

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 225/2022
(I.A. No. 815/2023, IA No. 668/2023,
IA No. 596/2023, IA No. 20/2023, IA No. 21/2023)

Nitin Dhiman

Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab

Respondent

Date of hearing: 01.02.2024

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Ms. Himani Advocate for Original Applicant. (Through VC)
Ms. Vrinda Bhandari and Ms. Mallika Agarwal Advocates for Applicants
in I.A. no. 815 of 2023 for intervention.

Respondent: Mr. Prateek K. Chadha, DAG, Mr. Sreekar Aechuri, Ms. Muskaan Singla
and Mr. Pragya Ganjoo Advocates for Respondents No. 1, 4 and 6.
Ms. Richa Kapoor and Mr. Amresh Bind Advocates for Respondent No. 2
PPCB.
Mr. Ankit Siwach, Advocate for MC Ludhiana. (Through VC)

ORDER

1. The grievance raised in this application relates to discharge of industrial effluent by dyeing units operating in Ludhiana District in violation of the environmental norms.

2. Considering the factual position in detail, the Tribunal vide order dated 04.01.2024 had constituted a committee by issuing direction as under:

“17. In these facts and circumstances of the case, we consider it appropriate to constitute a committee comprising of the representatives of MOEF&CC, CPCB, PSPCB, and Experts nominated by the Principal Secretaries, Science, Technology and Environment and Water Resources, Departments of the Government of Punjab to carry out study examine the aspects of utilisation of treated effluent discharged by CETPs and STPs for irrigation and modalities of

connecting the same to irrigation canals and channels instead of rivers. The committee may co-opt any expert, constitute any sub-committee, undertake such visits and join/hear affected persons/NGOs as considered necessary and shall make its recommendations on or before 31.01.2024. The PSPCB shall be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance and shall bear all the expenses incurred by the Joint Committee in respect of the above said study.

18. As per report submitted by the PSPCB, all CETPs are discharging their treated effluent into Buddha Nallah leading to River Sutlej. The PSPCB is directed to take samples from Buddha Nallah at different locations in the district Ludhiana and get the same analysed for quality with respect to all parameters prescribed for treatment of sewage/industrial effluents and file its report regarding the same one week before the date of hearing fixed hereinafter.

19. The PSPCB and the MC, Ludhiana are directed to file status reports in tabular format regarding (i) action taken against all the non-compliant units; (ii) present status of units which are stated to be closed as to whether the same have been temporarily or permanently closed; (iii) detailed compliance status of all the dyeing industries which are not connected to the three CETPs; (iv) the compliance status of all the dyeing industries with respect to withdrawal and utilization of ground water and compliance with conditions, if any, imposed at the time of grant of permission by the Punjab State Ground Water Authority particularly condition regarding re-charge of ground water; and (v) the wastewater generated by each of the dyeing industries connected with all the three CETPs, the wastewater from each of the said dyeing industries received in the CETPs, the production capacity and the share in the CETP of each of the said dyeing industries. The PSPCB and the MC, Ludhiana are also directed to include in their status report their response to the observations made by the Amicus Curiae in his report filed vide email dated 03.08.2023.

20. The Reports as mentioned above be filed on or before 31.01.2024 by email at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF."

3. The reply dated 30.01.2024 has been filed on behalf of PPCB stating that in compliance of the order dated 04.01.2024, PPCB has collected samples from various important locations of Buddha Nallah and for analysis of the results of the samples and for preparation of status report and also to disclose the status of industries and CETPs, one month time has been prayed for. In the said report, there is a further prayer for the grant of two months time to the Joint Committee to file the report in terms of the order dated 04.01.2024.

4. We are of the view that once the sample analysis report are collected, the process for filing of report by Joint Committee can be expedited hence we direct that the report in terms of order dated 04.01.2024 be filed at least one week before the next date of hearing.

5. List this matter on 23rd April, 2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

February 01, 2024
O.A. No. 225/2022
HB.