



Chemicals seized from Singla Chilling Centre, which was running without approval, in Patiala.

Officials' role under lens over 'permit' to sealed milk unit

Health Dept, PPCB pass the buck; probe sought

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The role of officials of the Health and the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) is under the scanner after a sealed milk chilling unit was found operational. Former Deputy Speaker Bir Devinder Singh has demanded a probe as spurious cheese prepared at the unit was finding its way to famous sweet shops in Punjab and Haryana.

Patiala SSP Mandeep Singh Sidhu said, "There was no permission to run the unit which was earlier sealed in August last year." The cen-

tre was sealed as it was pouring chemical waste and acid-loaded water into a borewell dug inside the unit. However, its power connection was recently restored by the PPCB. In a statement, the PPCB said they filed criminal complaint against the industry and its proprietor for illegal discharge of water in a local court and power supply was disconnected. "However, the industry in June 2019 submitted to the board that it has complied with environmental laws and applied permissions. After a thorough checking related to environmental laws, the electric connection of the unit

was restored temporarily till December 2019," it said.

Shifting the onus on the health officials, the PPCB stated, "As the industry is involved in the manufacturing/ processing of milk products and comes under the jurisdiction of Food and Drug Authority, it is for them to adjudge quality and take necessary action if it fails to meet the food standards."

However, the Health Department denied giving any licence to the owners.

"It reflects poorly on the CM and Brahm Mohindra as this illegal trade continued in their own home district," said Bir Devinder.