

From

Tmt. Lalitha, I.A.S.,
District Collector,
Mayiladuthurai District.

To

The Registrar,
National Green Tribunal,
Southern Zone,
Chennai-5.

Rc. No.71/Mines/2021 Dated:24.07.2021

Sir,

Sub: Mayiladuthurai District- O.A.132/2021- Suo Motu case taken by National Green Tribunal - Illegal mining undermines desilting work - Order Passed by National Green Tribunal- Sending Report- Reg.

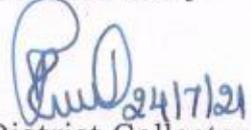
- Ref:**
1. National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai Order in O.A.No.132 of 2021 dated:25.06.2021.
 2. The Executive Engineer, PWD, WRO, Cauvery Basin Division(East), Mayiladuthurai Lr. No. 94M/F/Court Case/D1/2021 dated: 16.07.2021.
 3. The Assistant Director, Geology and mining, Nagapattinam report dated:16.07.2021.

I invite your kind attention to the references cited.

With reference to the order 1st cited, I submit my report herewith for kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully


For District Collector,
Mayiladuthurai.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.132 of 2021 (SZ)

(Through Video Conference)

IN THE MATTER OF

SUO MOTU - "illegal mining undermines
desilting work"

..... Applicant(s)

Versus

1. Union of India,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Indira paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009:
3. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
4. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
5. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
6. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
7. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Industries Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.

8. Engineer in Chief (Water Resources Organisation)
And Chief Engineer (General),
Public Works Department,
Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.
9. Directorate of Geology and Mining,
Rep. by its Commissioner,
Alandur Road, Guindy Industrial Estate,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
10. State Environment Impact
Assessment Authority Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by its Member Secretary,
3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.
11. The District Collector,
Ariyalur District,
District Collectorate,
Jayankondam Road,
Ariyalur - 621 704.
12. The District Collector,
Karur District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor, Karur - 639 007.
13. The District Collector,
Pudukottai District,
District Collectorate,
Second Floor, Pudukottai - 622 005.
14. The District Collector,
Tiruchirappalli District,
District Collectorate,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 001.
15. The District Collector,
Thanjavur District,
District Collectorate,
Thanjavur - 613 010.
16. The District Collector,
Thiruvarur District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor, Thiruvarur - 610 004.

17. The District Collector,
Nagapattinam District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor, Nagapattinam - 611 001.

18. The District Collector,
Mayiladuthurai District,
District Collectorate,
Mayiladuthurai Keelavidhi,
Mayiladuthurai - 609 001.

19. The District Collector,
Cuddalore District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor,
New Collectorate Building,
Manjakuppam - 607 001.

..... Respondent(S)

REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, MAYILADUTHURAI.

In the matter of O.A.No.132/2021 (SZ) suo-motu issue concerned with a news item published in The Times of India, Chennai on June 3, 2021. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal while observing that there arises a substantial question of environment which requires the interference of the tribunal has directed the District Collectors of the respective districts to submit their independent reports regarding the allegations made in the newspaper report and remedial measures that are to be taken to restore the damage if any caused to the river due to unscientific desilting and illegal mining. In compliance with the above direction I submit my report as follows.

In the above mentioned news item published on 03.06.2021 it was alleged that the illegal sand mining has lowered the surface level of the rivers than that of canals water cannot flow into the branch rivers and the channels which are on the higher level. Even, after desilting the desired results cannot be achieved. In this regard, a report from the Executive Engineer, PWD (WRO),

was called for and as per the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal the report of this Respondent is submitted here under.

In Mayiladuthurai district the river Cauvery and its branches are the primary source of water for irrigation and also for drinking purpose. Over period of time due to the flow of water meandering effect has been formed which in turn leads to the formation of sand shoals. The bushes and other vegetative growth are also formed along the various places of water bodies which in turn affects the effective irrigating capacity of water and channels which mandates to maintain the river and its branches periodically by desilting and protecting the bunds for effective irrigations supply.

During the desilting process silted portion, shoals and vegetation are being removed and the desilted earth is used to fill the undulations as well as to strengthen the bunds on either side of the river. The desilted earth has not been carried away from the work site in any way and the theoretical bed level of rivers and channels maintained scientifically by taking levels with reference to the sill levels available in the compound register which is being followed over a period of long time.

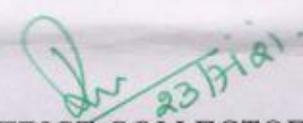
It is further submitted that, there is no point of lowering the bed levels of rivers and channels and the water regulations for irrigations is being carried out through regulators constructed across the rivers by heading up the water level to ensure the normal supply level in the water course with reference to the fixed sills which are unchanged at anytime.

.Regarding other activities taken to control illegal mining it is submitted that, the Taluk Level Task Force Meeting is being held every month to control

illicit mining and transport in every Taluk in Mayiladuthurai District. The Team discusses about illegal mining both in Government poramboke lands such as Rivers, Lakes and Ponds and also in Private lands which affects the Farmers and leads revenue loss to the Government. The permitted quarries are inspected regularly to check whether the quarry holder abides by the rules. It is inspected to ascertain if any quarry work is done without permission and that proper silt level is maintained. Rivers and Canals are also being inspected consistently to check the illegal sand mining whether the permitted depth of the earth and sand is only dug.

The District Level Task Force has been formed recently in Mayiladuthurai district and District Level Task Force will under take the review of illegal mining and transportation of minerals. Regarding, the illegal sand mining in rivers WRD is taking regular watch and ward operations along with Mines, Revenue and Police Departments and necessary actions also being taken to control illegal mining. Team consisting of Police Department officials, Revenue Department officials and Geology and Mining Department Officials is consistently inspecting the quarries and vehicles to curb illegal activities of mining/ transportation of minerals.

It is humbly concluded that as far as the District of Mayiladuthurai is concerned while desilting, proper silt level is maintained. Further, the District Administration is keen in protecting the mineral wealth of the district and as such it is ensured that mining activities do not undermine the desilting work and the same is monitored.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
MAYILADUTHURAI.