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Mandi Dabwali Municipal Council in Sirsa has been fined Rs.16 crore by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB). The council was found flouting the solid waste management rules and disposing of the waste without segregation at the main dumping site.

The Haryana pollution board has asked the authority to submit the 16 crore penalty in 15 days to avoid legal action. The report was prepared by the regional office of HSPCB against MC Mandi Dabwali vide letter 3678 on March 24. The pollution board inspected the site and found that the municipal corporation disposed of solid waste without segregation and did not comply with the solid waste Management Rules 2016. The order stated that “the MC is liable to pay environmental compensation as per the policy of the board”.

The Environment Compensation Assessment Committee investigated the case and imposed a penalty for violating the provisions of the Environment Act. “The ECAC has considered the violation for 1,826 days (for about five years) from August 28, 2014 to August 27, 2019”, it added.

Vinod Kumar Bansal, a municipal council member, had filed the complaint with the National Green Tribunal. Bansal approached the NGT after the authorities didn't clean the garbage despite repeated requests.

The NGT invoked the “polluter pays” principle and directed the non-complying units to pay environmental compensation for the restoration of the damage caused. The HSPCH said it followed the methodology suggested by the Central pollution control board (CPCB) to assess the damage caused and impose compensation. The Executive Office for Municipal corporation Surender Singh said he was aware of the pending case before the tribunal. However, he was not aware of the fine imposed by the tribunal and said MC had complied with the pollution control act of the town.