

Minutes of 10th Meeting of the Executing Committee held under the Chairmanship of Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh on 29.03.2019 in the Room of Executive Committee, 4th Floor, 5th Tower, Forest Complex, Mohali in compliance of the order dated 7.8.2018 in the matter of OA No. 138 / 139 of 2016 titled Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River V/s Joginder Kumar.

Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh welcomed all the members of the Executing Committee and the officials attended the meeting. The list of the participants is as per Annexure-1.

It was apprised that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide its order dated 07.08.2018 in matter of OA No. 138 / 139 of 2016 titled Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River V/s Joginder Kumar while considering the case and reports of the various agencies of the State Government of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh has shown its disappointment and failure of the authorities for not taking action against the persons responsible for the violation of the law at large and accordingly, the Chief Secretaries of the Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Administration Chandigarh were directed to constitute District Level Special Task Forces (STF) comprising of District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Regional Offices of the State Pollution Control Board in concerned District and one person to be nominated by District Judge in every District. The Special Task Force may identify persons responsible for violation of law so that action can be taken. At State level, the STF will comprise of the Chief Secretary, the Environment Secretary, the Secretary of Urban Development and Secretary of the Local Bodies. The District level STFs is required to submit a monthly action taken report to the State Level STFs and State STFs will furnish 3 monthly Action Taken Report to the Central Pollution Control Board and such reports also be uploaded on the websites of the State Pollution Control Boards as well as the Environment Department of the respective State.

The Chairman, Executive Committee further informed that Dr. Babu Ram, Former Member Secretary, PPCB now appointed as Member in the matter of Sobha Singh Vs State of Punjab by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, regarding cleaning of River Sutlej and Beas has also been nominated as special invitee in the matter of OA No. 138 / 139 of 2016 titled Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River Vs Joginder Kumar.

The Nodal officers of the State Government, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and UT Chandigarh, who attended the meeting, submitted their Action Taken Report with respect to activities to be carried out with regard to control of pollution in River Ghaggar as per the order dated 07.08.2018 of the Hon'ble Tribunal. The Action Taken Reports submitted by these nodal officers have been summarized and the same is annexed at **Annexure-2**.

Upon detailed deliberations on the various points of the Action Taken Report submitted by these States / UT, the following decisions were taken:

1. Nodal Officers shall ensure that the District Level Special Task Forces constituted in the respective States must submit its monthly Action Taken Report to State Level Special Task Force and quarterly Action Taken Report must be submitted to CPCB by the respective State Level Special Task Force. The status of monthly reports shall also be uploaded on the website of the respective SPCB and whereas quarterly reports be uploaded on the website of the CPCB .
2. The District Level Special Task Force be asked to carry out the spot and surprise inspection of the industries for identifying the violating industries and action to be taken against the violating industries must be recommended to the State Pollution Control Board. The concerned State Pollution Control Board must ensure that the stern legal action including closure of the violating industries is taken in a time bound manner.
3. Concrete action including closure of the non-complying industries i.e. found discharging untreated industrial effluent directly / indirectly into the drain / nallah

/ choe / river must be taken in a weeks' time and action taken report be apprised in the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

4. The ground water samples along the River Ghaggar upto the transverse distance of 500 m on both sides (Banks) of the river Ghaggar and after every 5 km along the River must be collected by each State Pollution Control Board / Committee on quarterly basis and report be submitted in the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee. Wherever, the ground water samples are found to be non-complying to the BIS drinking water norms prescribed under IS: 10500-2012, the particular ground water source must be sealed/ capped and display board mentioning 'water is not fit for drinking' may be placed at all such point sources. The concerned Government agency like Water Supply & Sanitation and / or Local Bodies be directed to supply the safe drinking water to the inhabitants / villagers / towns whose point source has been sealed.
5. Drain-wise list of the industries located on the catchment area of River Ghaggar must be prepared and these industries must be checked surprisingly to ascertain as to whether these industries have their discharge into River Ghaggar directly / indirectly. Legal action under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 must be taken soon after inspection of the violating industries. The surveillance squads must be formed by the States and these squads be directed to visit the industries even on the public holidays also.
6. Health camps for the towns / villagers / inhabitants located along River Ghaggar must be organized in each District of the State, where the river Ghaggar passes. Big Private Hospitals must also be directed to organize such health camps under CSR activities. Prior intimation with regard to organizing health camps also be intimated to the Chairman of the Executing Committee besides submission of the report of these health camps to the Executive Committee before the next meeting.
7. The quality of river Ghaggar must be checked before and after confluence of the point sources with respect to parameter as per the river water quality criteria

prescribed by CPCB. The concerned State Pollution Control Board shall ensure that there is visible improvement in the quality of river water at ground with the time series.

8. In the next meetings of the Executive Committee in the matter of OA No. 138 / 139 of 2016 titled Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River V/s Joginder Kumar, the following officers from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh States and Chandigarh UT shall be called:

- i) Principal Secretary / Secretary, Deptt. of Science, Technology and Environment.
- ii) Principal Secretary / Secretary of Urban Development.
- iii) Principal Secretary / Secretary, Deptt. of Local Government.
- iv) Principal Secretary, Deptt. of Health & Family Welfare.
- v) Chairman, State Pollution Control Boards.
- vi) Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Boards.
- vii) Engineering-In-Chief / Chief Engineer, Deptt. of Local Government.
- viii) Engineering-In-Chief / Chief Engineer, Water Supply & Sewerage Board / Public Health Engineer Department.

It was further decided that the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held on 2nd Friday of every month. Principal Secretary / Secretary, Deptt. of Science, Technology & Environment of the respective State shall give digital presentation mentioning the progress of each department with regard to activities to be carried out / carried out to control the pollution in River Ghaggar.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
