviewed in the meeting of State Apex Committee.
- (iii) The Committee noted the same.

Agenda No. 20.5 State Action Plan (Compliance of NGT Order dated 21.05.2020 in O.A. No. 360/2018)

- (i) The Committee was apprised that in compliance of above said NGT order, the District Env. Plans of all the 23 Districts have already been submitted to CPCB. Further, draft State Env. Plan was circulated to all the stakeholder departments to verify the data and to address the gaps, as per the decision of State Apex Committee meeting held on 06.06.22. The comments received from the stakeholder departments have been incorporated in the draft State Environment Plan.
- (ii) The State Level Monitoring Committee in its meeting held on 04.01.23 approved the final draft State Env. Plan and decided to forward the same to State Apex Committee for final approval.
- (iii) The Committee considered and approved the State Environment Plan as proposed.

Agenda No. 20.6 Progress w.r.t. status of Sewage Management in Punjab

- (i) The Committee was informed that the State has 137 functional STPs of 2067.85 MLD capacity and proposed for setting up of 113 new STPs of 562.40 MLD capacity to address the 408 MLD gap in sewage management.
- (ii) Further, out of 113 proposed STPs, 49 STPs (325.45 MLD) under construction are likely to be installed by 31.12.2023, 32 STPs (85.25 MLD) at tender stage & 32 STPs (151.70 MLD) at DPR stage are likely to be installed by 30.06.2024.
- (iii) Regarding the matter of land issue in 3 under construction STPs and

24 STPs at DPR stage, PS-LG was asked to get them resolved on priority basis.

- (iv) PS-LG informed that in-situ remediation has been completed in 18 ULBs, under progress in 5 ULBs & not required in 11 ULBs.
- (v) Chairman, PPCB informed that DLG has been asked to deposit Environmental Compensation of Rs. 104.90 Cr. for non-commencement of STPs for the period from 1.07.2020 to 30.06.2022, Rs. 139.80 Cr. for non-commissioning of STPs for the period from 1.04.2021 to 30.06.2022 and Rs. 122.9 Cr. for in-situ remediation for the period from 1.07.2020 to 30.06.2022.
- (vi) The Committee noted the same.

Agenda No. 20.7 Compliance of existing STPs with laid norms

- (i) The Committee was apprised that non-compliance of STPs due to F.Coli has been reduced to 6% as compared to 14% during last meeting.
- (ii) The Committee directed Deptt. Of Local Govt. that efforts should be made to make 100% of the STPs compliant failing due to F.Coli.

Agenda No. 20.8 Monitoring of CETPs

- (i) The Committee noted the compliance status of existing 6 CETPs.
- (ii) The Committee directed PPCB to coordinate with the SPVs of 15 MLD, 40 MLD & 50 MLD CETPs to make them fully compliant.

Agenda No. 20.9 Monitoring of Existing ETPs

- (i) The Committee noted the progress.

Agenda No. 20.10 Action Plan for Rejuvenation of Ponds

- (i) The Committee noted the progress.
- (ii) The Committee directed DRDP & DLG to provide the timelines to complete the ongoing works.

Agenda No. 20.11 Management of Dairy Waste

- (i) PEDDA informed that in Haibowal Dairy Complex Ludhiana, existing plant is handling 180-190 TPD of cow dung and e-bids for setting up of CBG Plant to handle 300 TPD of cow dung have been opened and allocation of the project to successful bidder is in process.
- (ii) Further, the work is under progress for setting up of CBG Plant at Tajpur Dairy Complex, Ludhiana to handle 300 TPD of cow dung which is likely to be completed by September, 2024.

- (iii) DLG informed that the work for setting up of ETPs for Tajpur (2.25 MLD) & Haibowal Dairy Complex (3.75 MLD) is under progress and is likely to be completed by 30.06.23.
- (iv) DLG reported that the work for setting up of CBG Plant to process 250 TPD of cow dung for Jamsher Dairy Complex, Jalandhar is under progress and is likely to be completed by 30.06.2024. Further, the work of 2.25 MLD ETP is likely to be completed by 30.06.2023.
- (v) The Committee directed PS- DRDP to submit the report of the Task Force constituted for Gobar and Dairy waste Management before the next meeting of the Committee .
- (vi) The Committee noted the same.

Agenda No. 20.12 Action Plan for re-use of treated waste water of STPs (NGT Order dated 21.05.2020 in O.A. No. 593/2017)

- (i) Department of Soil and Water Conservation informed that the work for using the treated waste water of 57 STPs (305 MLD) for irrigation has been completed and is under progress in 10 STPs (131 MLD).
- (ii) Further, the work for using the treated waste water of 30 STPs for irrigation has been sanctioned under NABARD-RIDF 25 & 26 Schemes at a cost of Rs. 143.36 Cr. which is likely to be completed by 31.03.2024.
- (iii) DLG informed that Rs. 87.84 Cr. has been earmarked for using the treated waste water of 56 ULBs under SBM-Urban-2.0. Further, a project to re-use 116 MLD of treated waste water of 6 towns has been approved under SWAPs & AMRUT 2.0.
- (iv) The Committee noted the same.

Agenda No. 20.13 Status of utilization of National Clean Air Program (NCAP) Funds for 7 NACs (Dera Bassi, MGG, Jalandhar, Khanna, Nangal, Dera Baba Nanak, Patiala)

- (i) The Committee noted with serious concern regarding the poor utilization of funds (Rs. 2.42 Cr. against release of Rs. 38.52 Cr) by concerned ULBs.
- (ii) The Committee directed PPCB & Deptt. of Local Govt. to intensify the efforts for utilization of funds by concerned ULBs of NACs.

Agenda No. 20.14 Status of Utilization of Grant received under 15th Finance Commission-Grant to State for improvement in Air Quality of Ludhiana & Amritsar

- (i) The Committee noted with serious concern regarding the poor utilization of funds (Rs. 40.30 Cr. against release of Rs. 159 Cr.).

- (ii) The Committee directed Deptt. of Local Govt. to intensify the efforts for utilization of funds by MC Ludhiana and Amritsar.

Agenda No. 20.15 Status of Solid Waste Management

- (i) The Committee noted the progress.
- (ii) The Chairman, PPCB apprised the Committee that PPCB has imposed EC of Rs. 67.10 Cr to Deptt. Of Local Govt. for non-compliance of Rule 22 of SWM Rules, 2016 for the period from 01.07.20 to 28.02.22. The Deptt. of Local Govt. has deposited Rs. 20.63 Cr. with PPCB.
- (iii) PS-LG informed that DPR for setting up of waste to energy plant of 200 TPD capacity to generate 10 MW power at Ludhiana is under preparation.

Agenda No. 20.16 Elimination of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP)

- (i) PPCB informed that it has carried out surprise monitoring of 124 units in Sept. 2022 and 7 units were found manufacturing carry bags. The action initiated against these units.
- (ii) DLG informed that 266 material recovery facilities have been setup in 163 ULBs and has installed screen filters in 143 water bodies to prevent solid/plastic waste in the water bodies. Notification for banning of SUP across the urban areas of the State issued vide dated 15.07.2022.
- (iii) Further, city wise action plan to manage legacy plastic waste already prepared by DLG and approved by Ministry of Housing & Urban Authority. Work of remediation has been completed in 52 ULBs and under progress in remaining 91 ULBs.
- (iv) Assistant Director, PMIDC has been nominated as Nodal Officer for uploading the latest progress along with the revised timelines on the Dashboard of Ministry.
- (v) The Committee directed PPCB, DLG and DRDP to update the timelines indicated in the Action Plan and report their progress on Quarterly basis to Nodal Officer, PMIDC for uploading the same on the dashboard of Ministry.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair

List of Participants

1.	Department of Science, Technology & Environment	Sh. Sumer Singh Gurjar, IAS, Principal Secretary Dr. Manish Kumar, IFS, Director, DECC Er. Pardeep Garg, Additional Director, DECC
2.	Department of Rural Development & Panchayats	Sh. Amit Kumar, IAS, JDC
3.	Department of Local Govt.	Sh. VP Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary Sh. M.S. Jaggi, IAS, CEO, PWSSB Ms. Isha Kalia, IAS, CEO, PMIDC Sh. Mukesh Garg, Chief Engineer Sh. Ashwani Chaudhary, Chief Engineer
4.	Department of Industries & Commerce	Sh. Dilip Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary Sh. Surinder Pal Singh, OSD Sh. Amanpreet Singh, Executive Engineer, PSIEC
5.	Punjab Pollution Control Board	Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig, Chairman Sh. G.S. Majithia, Member Secretary
6.	Department of Mining & Geology	Sh. Narinder Kumar Jain, Chief Engineer
7.	Punjab Energy Development Agency	Sh. Sukhwant Singh
8.	Department of Soil & Water Conservation	Sh. G.S. Dhillon, DSCO