

BY REGISTERED AD

No.B-784(S)/IPC-III/2018-19/

March 12, 2019

To

M/s. Shri Vitthal SSK Ltd.,
Venunagar, Gursale, Tal. - Pandharpur, Solapur,
Maharashtra-413304

Sub: Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

WHEREAS, Sugar industries are identified as one of the 17 categories of highly polluting industries which have been discharging environmental pollutants directly or indirectly into the ambient air and water, having potential threat to cause adverse effect on the water and air quality; and

WHEREAS, for strengthening the monitoring and compliance through self-regulatory mechanism, a direction under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued on February 05, 2014 to all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for installation of online emission monitoring system w.r.t. Particulate Matter parameter & online effluent monitoring system w.r.t. pH, BOD, COD, TSS, Flow parameters in 17 categories of industries including Sugar; and

WHEREAS, considering the requests/ representations received from industries/ industrial associations/ SPCBs / PCCs, an extension of time up to June 30, 2015 for installation of online monitoring systems was granted vide direction dated March 02, 2015 under section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; and

WHEREAS, in follow up to the directions issued to the SPCBs/PCCs, CPCB had issued show cause notices under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 dated 24.07.2015 to 602 Sugar industries, including M/s. Vitthal SSK Ltd., Venunagar, Gursale, Tal. - Pandharpur, Solapur, Maharashtra-413304 hereinafter referred to as 'the unit', as to why the Unit should not be closed down if the Unit has not complied fully with the direction issued w.r.t. installation of online emission & effluent monitoring system by June 30, 2015. It was further directed to submit documentary evidence regarding status of installation and connectivity of online emission & effluent monitoring system in the format given in annexure; and

WHEREAS, no reply as recorded was filed by the said unit in response of the same; and

WHEREAS, in view of the above and in exercise of the powers delegated to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the unit vide letter no. B-400(S)/PCI-III/2016-17/4265/ dated 22.08.2016 was directed to close down their sugar mill and not to resume their manufacturing operation till installation and commissioning of online 24x7

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monitoring system and networking of data with SPCB and CPCB, and to submit compliance to CPCB within 15 days on the receipt of the Closure Direction; and

WHEREAS, the unit has responded to the above said Closure Direction vide its letter dated 03.08.2017 and informed to have stopped all manufacturing operations on 01.01.2017 & complied with the CPCB's directions regarding installation and commissioning of online continuous effluent monitoring system (OCEMS) and asked for revocation of closure directions issued under Section 5 of E(P)A, 1986 dated 22.08.2016; and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that the unit has deliberately failed to respond the CPCBs closure directions and resumed operations during crushing season 2016-17 without seeking permission from CPCB which is non-compliance of the closure direction issued by CPCB dated 22-08-2016 under Section 5 of the E(P) Act, 1986; and

WHEREAS, based on the compliance made by the unit (M/s. Shri Vitthal SSK Ltd) and verification by IT Division of CPCB, it was allowed to resume its manufacturing operations vide CPCB revoking directions u/s 5 of E(P)A, 1986 dated 16.11.2017. However, a separate clause was inserted in the revoke direction that action as per law shall be initiated separately.

WHEREAS, it has been noticed that even after CPCB's closure directions the unit has operated for total 61 days during crushing season 2016-17 (52 days) and 2017-18 (9 days) without obtaining revocation orders from CPCB.

WHEREAS, *The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench in the matter of OA No. 593/2017 (WP (CIVIL) No. 375/2012, Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors. Directed Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) that "The CPCB may take penal action for failure, if any, against those accountable for setting up and maintaining STPs, CETPs and ETPs. CPCB may also assess and recover compensation for damage to the environment and said fund may be kept in a separate account and utilized in terms of an action plan for protection of the environment."*

WHEREAS, in compliance of above quoted Hon'ble NGT order, a Committee was constituted by CPCB. As per the Committee recommendations one of the cases to be considered for levying environmental compensation is 'not complying with the directions issue, such as direction for closure due to non-installation of OCEMS, non-adherence to the action plans submitted etc.'

WHEREAS, as per formula derived for levying environmental compensation by CPCB, the total environmental compensation amount was calculated Rs. 18,30,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs & Thirty Thousand Only) for the non-compliance period (11.11.2016 to 01.01.2017 & 08.11.2017 to 16.11.2017) and same shall be deposited by the unit to CPCB.

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of powers vested to Chairman CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the unit M/s. Shri Vitthal SSK Ltd., Venunagar, Gursale, Tal. - Pandharpur, Solapur, Maharashtra-413304 is directed to deposit Environmental Compensation of Rs. 18,30,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs & Thirty Thousand Only) in CPCB account No. 532702050000164 (Bank

Dir. u/s 5 of E (P) Act, 1986 to M/s. Shri Vitthal SSK Ltd, Maharashtra

Page 2

Pt.

name: Union Bank of India, I.P. Extn Branch, Vikas Marg Extn., Delhi; IFSC UBIN0553271) within 15 days from receipt of direction.

In case of failure of the unit to comply with the above directions action as deemed appropriate will be taken with the provisions under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 without further notice.

(S.P.SINGH PARIHAR)
CHAIRMAN

Copy for information to:

1. **The Member Secretary,**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
2nd, 3rd & 4th floor, Opp. Cine planet, Near Sion
Circle, Sion (E),
Mumbai- 400 022
2. **The Regional Director,**
Regional Directorate, (West)
Central Pollution Control Board
PariveshBhawan Opp. VMC Ward Office No. 10,
Subhanpura,
Vadodara - 390 023
3. The District Magistrate,
Collectorate Office, Pandharpur
Maharashtra-413304
4. The In-Charge (CP Division),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & C.C
Prithvi Block, Indira ParyavaranBhawan, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003

5. The In-charge, IT Division, CPCB

: For uploading on CPCB website

6. The In-charge, IPC-III Division, CPCB

: For Record purpose only

(PRASHANT GARGAVA)
MEMBER SECRETARY