

By Speed Post

F.No. A-14011/1/2018-WQM-I

Dated 03.05.2018

To

The Chairman,
Punjab State Pollution Control Board,
Nabha Road, ITI RD, Adarsh Nagar,
Patiala – 147 001

DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 18 (1) (b) OF THE WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) ACT, 1974 IN THE MATTER OF CONTAMINATED WATER IN CANALS OF RAJASTHAN ORIGINATING FROM PUNJAB

WHEREAS, amongst others, under Section 16 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 one of the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) constituted under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to coordinate activities of the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and resolve disputes among them as well as to provide technical assistance and guidance to SPCBs/ PCCs; and

WHEREAS, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 one of the functions of the State Pollution Control Board is to plan a comprehensive programme for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution of streams and wells in the state and to secure the execution thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Central Government has notified the general standards for discharge of environmental pollutants to any public sewer or inland surface water under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and

WHEREAS, as a follow-up of the decisions taken in 51st Conference of Chairmen and Member Secretaries of the Pollution Control Boards which was held during February 14-15, 2005, water quality monitoring of rivers at identified locations along interstate borders was commenced by the then Zonal Offices and Head Office of CPCB and concerned SPCBs/ PCCs were also requested and pursued to take remedial measures to restore water quality of the identified polluted rivers at Interstate borders; and.

WHEREAS, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) issued directions vide 10/11/2014 under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to Punjab State Pollution Control Board (PPCB) for submission of time bound action plan for control of pollution and management of municipal and industrial wastewater. In response to the directions dated 10.11.2014 issued by CPCB, PPCB submitted action plan vide letter dated 21.07.2015; and

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09/05/18

WHEREAS, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) issued directions vide dated 21/04/2015 under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to all the SPCBs/PCCs to direct local and urban bodies of States/UTs to provide sewerage system and to set up sewage treatment plants of adequate capacities to bridge treatment gap as well as for ensuring treatment and utilization of treated sewage; and

WHEREAS, CPCB issued directions vide dated 09/10/2015 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the Municipal Authorities and State Capitals regarding treatment and utilization of sewage as a part of restoration of water quality of rivers; and

WHEREAS, the Central Government has notified the effluent discharge standards for Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) vide G.S.R. 1265 (E) dated 13th October, 2017 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and

WHEREAS, a letter dated 15.6.2017 was received from Govt. of Rajasthan regarding contaminated water in Canals of Rajasthan originating from Punjab and requested CPCB to assess the extent of pollution by joint monitoring in river Sutlej & its tributaries and Canals of Rajasthan originating from Punjab at Harike; and

WHEREAS, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) jointly with Punjab Pollution Control Board and Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) Rajasthan State Water Resources Department conducted monitoring of river Sutlej in Punjab region and other point sources discharging into river Sutlej and canals namely Rajasthan Feeder/Indira Gandhi Canal and Ferozpur /Sirhind Feeder coming from Punjab, in July, 2017 and the analysis results reveal that the water quality of river Sutlej deteriorates (w.r.to BOD and DO) after confluence of River East Bein and Buddha Nallah and whereas the coliform count was exceeding the prescribed water quality criteria at all the monitored locations; and

WHEREAS, a letter dated 01.02.2018 was received from Govt. of Rajasthan, Water Resources Department regarding contaminated water in Canals of Rajasthan and requested CPCB to carryout monitoring during the month of April 2018 as the monitoring of river Sutlej in Punjab region and other point sources including Rajasthan Feeder Canal were carried in the month of July 2017; and

WHEREAS, a meeting was convened at CPCB on 16.2.2018 with the officials of both Punjab and Rajasthan Pollution Control Boards so as to discuss the issues related to the initiatives taken by Punjab Pollution Control Board to control contamination water in canals of Rajasthan originating from Punjab and it was decided to issue directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to the Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & Rajasthan State Pollution Control Boards to issue directions to the respective water resources/irrigation department in the respective

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State for installation of Real Time Water Quality Monitoring System (RTWQMS) at the respective jurisdiction of all the inter-state borders on river Sutlej and such installed RTWQMS should be connected to CPCB and the respective SPCB servers so as to assess the real time water quality of river Sutlej on continuous basis and to ensure for taking necessary remedial measures for control of river Sutlej pollution; and

WHEREAS, CPCB vide letter dated 14/03/2018 also requested Rajasthan SPCB, Punjab SPCB and H.P.SPCB to initiate necessary action in light of the decision taken in the meeting held on 16/02/2018 in CPCB; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming a need and necessity to regulate and minimize the interstate dispute on river water quality where downstream State is receiving the polluted water from upstream State and efforts needed to be made by the States to exercise self-monitoring & compliance on interstate points and transmission of real time water quality monitoring data to CPCB on continuous basis; and

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the above stated facts and to prevent further deterioration of water quality in interstate rivers, growing number of representations and complaints received in CPCB by the recipient downstream State against upstream State for discharging polluted water and as a follow-up to the minutes of the meeting held in CPCB on 16.02.2018 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, following directions are issued to Punjab Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh SPCB for ensuring compliance in a time bound manner: -

- (i) *That the directions under section 33 (A) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 shall be issued to the respective Water Resources/Irrigation Department in the respective State to install Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Systems (RTWQMS) within six months at the respective jurisdiction of all the inter-State borders on river Sutlej and such RTWQMS shall be connected to CPCB and respective SPCB servers to assess the real time water quality of Sutlej river on continuous basis and for taking necessary remedial measures for control of river pollution.*
- (ii) *That the RTWQMS shall have necessary provisions to measure water quality parameters viz pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) & Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and whereas bacteriological parameters (For Total and Fecal Coliform) shall be monitored on monthly basis by the respective SPCB by manual monitoring at inter-State points fall under the jurisdiction of the respective States.*
- (iii) *That the cost towards installation of the RTWQMS as well as calibration of the RTWQMS fortnightly shall be carried out under the supervision of the respective SPCB and the cost towards O & M of such RTWQMS shall be borne by the respective State Water Resources/Irrigation Department.*

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Punjab State Pollution Control Board shall acknowledge receipt of these directions and shall submit an action taken report to CPCB within 15 days from the date of issue of these directions and also to submit the time bound action plan for ensuring complete compliance to the afore-said directions given in earlier paras at Sl. No. (i) to (iii) to be submitted to the respective SPCB by the respective State Water Resources/Irrigation Department, within two months thereafter to CPCB.


07/17/18
(S.P.S. Parihar)
Chairman

Copy for information to: -

1. Chief Secretary
Government of Punjab
Punjab Civil Secretariat
Chandigarh-160001.
2. Joint Secretary, CP Division
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003.
3. Regional Directorate (North),
Central Pollution Control Board
Ground & First Floors, PICK-UP Bhawan,
B-Block, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar,
Lucknow-221 010, U.P.
4. Division Head, IT Division.
5. Division Head, IPC-VII Division.
6. Division Head, UPC Division.


(A. Sudhakar)
Member Secretary