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**Ex-babu heads MPCB again:**

**Chavan Faces Flak, NGO Likely To Move Supreme Court.**

**By Prafulla Marpakwar TNN**

**Mumbai:** Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan is taking flak for reappointing veteran bureaucrat J S Sahani as Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) chairman in violation of the apex court guidelines. An NGO from Aurangabad, Nisarga Mitra Mandal, has written to Chavan and threatened to move the Supreme Court against his reappointment, even senior Congress and NCP leaders have expressed displeasure. Sahani, an IAS officer of the 1976 batch, was appointed on Thursday after his retirement for a period of one year. Chief secretary Jayant Kumar Banthia confirmed the development.

Nisarga Mitra Mandal chairman Vijay Diwan said, the apex court guidelines on the appointment of chairman, secretary and members of the state pollution control board are clear. The apex court has recommended that the appointees should be qualified in the field of environment or have special knowledge of the subject. “Sahani is a good administrator, but we feel that he does not hold qualifications as per the apex court’s observations,” Diwan said.  “As per information, he is an arts graduate. If the government is unable to find a competent person, then it should advertise the post, as has been done by several states,” he added.

Diwan said if Chavan does not revoke Sahani’s appointment, then his NGO would move the apex court afresh. Even politicians too have lodged a protest against Sahani’s appointment. According to a Congress minister, Chavan should give an opportunity to a qualified politician, instead of a bureaucrat. “It’s unfortunate that in a democratic setup, key enterprises and boards are headed by bureaucrats for over a decade,” he said.  “We feel that Chavan and NCP leaders should sit together and appoint politicians as heads of the boards,” the minister added.