

Northern India Textile Mills' Association

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Jul 4, 2019

Capt. Amarinder Singh,
The Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Govt. of Punjab,
Punjab Civil Secretariat, 2nd Floor,
Sector – 01,
Chandigarh.

Subject: Entrusting Operations and Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP's) of Ludhiana Municipal Corporation to Professional Agencies

Respected Sir,

We, Northern India Textile Mills' Association (NITMA) is an association of Textile Mills located in Northern India and was established in the year 1958. It is registered under Societies Act XX1 of 1860 and is a non-profit body solely engaged in helping promote the interests of Indian Textile Industry not only in the northern part as the name suggests but also in central and western states of the country.

NITMA is serving the interest of textile units for more that five decades. Many of the large, medium and small textile industries located in northern India re associated with NITMA with the combined turnover above Rs. 50,000 Crores and represents approx 20% of textile production capacity.

The city of Ludhiana generates about 550-600 MLD of Sewage water and the responsibility for treatment of this wastewater rests with the Municipal Corporation. At present, there are five state-run Sewage Treatment plants operating in the City as follows:-

Sr.	Location of STP	Capacity (MLD)	Process Technology
1	Bhattian – I	111	UASB
2	Bhattian – II	50	SBR
3	Jamalpur	48	UASB
4	Balloke – I	152	UASB
5	Balloke - II	105	SBR
	Total	466	

The layout of the Ludhiana city is such that the Sewage water is fed to STPs through the local drain i.e. "BudhhaNaala". Wastewater is pumped into the STPs from select locations of this drain suggesting that not entire Sewage water is treated in the STP's.

The primary objective of STP's is to properly treat the Sewage Water in order to make it suitable for irrigation. In case of Ludhiana City, since the treated water is partially drained into

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Sutlej River; it is extremely important that the STP's are run professionally, systematically and by expert & experienced agencies so as to ensure effective treatment of the Sewage Water.

The treatment process commonly followed by these STP's is Aerobic. This is a biological process that takes place in the presence of oxygen & bacteria and has the potential to eliminate up to 98% of the organic contaminants. Aerobic biological treatment is the most widely used process for domestic and industrial wastewater treatment globally.

There has been, lately, an outcry about the contamination of River Sutlej, the blame of which is being placed on the textile and dyeing industry. As a matter of fact, all the large scale Textile/Dyeing industries have established their own Effluent treatment plants (ETPs) which are continuously on-line monitored by the State and Central Pollution Control Agencies. The parameters of treated water from these ETPs are in well within the standards prescribed by the MoEF & CC.

While the percentage of Industrial water getting into BudhhaNaala is much less, an analysis of the root cause of the problem clearly suggests that:-

- a) The available capacity of Sewage Treatment Plants is grossly inadequate.
- b) The treatment of Sewage wastewater at the STPs is not proper.

While the required capacity of STPs about 10 years back was estimated at 550 MLD, even today it stands at 466 MLD. Over these years, the level of sewage discharge has increased manifold with no corresponding increase in the Capacity of STP's.

The effective and efficient treatment of water in the STPs is a specialized job which requires round-the-clock monitoring and supervision of STP's by competent and experienced agencies. While it is of vital importance that the STP treated water is safe to be mixed with the river water, the ground level working of STPs suggests that the quality of treated water discharged from the STPs is far from satisfactory.

It is, for this reason that several efficient Municipal Corporations in the Country have outsourced this expertise to run their STPs professionally. It is therefore, strongly suggested that the State Govt. should entrust the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Ludhiana Municipal Corporation run STPs to the professional agencies like -

- Ion Exchange India limited
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
- Thermax India Ltd.
- Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd.
- Tata Consulting Engineers Limited
- UPL Environmental Engineers Ltd.

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A binding service-level agreement (SLA) with the appointed Agency shall ensure effective and efficient operation and maintenance of the STP's. Penalties can be levied in the event of failure to achieve the contracted performance parameters.

The cleaning and preventing further contamination of rivers requires apt treatment facilities for wastewater. Bringing in technology and professional service partners is the need of the hour and therefore, highly recommended.

We fervently hope that the aforesaid genuine requests of large scale Dyeing Industry shall be accorded a favourable consideration.

Thank You.

With kind regards

G. Balasubramanian
Secretary General