



3. On 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 reasons for contamination was found to be as follows:

*“ We have perused both these Reports, it appears that underground water is being highly contaminated by:*

- a) Indiscriminate discharge of trade effluents directly into the underground water;*
- b) Leakage from the sewage system;*
- c) Use of soak pits; and*
- d) Lack/non-availability of STPs.”*

The following direction was issued:

*“ 1. The Secretary, Health, State of Punjab along with Secretary, Local government, Secretary Environment, Member Secretary of the Punjab Pollution control Board and the Committee constituted by this Tribunal, which has submitted the above two Reports, shall meet within a period of two weeks from today. The committee shall peruse the final as well as supplementary Reports as submitted, which shall be provided by Dr. Thakur to these Secretaries within one week from today.*

*2. After perusal, this Committee shall state a complete and comprehensive scheme in regard to prevention as well as control of contamination of underground water and damage to the public health and what steps have been taken which are physically available on the respective sites, should be stated.*

*3. This Committee shall state without ambiguity the immediate steps which are required to be taken for the purposes of prevention and control of underground water pollution as well as prevention of damage to public health. This Report should be submitted before the Tribunal at least 3 days in advance to the next date of hearing.*

*4. The Secretary, Health shall be the Chairperson of this committee and would ensure the compliance of the Order of the Tribunal.”*

4. In the order dated 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, it was noted that out of 76 samples collected, 56 were contaminated. The contamination was not of simple pollutants but metallic pollutants which were direct source of hazard to the human health. Accordingly, directions were issued for taking remedial steps.

5. Thereafter, on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016, it was found that the

STP at Amritsar had not been operationalised by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 as per undertaking given before the Tribunal earlier. Accordingly, the Punjab Water and Sewerage Board was directed to expedite the project. The STP was thereafter operationalised but its capacity was 95 MLD.

6. On 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 following directions were given:

*“XXXXXXXXXX*

*The Board shall supervise the entire plant and analyze the outlet effluents from the STP and submit a Report to the Tribunal on the next date of hearing.”*

7. Thereafter, the matter has been taken up to consider the compliance of the above direction.

8. We have perused the status report on behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) filed on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 with regard to South Zone at Village Khapar Kheri (Basarke), Amritsar and in North Zone at Village Gaunsabad, Ram Tirath Roads, Amritsar and the latest Report filed on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 on behalf of the Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board (PWSSB). The PWSSB is the Project Proponent.

9. We find from the first Report of the Punjab Pollution Control Board dated 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 that a team of officers of the Pollution Control Board visited the site and *inter alia* observed as follows:

*“ The officers of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board were also advised to see the fact that the STP has been designed to meet the BOD of 30 mg/I, but as per the new standard laid down by the Board vide notification no. Standards/70/370 dated 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 the standard of BOD needs to meet 10 mg/I.”*

10. In the second Report of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, it is stated that

there is a possibility of upgrading the STP for the new standards. If there is such possibility, we do not see any reason why the STP should not be upgraded to meet the standards. We do not see why Pollution Control Board or any concerned authority or the concerned Jal Nigam should not discharge their responsibilities for ensuring the needful. If it is the responsibility of the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar, as suggested, the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar must take steps in the matter.

11. We find that it is stated in the second report by the (Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board) that Municipal Corporation of Amritsar has constituted a team for further action. Let the action be taken, as per the report of the team, by the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar to comply with its legal obligation.

12. Needless to say that all the statutory authorities must act in tandem to achieve the standards laid down by the statutory provisions meant for protection of public health. Necessary action in this regard may be completed within six (6) weeks from now and the report submitted to this Tribunal.

13. We have also noted the stand on behalf of the respondents that the treatment plant for the North Zone will become operational within one month from today.

14. Accordingly, the Original Application No. 218 of 2018 stands disposed of.

....., CP  
(Adarsh Kumar Goel)

....., JM  
(Dr. Jawad Rahim)

		<p>....., JM (Raghuvendra S. Rathore)</p> <p>....., EM (Dr. Satyawan Singh Garbyal)</p> <p>16.07.2018</p>
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