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F. No. CP-99/24/2024-IPC-I-HO-CPCB-HO

March 18, 2024

To

The Member Secretary
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
Head Office, Pattom. P. O.
Thiruvananthapuram-695004
Kerala

Sub.: Directions Issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 18 (1) (b) of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in the matter of pollution caused by M/s The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited, Udyogamandal Complex– Petrochemical Plants, Udyogamandal P.O., Eloor, Ernakulam, Kerala–683501– reg.

WHEREAS, under section 17 sub-section (1) clause (o) of the Water Act, 1974, and with parallel provision under section 17 sub-section (1) clause (i) of the air (Prevention & control of pollution) Act, 1981, hereinafter referred to as Air Act, 1981, one of the functions of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) constituted under the Water Act, 1974, is to perform such functions as may be prescribed or as may, from time to time entrusted to it by the Central Board; and

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

WHEREAS, there is need to promote self-monitoring and self-regulation within the industries for complying with the prescribed standards and this can be achieved by the methods like installing online effluent and emission monitoring devices; and

WHEREAS, Petrochemical manufacturing company, M/s The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kerala (herein after referred to as the Unit) was randomly selected for inspection based on the OCEMS Surveillance Programme; and

WHEREAS, the Unit was inspected by a team of official(s) from Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Bengaluru during November 30, 2023 to December 01, 2023 to assess the adequacy of the existing pollution control measures and observed the following shortcomings:

- i. The Unit was operating without valid consent to operate of KSPCB beyond 30.06.2023.
- ii. The Unit has not provided display board at the main entrance gate as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order in WP-657/1995.
- iii. Particulate matter concentration in the thermal oil furnace stack (ST-3) attached to ANONE plant was exceeded the prescribed petrochemical emission standard notified dated 09.11.2012 by MoEF&CC i.e $588 > 100 \text{ mg/Nm}^3$.

- iv. The monitoring platform and porthole has not been provided as per CPCB's emission regulation part-III.
- v. The treated effluent of the Unit is being discharged to the river *Periyar* without any recycle, as per the consent condition prescribed by the KSPCB.
- vi. The Unit has not provided details of water balance to the inspecting team.
- vii. The unit has not provided emission control system at R-LNG fired common boiler and thermal oil furnace attached to ammonia plant.
- viii. The details of calibration/ validation method of OCEMS analyzers as prescribed by original instrument manufacturer are not mentioned in the certificates.
- ix. The Unit has recorded 'nil' for ETP sludge disposal for the periods 2021-22 and 2022-23 in the environmental statement and no disposal of ETP sludge recorded in the annual returns under the HOWM rules, but accumulation of ETP sludge was observed inside the Unit.
- x. The Unit is mixing waste oil (which is hazardous waste) with furnace oil and burned in the thermal oil furnace (ST-3) instead of recycling as per the provisions of HOWM, Rules 2016.

WHEREAS, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide Notification G.S.R. 820(E) dated 09.11.2012 notified emission discharge standards for Petrochemical industries in the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986; and

WHEREAS, emission standard for Particulate Matter of furnace stack has been prescribed as 100 mg / Nm³ (Liquid Fuel) for Petrochemical Plants in the said notification; and

WHEREAS, upon perusal of the Consent to Operate (CTO) granted to the unit by Kerala State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 29.09.2009, subsequently renewed up to 30.06.2023 observed that the emission standard for Particulate matter has been prescribed as 250 mg / Nm³ which is in contravention to the standard (of 100 mg / Nm³) prescribed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide Notification G.S.R. 820(E) dated 09.11.2012 ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, on the basis of observations and recommendations of inspection team and in exercise of the power conferred under 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 18 (1) (b) of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Kerala State Pollution Control Board is hereby directed as below:

To take appropriate action for compliance of following directions issue to M/s The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited, Udyogamandal Complex – Petrochemical Plants, Kerala:

- i. Kerala State Pollution Control Board shall issue a revised Consent to Operate to the unit taking into account the standards prescribed for Petrochemical Plants vide Notification G.S.R. 820(E) dated 09.11.2012 notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It shall be ensured that Consent to Operate does not prescribe relaxed standards to that of the standards notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the said notification.

- ii. The KSPCB shall ensure that waste oil being hazardous waste be not permitted to be used by mixing with furnace oil for burning in the thermal oil furnace. The waste oil be recycled in accordance with provisions stipulated under the Hazardous and Other Waste (M&TBM) Rules, 2016.
- iii. The unit shall not be allowed to operate without valid CTO of KSPCB.
- iv. KSPCB shall direct the Unit to provide display boards at entrance gates in accordance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order in WP-657/1995.
- v. The Unit shall provide adequate emission control system to achieve prescribed emission norms w.r.t. particulate matter in the oil furnace stack.
- vi. The Unit shall provide the monitoring platform and porthole at stacks as per Emission Regulation Part-III to carryout source emission monitoring.
- vii. The Unit shall be recycled the treated effluent to the maximum extent possible before discharged to the river *Periyar* as per the consent condition prescribed of the KSPCB.
- viii. The Unit shall submit water balance and quantum of treated wastewater recycled/reused during 2022-2023 to till date.
- ix. The Unit shall store the hazardous waste properly and shall maintain records in respect of hazardous waste generation.

The compliance of above direction shall be submitted to this office within 30 days of the receipt of the directions.


(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Member Secretary

Copy to:

1. The Additional Secretary (CP Division)
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(Bharat Kumar Sharma)