

By Email/Speed Post

No. A-14011/1/2024-WQM-I 6176

Date:12.11.2024

To

The Member Secretary,
Delhi Pollution Control Committee,
6th Floor, C Wing, Delhi Secretariat,
I P Estate, Delhi-110002

Subject: Directions under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 regarding non-compliance status of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) installed in Delhi.

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 and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, is to coordinate activities of the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committee (PCCs) and to provide technical assistance and guidance to them; and

WHEREAS, amongst others, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, one of the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), is to plan a comprehensive programme for prevention, control or abatement of pollution of streams and wells in different areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, amongst others, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, one of the functions of the SPCB/PCC, constituted under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to inspect sewage or trade effluents works and plants for the treatment of sewage and trade effluents and to review plans, specifications or other data relating to plants set up for the treatment of water, works for the purification thereof and the system for the disposal of sewage or trade effluents or in connection with the grant of any consent as required by this act; and

WHEREAS, discharge of untreated or partly treated sewage is a major cause for poor water quality in rivers and other aquatic resources and adversely impacts human health and aquatic life. Further, sizeable gap exist in sewage generation and its treatment is adding to the problem of water pollution; and

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WHEREAS, the Central Government has notified the General Discharge Standards of Environmental Pollutants from various sources including municipal wastewater under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder (Schedule VI); and

WHEREAS, CPCB had issued directions to Delhi Pollution Control Committee vide letter no. No. A-19014/43/06-MON dated 21/04/2015 under Section 18 (1) (b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct Delhi Jal Board to develop infrastructure for ensuring 100 % collection & treatment of sewage, STPs are operated at the designed capacity and conforms to the consented discharge norms & other terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, CPCB had issued directions to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vide letter No. A-14011/1/2015-MON dated 09/10/2015 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding treatment and utilization of Sewage for Restoration of water quality of River; and

WHEREAS, the CPCB had issued directions to Delhi Jal Board vide letter No. A-14011/1/2015-MON/16476 dated 19.02.2019 under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding non-complying sewage treatment plants (STPs) installed in Delhi and to explain the reasons as to why action should not be taken against DJB including levying of Environmental Compensation; and

WHEREAS, Central Government has notified standards for treated effluent of Sewage Treatment Plants vide notification dated 13.10.2017; and

WHEREAS, the Hon'ble NGT in the matter of OA No. 1069/2018 pronounced the STP discharge standards for the whole of the country vide its order dated 30.04.2019. The recommended standards for 07 parameters viz pH (5.5-9.0), BOD (10 mg/L), TSS (20 mg/L), COD (50 mg/L), Total Nitrogen (10 mg/L), Total Phosphorus (1 mg/L) and Fecal Coliform (230 MPN/100 ml); and

WHEREAS, the Hon'ble NGT in the matter of OA No. 183 of 2024 taking suo motu cognizance of news item titled; "Why 75 % of Delhi's STPs aren't ready to tackle Yamuna stink" directed CPCB to submit a report including the details of performance of STPs; and

WHEREAS, in compliance to the said Hon'ble NGT direction, the officials of Central Pollution Control Board inspected Sewage Treatment Plants in Delhi and evaluated the performance of all existing & operational STPs under the jurisdiction of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) during April- May, 2024 and submitted its report before the Hon'ble NGT. A Copy of the report is attached as **Annexure I**.

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WHEREAS, it is evident from the analysis results of STP outlets that 37 out of the 38 STPs operating in Delhi are not complying with the discharge standards prescribed by Hon'ble NGT. The list of 37 STPs not meeting the prescribed standards. Details of non-compliant STPs is attached as **Annexure II**.

WHEREAS, the Hon'ble NGT in the matter of OA No. 183 of 2024 vide its order dated 09.08.2024 directed CPCB to take action for violation of STP norms.

WHEREAS, the Central Board, has delegated powers vested under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to the Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board vide its resolution made in 196th Board meeting dated 29th March, 2022 to issue direction under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to State Board (s); and

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the following directions are issued to Delhi PCC to ensure compliance of the following directions in a time bound manner:

1. All existing sewage treatment plants should be optimally operated as per their design capacities to ensure their continuous compliance with the prescribed discharge norms.
2. All STPs operates with valid consent orders under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
3. DPCC shall take necessary action to prevent industries from discharging untreated or partially treated effluent into drains or STPs.
4. To conduct inspection and monitoring of STPs installed in Delhi on a regular basis and accordingly ensure timely corrective action. Also, submit a copy of inspection reports & action taken reports in this regard to the CPCB.
5. To ensure the installation of adequate disinfection facilities and its effective operation for meeting the fecal coliform standards in all the STPs of Delhi.
6. To ensure that all STPs shall have adequate sludge management facilities for the sludge produced during STPs operation. STPs shall maintain proper records of sludge generated and sludge disposed.
7. To ensure reuse of treated sewage to the maximum extent for non-potable purposes such as bus cleaning, railways, horticulture, irrigation etc.

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8. To analyze STP wise historical compliance status & accordingly issue directions to concerned agencies for imposing EC for non-compliance.
9. To ensure compliance of CPCB direction dated 31.01.2021 regarding installation of OCEMS in all existing STPs & its connectivity with CPCB & DPCC server.

Action taken report along with a time bound action plan for compliance of the directions shall be submitted to CPCB within 30 days from the date of receipt of these directions.


(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Member Secretary

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. **The Chairman,** : for information, please
Delhi Pollution Control Committee,
6th Floor, C wing, Delhi Secretariat
I P Estate, Delhi-110002
2. **The Additional Secretary (CP Division)** : for information, please
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate
Change, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
3. **The Regional Director,** : for information, please
Regional Directorate - Chandigarh,
Central Pollution Control Board,
BSNL Telephone Exchange, 2nd Floor,
Sector 49 -C, Chandigarh-160 047
4. **Divisional Head, IT** : for uploading on CPCB
CPCB, Delhi website, please


(Bharat Kumar Sharma)

