direction

WHEREAS, M/s. Poonam Pharma Pvt. Ltd. (The Apollo Clinic) [hereinafter referred to as the Health Care Unit-HCU] located at 26, Diamond Harbour Road, P.O.- Sahapur, P.S.- Behala, Kolkata – 700 038 is engaged in testing of pathological samples.

ANDWHEREAS, the officials of the WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (hereinafter referred to as the Board) inspected the HCU on 14/08/2012. During inspection the following observations were made:-

- Proper segregation of Bio-medical wastes at source was not done.
- Colour coded plastic bags was found to be used for packing of bio-medical waste.
- Sufficient chemical disinfectant was not found in the puncture proof containers used for chemical disinfection of sharp items.
- Bio-medical waste was found to be scattered within the unit premises.
- The staffs of the HCU handling the Bio-medical wastes are not much familiar with the methodology of the bio-medical waste segregation mutilation, chemical disinfection etc.
- No intermediate storage room for bio-medical waste was found. During inspection it was noticed that the bio-medical waste was stored in an open space at the ground floor of the said clinic.
- Bio-medical waste generation record was not properly maintained.
- Weighing system for accurate weighing of bio-medical was not found.
- Tagging system of bio-medical waste collection bags was not found.
- Bio-medical waste generated during collection of blood samples from houses of the patients are disposed off through municipal vat as reported by the representatives of the HCU during inspection.

ANDWHEREAS, ‘Consent to Operate’ of the HCU is valid up to 31/01/2015. ‘Consent to Operate’ was granted for treatment of 850 patients/month but it was reported during inspection on 14/08/2012 that more than 1000 patients/month are being treated by the HCU.

ANDWHEREAS, the HCU was called for a technical hearing on 14.09.2012 at the head office of the Board on the basis of complaint and the non-compliance as mentioned above.

ANDWHEREAS, the Director of the HCU appearing in the hearing agreed with the above mentioned observations of the Board. He submitted that they have already initiated action regarding the non-compliances observed by the Board official during inspection and henceforth they would abide by the provisions of the Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 and its subsequent amendments. But nobody appeared on behalf of the complainants in the hearing.
NOW, THEREFORE, considering the above, the Board is hereby pleased to direct M/s. Poonam Pharma Pvt. Ltd. (The Apollo Clinic) located at at 26, Diamond Harbour Road, P.O.- Sahapur, P.S.- Behala, Kolkata – 700 038 as follows:

1. That, the HCU shall comply with all the provisions of the Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998.
2. That, the HCU shall submit a Pollution Cost of Rs 1,00,000 /- (Rupees one lakh) only within fifteen [15] days from the date hereof by Demand Draft to be drawn on Service Branch, Kolkata/Banker’s cheque in favour of the WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.

The Assistant Environmental Engineer & In-charge, Alipore Regional Office will keep vigil on the H.C.U and if the HCU is found to violate the direction of the Board stricter regulatory order including closure with disconnection of electricity will be issued.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Operation & Execution Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board