

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**Original Application No. 35(T<sub>HC</sub>)/2013  
And  
M.A. No. 21/2014**

**Parminder Singh V/s Punjab PCB & Ors.**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. NAMBIAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. G.K. PANDEY, EXPERT MEMBER  
HON'BLE PROF. (DR.) P.C. MISHRA, EXPERT MEMBER  
HON'BLE PROF. A.R. YOUSUF, EXPERT MEMBER  
HON'BLE MR. RANJAN CHATTERJEE, EXPERT MEMBER**

**Present:**

<b>Applicant / Appellant (Amicus Curiae)</b>	<b>: Ms. Richa Relhan, Adv.</b>
<b>Respondents No. 1 to 3</b>	<b>: Mr. A.R. Takkar, Adv.</b>
<b>Respondents No. 4 to 6</b>	<b>: Mr. Nitish Kr. Sharma, Adv.</b>
<b>Respondent No. 7</b>	<b>: Mr. Rajat Navet, Adv.</b>
<b>Respondent No. 9</b>	<b>: Mr. Sunil Gupta, Adv.</b>
<b>Respondent No. 10</b>	<b>: Mr. Rajkumar, Adv.</b>

<b>Date and Remarks</b>	<b>Orders of the Tribunal</b>
<b>Item No. 5 May 8, 2014</b>	<p>Mr. A.R. Takkar, learned Counsel appearing for the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) pointed out that a report was submitted before the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court by Thapar Center for Industrial Research &amp; Development and the said report shows that Matharu Chemical Industries was in operation and manufactured H-acid between July 1991 and February 2005. During this period, at the rate of 580 kg/batch and 35 batches per month, the industrial unit might have manufactured over 3000 tons of H-acid. From this industrial unit, there might have been generated over 17,000 tons of gypsum sludge, over 6,000 tons of iron oxide sludge, and wastewater containing over 2,000 tons of naphthalene based organic compounds and over 40,000 tons of inorganic salts and except selling out a small fraction, the industrial unit retained all the gypsum sludge and the iron oxide sludge within the premises.</p> <p>The report further shows that it appears that the industrial unit segregated the filtrate (discarded liquor) of the H-acid manufacturing step-11 (and even the H-acid wash-water of the</p>

H-acid manufacturing step-12, if not reused) and disposed off through injecting into the groundwater at about 140-150 feet depth. It is also reported that over the 14 years period the industrial unit might have injected about 28,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater into the groundwater and this has contaminated local groundwater significantly.

Learned Counsel also pointed that the Sulfonated Phenolic compounds in the samples from station 1 and 2 shows that Methanol extractables (mg/L) in sample 1 was found 149 and 173 (mg/L) in sample 2 and the groundwater samples from at least two sampling stations (Stn-1 and Stn-2) have been found contaminated with the industrial waste and it is evident from the high sulfate, chloride, COD and TDS levels observed and from the indication of presence of phenolic compounds. Contamination of groundwater appears to be limited in extent and apparently not spreading. Discontinuity of groundwater contamination since 2004 and continual pumping out of groundwater for irrigation at the sampling stations have apparently arrested the spread of the groundwater contamination.

It was pointed that result of analysis of the isolated compounds from groundwater by FTIR method, presence of sulphonyl group in the ground water was identified and unfortunately the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) did not conduct any test to identify the presence of Sulfonated Phenolic compounds.

It was pointed out that by order dated 04.07.2013, CPCB was directed to depute Experts or a team of Experts to examine the sites and to give report indicating the methodology for restitution/remediation of contaminated environment. It is pointed out that without a study on the presence of Sulfonated

Phenolic compounds, the report is not complete. We find force in the submission.

In view of the presence of Sulfonated Phenolic compounds found in the groundwater as per the report of Thapar Center for Industrial Research & Development, it is absolutely necessary to direct the CPCB to conduct test for indentifying the presence of Sulfonated Phenolic compounds in the groundwater and for assessment and also to suggest methodology for restitution/ remediation of the contaminated water.

The Registry shall issue a copy of this order to CPCB to depute the Experts or a team of Experts to conduct the said study and submit the report. The report shall be filed within one month from today.

The Officer deputed by the CPCB shall permit the parties to be present at the time of collecting the samples.

Stand over to 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014.

....., JM  
(M.S. Nambiar)

....., EM  
(Dr. G.K. Pandey)

....., EM  
(Prof. (Dr.) P.C. Mishra)

....., EM  
(Prof. A.R. Yousuf)

....., EM  
(Ranjan Chatterjee)