

Speed Post

F. No. B-410/PCI-III/DIST/2K16-2K17

May 25, 2018

To,

The Chairman
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road,
Patiala , Punjab

Direction under section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to ensure safe storage and handing of Molasses by Sugar Mills & Distilleries

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 SPCB's/PCCs & to provide technical assistance & guidance to SPCBs/PCCs; and

WHEREAS, among others, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, one of the functions of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC), constituted under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to plan a comprehensive programme for prevention, control and abatement of pollution of streams and wells located in the State/UT and to secure the execution there of; and

WHEREAS, the Central Government has notified the standards for discharge of environmental pollution from various categories of industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rule framed there under; and

WHEREAS, the CPCB and SPCBs have been pursuing the polluting industries to install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) to comply with the effluent discharge standards as notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules framed there under; and

WHEREAS, the SPCBs/PCCs can stipulate stringent standards for discharge of environmental pollution from various categories of industries than those notified by the Central Government, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules framed there under; and

WHEREAS, it has been observed and reported by many SPCB that there has been surplus production of sugar cane in the present crushing season, (20 - 30 % excess production has been reported by some individual sugar mills), which has also resulted generation of molasses in excess quantities, which requires to be stored and handled in an environment safe manner ; and

WHEREAS, an incident of discharge of molasses into River 'Beas' by M/s. Chadha Sugars & Industries (P) Ltd., a Sugar Mill located at Kiri Afgana Village, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab (referred to as 'the unit' in following paras) has been reported by National and local Dailies and has been highlighted in the media. The incident has reportedly resulted in death of aquatic species and has caused damage to the ecology of the River; and

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WHEREAS, the first hand report received from the Punjab Pollution Control Board also confirms the discharge of molasses into the River 'Beas'. A team of officials of CPCB who visited the site on 22-23.05.2018 has also verified that the excess molasses generated from the said unit was stored in the two open brick lined tanks has leaked/overflowed into nearby drain which meets River Beas within 200m and has caused loss of aquatic life and ecology; and

WHEREAS, the team has also observed that due to excess generation of molasses and the lack of sufficient storage facilities, the unit had stored molasses in the available open storage lagoon meant for storing the treated effluent from Sugar Mill ETP during 'no demand' time and a temporary storage tank similarly constructed, which due to improper precautionary measures has resulted in the discharge of molasses into the River 'Beas'; and

Now therefore, in view of the above and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, you are hereby directed to take the following steps immediately to ensure that the molasses generated from the Sugar Mills in your State are stored/handled in an environment sound manner and shall not result in environmental damage/loss of ecology as reported in the instant case, detailed above;

1. The Sugar Mills shall ensure that the molasses generated by the unit is not leaked/ discharged into surface water bodies/ground and shall be stored in proper tanks meant for the purpose.
2. To ensure proper precautionary measure for the storage of excess molasses, if stored in kutch lagoons/open tanks as per NOC of Excise dept. /Concerned department.
3. Molasses stored in such temporary storage tank shall be properly utilised/consumed before approaching monsoon season. The sugar mills shall explore the utilisation of molasses by other distilleries within the State or in the nearby State and legal formalities, if any, for such interstate movement may be facilitated, on the request from the mills.
4. To perform monitoring of water quality of receiving drain / river on regular basis to ensure timely corrective action to avoid any spill/ accidental discharge from such temporary / illegal storage of molasses.
5. An assessment of molasses stored at the Sugar Mills in your State shall be prepared including the available storage facilities and shall be provided to CPCB within 15 days.
6. Analyse the preparedness of all concerned stake holders in dealing with such accidental discharge.

The actions taken by Punjab Pollution Control Board for complying with this direction shall be intimated to this office along with the assessment report as desired above shall be provided **within 15 days of receipt of this direction.**

(S P Singh Parihar)
CHAIRMAN

Copy to:


- 1) **The Advisor (CP Division)**
Ministry of Environment, Forest & C.C
Prithvi Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003

: For information, please

(Contd...3/-)

- 2) **The Regional Director,**
CPCB Regional Directorate,
PICUP Bhawan, Ground Floor, Vibhuti Khand,
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (As per list)
- 3) The In-charge, IPC-III Division, CPCB
- 4) The In-charge, NGRBA Cell, CPCB
- 5) The In-charge, IT Division, CPCB

: For information & follow up, please


(A Sudhakar)
MEMBER SECRETARY