

# MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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NO. MPCB/ZO Pams/Panchanganga/TB/B- 856

Date: 07/2/2011

To,

The Secretary  
Environment Department  
Govt. of Maharashtra,  
Mantralaya,  
Mumbai.

Sub:- Environmental Compliance by Sugar and Distillery industries.

- Ref: 1. Letter issued to Commissioner of Sugar vide MPCB/ZO Pams/  
Sugar/TB/B-548 dtd.27.01.2011.  
2. Report of crushing of sugarcane by sugar industries in Kolhapur  
Dist.

Madam,

The sugar factories have been given conditional consent by the Board with restrictions on production, waste generation and disposal. The sugar industries accordingly have provided pollution control systems including ETP and air pollution control system for specified capacity.

As per EIA Notification 1997 issued by Govt. of Maharashtra, the sugar factories were covered for environmental clearance from Govt. of Maharashtra. As per EIA Notification 2006, the sugar industries are covered if the crushing exceed 5000 TPD. There are regular complaints about excess production, inadequate treatment and improper disposal of effluents by the sugar factories.

During the investigation, It has been observed that the sugar factories are carrying out excess production of sugar than that of the quantity mentioned in environmental clearance and consent, which is violation of environmental clearance and consent granted by Board. A statement of the sugar crushing capacity and actual for levels of crushing of sugar industries in Kolhapur District is placed below. This puts additional stress on the existing pollution control systems at these factories. This is also significant, in this lean period, when there is no or reduced flows in river. Discharge of untreated/ partial treated effluent into nearby river result into serious concerns of public health, aquatic life, and water pollution of rivers. MPCB regularly receives complaints about discharge of effluent from sugar and distilleries leading to river water pollution, particularly in Panchanganga, Krishna, Warna rivers. Board has already communicated to Commissioner of Sugar regarding the problems associated with excess production, resulting into water pollution of rivers (copy enclosed).


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The analysis results of treated effluent of most of these units are regularly exceeding the standards along with improper effluent discharge. Such regular non-compliance can be a basis of stringent action including closure directions. However, this year the sugarcane crop is bumper and such stringent action may lead to social concern and also, law and order problems.

It is therefore proposed that a meeting can be convened at Government level to sort out the issue of environmental compliance at sugar and distillery industries and associated problems of pollution of rivers, so as to decide further line of action.

With regards

Yours faithfully,

  
(Radheshyam Mopalwaar, IAS)  
Member Secretary