



केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVT OF INDIA

Speed Post

PI-20/50/2022-IPC-III-HO-CPCB-HO

May 17, 2023

To,

The Chairman,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Head Office, Vatavaran Bhawan,
Nabha Road, Patiala-147 001,
Punjab

Directions under section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in the matter of complaint against acute pollution of groundwater caused by M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd., (Malbros Distillery), Village-Mansoorwal, Tehsil - Zira, District - Ferozepur, Punjab

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 or abatement of pollution of streams, wells and air pollution in the State/UT and to secure the execution thereof; and

WHEREAS, under section 16 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Section 16 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, one of the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), constituted under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to coordinate activities of the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees and to provide technical assistance and guidance to SPCBs/PCCs; 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 more stringent standards for discharge of environmental pollutant from various categories of industries, depending upon the quality of the recipient system, than those notified by the Central Government, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules framed there under; and

WHEREAS, CPCB received a VIP reference (KS-MOEF-22-1 dated 23.12.2022) of Sh. Jasbir Singh Gill, Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) forwarded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) regarding complaint against acute pollution of groundwater caused by M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd., (Malbros Distillery), Village-Mansoorwal, Tehsil-Zira, District-Ferozepur, Punjab (*hereinafter referred to as "the Unit"*); and

WHEREAS, CPCB also received a VIP reference forwarded by MoEF&CC vide its letter dated 18.01.2023 enclosing therewith a copy of Office Memorandum No. ZH/XVII/X/2022/LSS/TO/302 dated 20.12.2022 received from Lok Sabha Secretariat along with a copy of the matter raised during zero hour by Hon'ble MP, Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla, regarding pollution caused by M/s Malkos Private International Liquor company located at Tehsil-Jira, Ferozepur district at Mansoorwal and contamination of water in the villages of Mansoorwal, Rotalrohi, Malyaa, Sodhiwala, Sekwan; and

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WHEREAS, a team of CPCB visited the Unit on 28.12.2022 to investigate the matter, however the team could not conduct the inspection due to the protest held by the local villagers and farmers Association in front of the main gate of the Unit (M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd., Village-Mansoorwal, Jira, Ferozepur) and entry to the Unit premises without adequate police protection was not possible; and

WHEREAS, in pursuant to the above complaint, CPCB team revisited M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd. (Malbros Distillery) located at Village - Mansoorwal, Tehsil-Zira, District - Ferozepur, Punjab during 22.02.2023 to 24.02.2023 to investigate the matter in consultation with the expert deputed by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). The Unit is presently closed. Following are the observations of the inspection team:

- i. Ground water level ranges from 28.44 to 32.07 m bgl (below ground level) in the study area and the slope of water table is towards NNW from the factory area.
- ii. It was alleged that "The distillery has drilled 25 deep tube-wells in their compound and dumping toxic water in them leading to high pollution in groundwater in radius of 15 Kms, polluting drinking & irrigation water of over dozen villages". CPCB Team physically verified 10 Bore-wells and 06 piezometers installed in the premises of the Unit. The representatives of the Unit informed that they have obtained permission only for 04 bore-wells and 02 piezometers from CGWB/PWRDA, however no details of the permission was provided by the Unit to the inspection team. The inspection team also asked to provide the date of installation and the assembly drawing of the bore-wells and piezometers installed in the premises, but the details are not provided by the Unit.
- iii. The existence of such a large number of bore-wells without obtaining permission of CGWB and/or PWRDA in the premises of an industry, claiming to Zero Liquid Discharge is an area of further investigation.
- iv. Further, two bore-well inside the premises were found to be installed at a distance of few meter from each other, sealed and buried in the soil, despite the fact the 200 meter distance between two bore-wells is required as per guidelines.
- v. In view of the fact that most of ground water structures identified by CPCB team have been installed by the Industry without obtaining permission from CGWB/PWRDA, the possibility of having more such structures installed illegally without obtaining permission as apprehended in the letter of Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Sh. Jasbir Singh Gill) cannot be ruled out and thus needs further investigation by involving local revenue department to know the details of the bore-wells existing the time of acquiring the land from the local farmers, by the Industry.
- vi. Out of 29 bore-wells monitored, 12 bore-wells were yielding water with unpleasant odour, whereas 05 Bore-wells were yielding water with unpleasant odour and Grey/blackish colour, which is also evident and confirmed from the high lab analysis result for colour and turbidity.
- vii. The evaluation of data with regard to analysis results of ground water samples for general parameters, revealed that water from none of the 29 bore-wells monitored by CPCB team comply with the acceptable and permissible limits for one or more parameters, thereby rendering the water unfit for drinking. TDS, Boron and Sulphate were found be present in very high concentration and beyond acceptable and permissible limits in many samples. While high TDS and sulphate concentration may be an outcome of the industrial activity, however, the exceedance of Boron may not be attributed to the industry under reference.
- viii. The groundwater was found to be affected with high concentration of metals and heavy metals (toxic elements) in three villages namely Mansoorwal, Mahianwala Kalan and Ratol Rohi and this finding is in line with the slope of water table in the area, as determined by the CGWB team.

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- ix. The presence of cyanide in the bore-well located at village Ratol Rohi at a concentration of 0.2 mg/l, which is four times higher than the acceptable limit of 0.05 mg/l, as specified in IS 10500:2012 is an area of concern. Further investigation to pin points the source of this contamination is required in the interest of public health. The same bore-well was also found to be having high concentration of Arsenic and high concentration of lead, as well.
- x. One bore-well with 250 ft depth monitored at Village Mahianwala was found be having high concentration of Selenium, Manganese and Iron exceeding the acceptable & Permissible limits, while the other borewell with approx. 500 ft depth was found to be having high concentration of iron and manganese exceeding both acceptable and permissible limits.
- xi. The evaluation of the analysis reports w.r.t. monitoring of 02 bore-wells located in the premises of the Unit revealed that metals and toxic metals namely Arsenic, Chromium, copper, Iron, Manganese, Nickel, Lead and Selenium, are present in very high concentration along with high concentration of COD and Colour. The water from both the bore-well was having black colour and foul odour, as observed during sampling. In these bore-wells concentration of Arsenic was found to be 2-3 time higher than permissible limits. Similarly, concentration of chromium, Iron, Manganese, Nickel and Lead were found to be higher by 6-7 times, 650-500 times, 32-37 times, 10-11 times and 08-11 times respectively in comparison to permissible limits specified in IS 10500:2012
- xii. Despite the fact that these two bore-wells were in operational condition, motor, electrical and mechanical connection of one bore-wells was disconnected, while the other bore-well was sealed and buried in the soil.
- xiii. Since, the samples drawn from the piezometers and 03 bore-wells located in the premises of the Industry were found to be free from heavy metal contamination and whereas two bore-wells installed in the same premises are contaminated with high concentration of heavy metals, COD and colour; it indicates injection of contaminated wastewater through revere boring/pumping into a particular zone tapped in these two bore-wells. However, further investigation is required in this regard, to establish the contaminated zone and take remedial action.
- xiv. The sample of the soil contaminated with the sludge was found to be exceeding the soil Criteria of CCME Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Environment and Human Health, for Soil Type (Industry) with regard to Zinc ($396.84 > 361$ mg/Kg), while other elements were within limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of above observations and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the following directions are issued to Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) for its compliance:

1. Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) considering the violations reported in the CPCB inspection report (Annexure-1) shall issue appropriate direction to the Unit [M/s Malbros International Pvt. Ltd., (Malbros Distillery), Village-Mansoorwal, Zira, Ferozepur, Punjab] with respect to necessary remedial measures for the decontamination of the affected site and compliance with the violations observed in the inspection report.
2. PPCB shall undertake detailed environmental site assessment, as per the CPCB guidelines, by engaging a professional agency/institute having expertise in assessment and remediation of contaminated groundwater & soil and submit the report within 60 days.
3. Based on the detailed site assessment, PPCB shall ensure that the Unit submit a DPR for remediation of groundwater contaminated area in around the premises, and

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- execute the work in the supervision of PPCB in a time bound manner. The Unit shall bear all the remediation expanses.
4. PPCB shall impose EC (environmental compensation) or initiate legal action for causing injury to the surrounding environment and contamination of groundwater as may be applicable.
 5. PPCB shall issue appropriate direction to the water supply department to analyze the parameters for Drinking Water Quality Standards in water of bore-wells installed in the affected area. Depending upon the compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Standards, the use of water from the bore-wells may be prohibited/permitted, as per the case and shall ensure that the Unit provide alternative sources of safe drinking water to the affected villages.
 6. PPCB shall issue direction to local authorities & groundwater Department to seal the unauthorized bore-wells.
 7. PPCB shall ensure regular monitoring of the groundwater quality in the area and shall ensure no further spread of contamination.

The action taken report shall be sent to the CPCB within 45 days from the date of receipt of this direction. Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) shall also acknowledge the receipt of this direction to CPCB within 15 days from the date of the receipt.

Prashant

(PRASHANT GARGAVA)
MEMBER SECRETARY

Enc. As above

Copy To:

1. **The Member Secretary,**
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Head Office, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road,
Patiala, Punjab
With a request to ensure compliance of the said direction issued u/s 18(1)(b) of the Water Act, 1974, please.
2. **The Regional Director,**
Regional Directorate,
Central Pollution Control Board,
Second Floor, Telephone Exchange,
Sector 49, Chandigarh 160047
For further follow-up to ensure compliance of the direction, please.
3. **The Director, (CP Division),**
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Prithvi Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh
Road, New Delhi – 110 003
For information, please.
4. **The District Collector,**
District Collector Office,
Block A, District Administrative Complex,
Ferozpur Cantt, Punjab 152001
For information, please.
5. **The Divisional Head - IT, CPCB, Delhi**
With a request to upload the direction at CPCB website, please.

Prashant

(PRASHANT GARGAVA)
MEMBER SECRETARY

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