

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.

Original Application No. 142 of 2021(SZ)

Suo Motu based on the news item in  
The Hindu Tamil Newspaper , Chennai  
Edition Dated -06.06.2021, " Soap factories  
spoiling Agricultural Lands in the Cauvery Delta,  
which has been declared a protected  
Agricultural Zone: Farmers worried about yields "-

Vs

The Secretary to Government,  
Department of Environment ,  
Climate Change & Forest ,  
Govt., Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai – 600 009 & 7 others

...Respondents

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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



**INTERIM REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE IN THE MATTER OF OA 142/2021 REGARDING SUO MOTU MOTION TAKEN UP BY HON'BLE TRIBUNAL BASED ON THE NEWS ITEM IN THE HINDU TAMIL NEWSPAPER, CHENNAI EDITION DATED: 6TH JUNE 2021, "SOAP FACTORIES SPOILING AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE CAUVERY DELTA, WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED A PROTECTED AGRICULTURAL ZONE; FARMERS WORRIED ABOUT YIELDS"**

**I Background**

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai has taken the SUO MOTU case vide O.A No. 142 of 2021 based on the News published in the Hindu Tamil Newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 06.06.2021, stating that the "Dust/powder emitted from the Soap factories spoiling Agricultural Lands in the Delta Districts of Cauvery River, which has been Declared as a Protected Agricultural Zone". It is alleged in the newspaper report that on account of the non-compliance of the pollution norms by the Soap factories in this area, the fertility of the soil has been affected considerably thereby their production is also affected causing heavy loss to the agriculturists in the Delta Districts of Cauvery River. In order to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations made in the newspaper report Hon'ble tribunal vide order dated 06.07.2021 has appointed a committee.

**II Orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal**

Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 06.07.2021 has directed as follows:

"In order to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations made in the newspaper report, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of (1) a Senior Scientist or a Senior Officer from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Integrated Regional Office, Chennai, (2) a Senior Officer or a Senior Scientist from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as designated by its Chairman, (3) a Soil Scientist to be nominated by the Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, preferably from Tiruchirappalli or nearby Institution to these Districts and the Joint Directors of Agricultural Departments, namely, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai District who will assess the main team, whenever they are inspecting the respective areas, so as to prepare the report by the committee appointed by this Tribunal.

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The District Collectors of the above Districts were also directed to render their assistance for proper coordination and also for providing necessary logistics for the team to conduct the inspection and submit the report. Copy of the order is placed as Annexure-I.

In compliance to Hon'ble NGT order, the committee comprising of following members is composed:

1.	Thiru. K.Elankumaran Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (Monitoring) Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Trichy	Member & Nodal officer
2.	Dr.P. Balasubramaniam Professor & Head, Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College & Research Institute, Trichy.	Member
3.	Tmt. T.Mahima Scientist-D, Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Chennai	Member

The committee was assisted by the following officials of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur & Nagapattinam Districts

- i. Tmt. A. Gomathi Thangam,  
Deputy Director,  
O/o Joint Director of Agriculture,  
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare,  
Thanjavur District
- ii. Thiru. A. Uthirapathi,  
Deputy Director,  
O/o Joint Director of Agriculture,  
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare,  
Thiruvarur District
- iii. Thiru S. Paneerselvam  
Joint Director of Agriculture,  
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare,  
Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai (a/c) District.

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- iv. Thiru. A. Alvin J Anand  
District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Thanjavur
- v. Thiru. R.Gunaseelan  
District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Nagapattinam

**III Scope of the Committee: The committee is vested with the following scope:**

1. To inspect the Soap Industries in these areas and ascertain as to whether they are complying with all the pollution norms and the conditions imposed in the permission or Consent order granted and if there is any violation then they are directed to ascertain the nature of violation
2. to ascertain the soil quality in those areas and ascertain as to whether there was any damage caused to the soil on account of any illegal activity of discharging effluents or other waste in the nearby agricultural lands and if there is any contamination caused
3. to suggest the remedial measures to restore the soil quality in that area,
4. to assess the damage caused to the environment and assess the environmental compensation payable by the Soap industries which are responsible for such contamination applying the Polluter Pays' Principle and also the guideline issued by this Tribunal in several cases of this nature,
5. to ascertain as to whether any such untreated effluents are being dumped in the nearby water bodies as well, if there is any water body adjacent to the Soap manufacturing units, and also make analysis of the water and sediments in those water bodies and if there is any contamination found on account of the such illegal activities of any soap factory, then that also will have to be taken into consideration for the purpose of assessing damage to environment and for cost of restoration while calculating the environmental compensation
6. to ascertain as to whether any loss of yield has been caused to the agriculturists, whose lands have been affected and if so assess the loss of income caused to each land owner.

#### IV Committee Meeting and inspection

The Joint Committee convened first meeting on 13.08.2021 through video conference (VC). The Minutes of the meeting along with list of participants is enclosed as Annexure-II. The committee finalised inspection schedule and action plan to carry out inspection. During the meeting both Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Department of Agriculture clarified that there are no soap manufacturing or formulation industries in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai Districts. There are only Sodium Silicate industries in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts. Sodium Silicate is used as raw material in soap industries, silica gel manufacturing etc.

The committee carried out the site visit during 17.08.2021 to 18.08.2021. The observations made during field visit is as follows:

1. The committee visited the areas alleged in the news paper report. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has categorized these sodium silicate industry as "Small-Red" and number of industries located in the districts are as follows:

District	Soap manufacturing/ formulation industry	Sodium silicate industry	Remarks
Thanjavur	Nil	2	Number of industries was re-affirmed by the committee during field visit.
Thiruvarur	Nil	4	
Nagapattinam	Nil	4	
Mayiladuthurai	Nil	0	

2. Following sodium silicate industries were inspected during committee visit:

District	Name of the unit	Date of inspection
Thanjavur	M/s. KIRAN GLOBAL CHEMS LIMITED S.F.No. 42/5,6,8,10, Deebambalpuram Village, Papanasam Taluk, Thanjavur District	17.08.2021
	M/s. MAHARAJ SOAPS INDUSTRIES P LTD, S.F. no. 74/3, Deebambalpuram Village, Papanasam Taluk, Thanjavur District.	

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Thiruvarur	M/s PREMI CHEMICO COMPANY PVT LTD, S.F No. 24/5 Part, Nallur Village, Mannargudi Taluk, Thiruvarur District.	17.08.2021
	M/s DIAMOND SILICATE, S.F No. 199/3, Peruntharagudi Village, Thiruvarur Taluk, Thiruvarur District.	
	M/s NARIMANAM SILICATE UNIT I, R.S No. 205/3, Peruntharagudi Village, Thiruvarur Taluk, Thiruvarur District.	
	M/s NARIMANAM SILICATE UNIT-II, R.S No. 11-7C, Adiyakkamangalam Village, Thiruvarur Taluk, Thiruvarur District.	
Nagapattinam	M/s KIRAN GLOBAL CHEM LIMITED, S.F No. 67/2, Uthamacholapuram Village, Nagapattinam Taluk, Nagapattinam District.	18.08.2021
	M/s REENA SILICATES PRIVATE LTD, R.S No. 66/2, Uthamacholapuram Village, Nagapattinam Taluk, Nagapattinam District.	
	M/s SREE JAYA DEVI INDUSTRIES UNIT I, S.F No. 117/1B/1, Kuttalam Village, Nagapattinam Taluk, Nagapattinam District.	
	M/s SRI JAYADEVI INDUSTRIES UNIT II, S.F No. 117/1B/2, Kuttalam Village, Nagapattinam Taluk, Nagapattinam District.	

3. Sand (silica sand) and soda ash are mixed in the ratio of 1.3 :1 and heated in a gas fired furnace at a temperature of 1300<sup>0</sup>C for about five to six hours (one batch). The final product is sodium silicate and it comes out in molten form from the furnace. Water is used for cooling purpose. Sodium silicate is also referred to as soluble glass since it dissolved in hot water/ steam. The final product is sent to soap, construction, pharma industries for other applications.
4. Only two raw materials are used in process. Sand is stored in open. Soda ash and finished product are stored in a covered shed. Gas is supplied in pipelines directly by GAIL/ ONGC.
5. Water used for cooling purposes and is re-circulation. When TDS builds up in cooling water, the cooling water tank is cleaned and water is reused in the process. Cooling water is alkaline in nature and pH is above 12. No trade effluent is generated from the process and units are not discharging any effluent outside the premises.

6. All the raw materials are converted into product and no hazardous waste is generated during the process. Carbon-dioxide is emitted during process which is let out into atmosphere.
7. In Thanjavur, the committee visited the nearby paddy fields of the complainants and also met the complainants and asked about their grievance regarding the pollution issues caused from the sodium silicate manufacturing units. In other districts no complaints were received.
8. The committee along with Deputy Director of Agriculture, Thanjavur District along with the Soil testing lab officials, Revenue officials have collected soil samples at locations identified by the farmers. In Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts also the committee has collected soil sample surrounding the industry to ascertain whether there is any impact from the industry. Soil testing laboratory has sought six week time for furnishing results.
9. To study the impacts of emissions from the sodium silicate industries, committee has decided to conduct stack monitoring survey in all industries which requires eight week time.
10. The committee has sought information on the annual crop yield for last three years in the villages surrounding the industries from Agriculture Department.
11. Prior to publishing of news item in The Hindu Tamil news paper- Chennai edition dated 06.06.2021, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board or Agricultural Department of the respective districts had not received any complaints from the farmers regarding pollution issues.

**V Prayer for seeking additional time**

The committee humbly submits the following to Hon'ble NGT

1. In compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated, 06.07.2021, the committee comprising of TNPCB, CPCB and Agricultural University is composed.
2. It is submitted that the complaint is against the Sodium Silicate industries in Thanjavur District. There are 10 Sodium Silicate manufacturing industries in Thanjavur (2 No.s), Thiruvarur (4 No.s) and Nagapattinam (4 No.s).
3. The committee has interacted with farmers/ land owners of the agricultural fields located surrounding the industry in Thanjavur district

*Interim Report in the matter of OA 142/ 2021 (SZ)*

4. The committee has collected soil samples and is handed over to soil testing labs. Committee has proposed to conduct stack monitoring survey in all ten industries which requires eight week time. After the survey the committee will require another four week for results compilation and report preparation
5. In view of these, the committee respectfully submits to Hon'ble NGT to grant twelve week time to submit final report.



**Tmt. T. Mahima,**  
**Scientist-D,**  
**Central Pollution Control Board,**  
**Regional Directorate,**  
**Chennai**



**Dr. P. Balasubramaniam,**  
**Professor & Head,**  
**Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry,**  
**Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College**  
**& Research Institute, Trichy**



**Thiru. K. Elankumaran,**  
**Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (Monitoring),**  
**Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Trichy**



**Item No.03:**

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 142 of 2021 (SZ)**

*Through Video Conference)*

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU based on the News Item in the Hindu Tamil Newspaper, Chennai Edition Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021, "Soap factories spoiling Agricultural Lands in the Cauvery Delta, which has been Declared a Protected Agricultural Zone; Farmers worried about yields ". Applicant(s)

**Versus**

1. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Environment,  
Climate Change & Forest,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
2. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Industries Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
3. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
4. The Chairman,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
No. 76, Anna Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 032.
5. The District Collector,  
Thanjavur District,  
District Collectorate,  
Thanjavur - 613 010.

6. The District Collector,  
Thiruvavarur District,  
District Collectorate,  
First Floor, Thiruvavarur - 610 004.

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

8. The District Collector,  
Mayiladuthurai District,  
District Collectorate  
Mayiladuthurai  
(Impleaded as additional 8<sup>th</sup> respondent)  
As per order dated 06.07.2021



Date of hearing: 06.07.2021.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. RAMAKRISHNAN, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE MR. DR. K. SATYAGOPAL, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu by Court

For Respondent(s): Dr. D. Shanumganathan for R1 to R3 & R5 to R8  
Mr. C. Kasirajan through  
Ms. D. Ashwini for R4

**ORDER**

1. The above case has been Suo Motu registered by this Tribunal on the basis of the newspaper report published in The Hindu Tamil daily Edition dated 06.06.2021, under the caption "பாதுகாக்கப்பட்ட வேளாண் மண்டலமாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள காவிரி டெல்டாவில் விளைநிலங்களை பாழாக்கும் சோப்பு தொழிற்சாலைகள்: மகசூல் பாதிக்கப்படுவதாக விவசாயிகள் கவலை" "(Soap factories

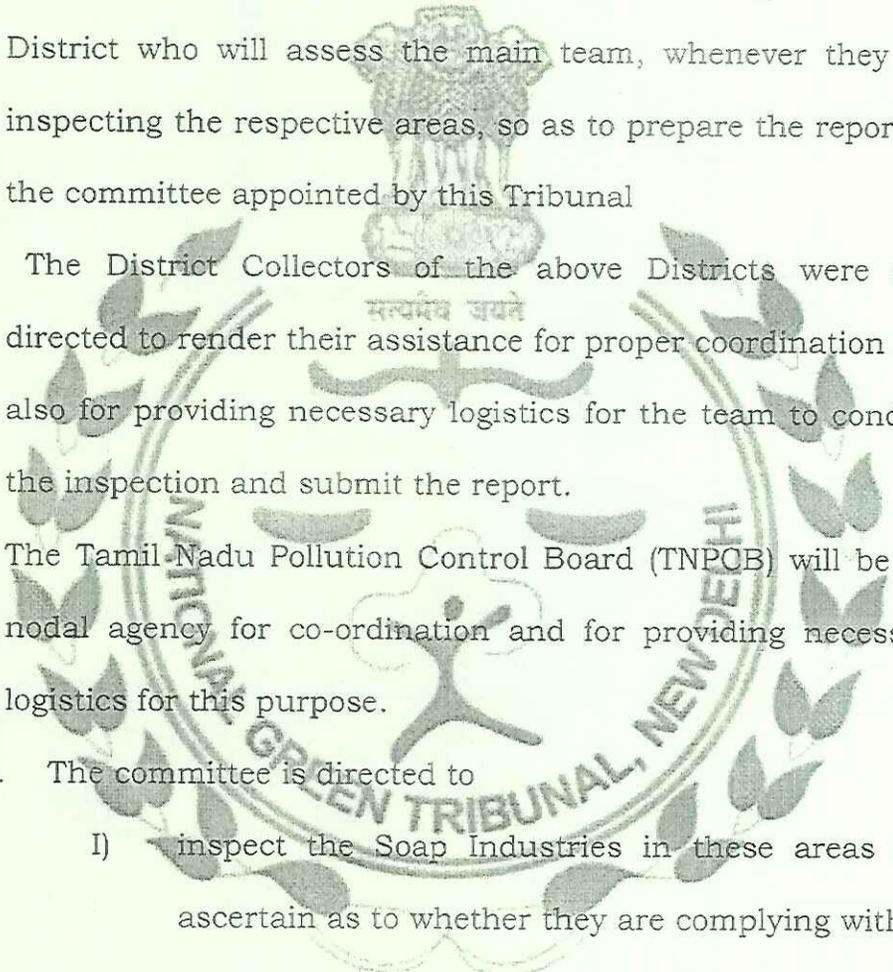
*spoiling agricultural lands in the Cauvery Delta, which has been declared a protected Agricultural Zone; Farmers worried about yields)”.*

2. It is alleged in the newspaper report that on account of the non-compliance of the pollution norms by the Soap factories in this area, the fertility of the soil has been affected considerably thereby their production is also affected causing heavy loss to the agriculturists in the Delta Districts of Cauvery River. Though complaints were made to the authorities, no action has been taken by them in this regard.
3. On going through the allegations made in the newspaper report, we are satisfied that there arises a substantial question of environment which requires the interference of this Tribunal for resolving the same. So, the application is admitted.
4. When the matter came up for hearing for admission today through Video Conference, Dr. D. Shanmuganathan represented respondents 1 to 3 & 5 to 8 and Mr. C. Kasirajan through Ms. D. Ashwini represented 4<sup>th</sup> responded. So, service is complete.
5. Issue notice to the respondents by Registered post with acknowledgement due, and also by e-mail along with the copy of the news paper report and the gist of the Suo Motu

proceedings with full cause title so as to enable them to comply with the direction and for filing their independent response regarding the allegations in the news paper report.

6. It is time and again reiterated by the Hon'ble Apex Court as well as the Hon'ble High Court including this Tribunal in several matters of similar nature that there is a duty cast on the State Government, its departments and regulators and the local bodies for regulating the activities of the industries, so as to make them comply with the norms which they will have to adhere to and they will have to take action against the responsible persons for violating the same. Further this Tribunal in several cases even directed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to take action against those persons apart from issuing closure order etc., impose environmental compensation for the damage caused to the environment as well against such violators.
7. In order to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations made in the newspaper report, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of (1) a Senior Scientist or a Senior Officer from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Integrated Regional Office, Chennai, (2) a Senior Officer or a Senior Scientist from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as designated by its Chairman, (3) a Soil Scientist to

be nominated by the Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, preferably from Tiruchirappalli or nearby Institution to these Districts and the Joint Directors of Agricultural Departments, namely, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai District who will assess the main team, whenever they are inspecting the respective areas, so as to prepare the report by the committee appointed by this Tribunal

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8. The District Collectors of the above Districts were also directed to render their assistance for proper coordination and also for providing necessary logistics for the team to conduct the inspection and submit the report.
  9. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) will be the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.
  10. The committee is directed to
    - I) inspect the Soap Industries in these areas and ascertain as to whether they are complying with all the pollution norms and the conditions imposed in the permission or Consent order granted and if there is any violation then they are directed to ascertain the nature of violation,
    - II) to ascertain the soil quality in those areas and

ascertain as to whether there was any damage caused to the soil on account of any illegal activity of discharging effluents or other waste in the nearby agricultural lands and if there is any contamination caused, then, they are directed to suggest the remedial measures to restore the soil quality in that area,

III) the committee is also directed to assess the damage caused to the environment and assess the environmental compensation payable by the Soap industries which are responsible for such contamination applying the Polluter Pays' Principle and also the guideline issued by this Tribunal in several cases of this nature,

IV) to ascertain as to whether any such untreated effluents are being dumped in the nearby water bodies as well, if there is any water body adjacent to the Soap manufacturing units, and also make analysis of the water and sediments in those water bodies and if there is any contamination found on account of the such illegal activities of any soap factory, then that also will have to be taken into consideration for the purpose of assessing damage

to environment and for cost of restoration while calculating the environmental compensation

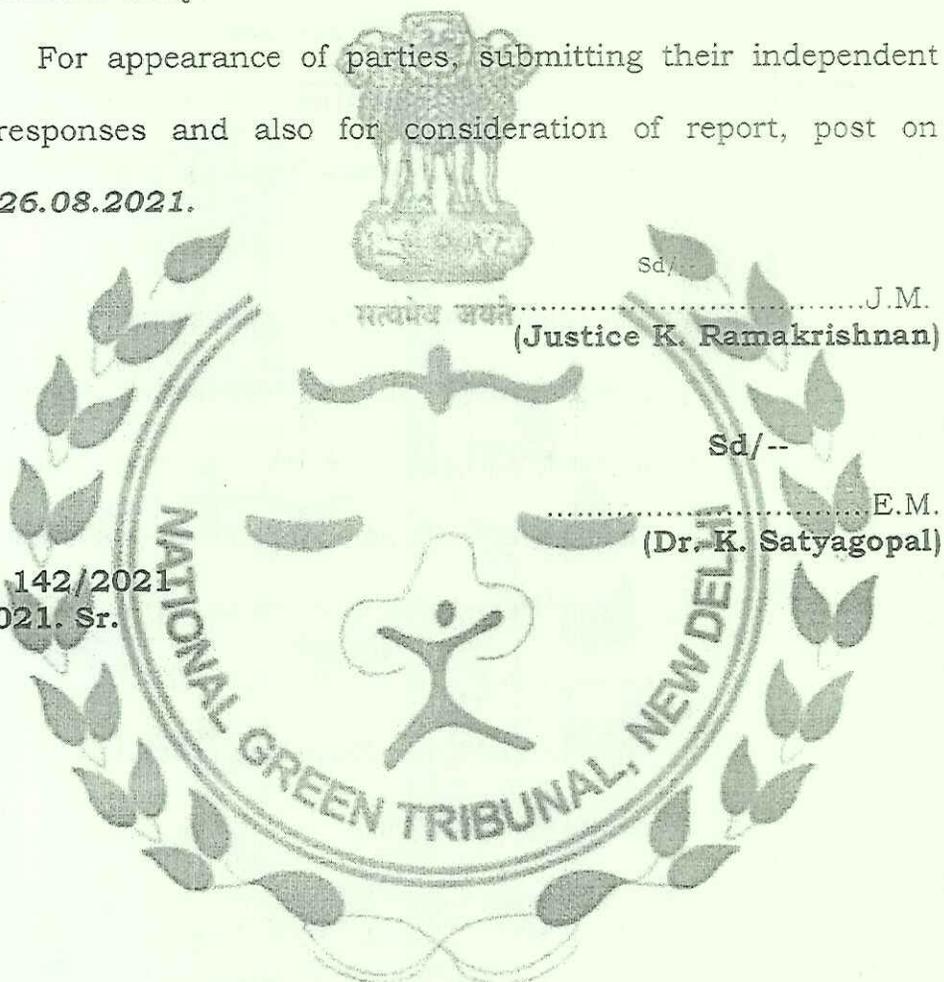
- V) the committee is also directed to ascertain as to whether any loss of yield has been caused to the agriculturists, whose lands have been affected and if so assess the loss of income caused to each land owner

11. Considering the fact that the newly formed Mayiladuthurai District falls in the Cauvery Delta area, we feel it appropriate to Suo-Motu implead the District Collector, Mayiladuthurai District as well, as additional 8<sup>th</sup> respondent.
12. The Registry is directed to carry out the amendment in the cause title. Dr. D. Shanmuganathan, Government Advocate for State of Tamil Nadu has taken notice for the additional 8<sup>th</sup> respondent as well.
13. The committee is directed to submit the report as directed by this Tribunal on or before **26.08.2021** by e-filing in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF along with necessary hardcopies to be produced as per rules,
14. The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the official respondents as well as the members of the committee immediately through e-mail along with the copies of the news

paper reports and the gist of the Suo Motu proceedings with full amended cause title so as to enable them to comply with the direction and for filing their independent response regarding the allegations made in the news paper report without delay.

15. For appearance of parties, submitting their independent responses and also for consideration of report, post on **26.08.2021.**

O.A. No. 142/2021  
06.07.2021. Sr.



**Minutes of the meeting conducted on 13.08.2021 with reference to O.A. No. 142/2021 (SZ) in the matter of Suomotu case taken by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ)**

Based on the News Item in the Hindu Tamil Newspaper, Chennai Edition Dated:6<sup>th</sup>June2021, "Soap factories spoiling Agricultural Lands in the Cauvery Delta, which has been Declared a Protected Agricultural Zone; Farmers worried about yields", Hon'ble NGT has taken suomotu case and vide order dated 06.07.2021 constituted a committee comprising of (1) a Senior Scientist or a Senior Officer from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Integrated Regional Office, Chennai, (2) a Senior Officer or a Senior Scientist from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as designated by its Chairman, (3) a Soil Scientist to be nominated by the Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, preferably from Tiruchirappalli or nearby Institution to these Districts and the Joint Directors of Agricultural Departments, namely, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai District who will assess the main team, whenever they are inspecting the respective areas, so as to prepare the report by the committee appointed by this Tribunal. TNPCB is the nodal agency. The committee is directed to give its report by August 26, 2021 by e-filing in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF along with necessary hardcopies to be produced as per rules.

In compliance to the Hon'ble NGT order, the committee comprising of following members is composed

S.No	Name of The Member	Organization	Contact details
1.	Thiru. K. Elankumaran	Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Trichy	Mobile No: 8056042289 Email: jceetry@gmail.com
2.	Dr. P. Balasubramaniam	Professor & Head, Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College & Research Institute, Trichy	Mobile No: 9486929877 Email: balatnau@tnau.ac.in
3.	Tmt. Mahima T	Scientist-D, CPCB RD- Chennai	Mobile No: 7204872300 Email: mahima.cpcb@nic.in

The committee shall be assisted by officials:

S.No	Name of the official assisting the committee	Organization	Contact details
1.	Thiru. A. Justin	Joint Director, Agriculture, Thanjavur	Mobile No: 9360557743 Email: jdatnjtanseda@gmail.com
2.	Thiru. P Sivakumar	Joint Director, Agriculture, Thiruvarur	Mobile No: 7397753311 Email: jdathiruvarur@gmail.com
3.	Thiru. S Panneerselvam	Joint Director, Agriculture, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai	Mobile No: 8825685322 Email: jdanagai2020@gmail.com

The following officials of the TNPCB shall also assist the committee:

S.No	Name of officials of TNPCB	Organization	Contact details
1.	Thiru. A. Alvin J Anand	DEE, TNPCB, Thanjavur	Mobile No: 8056042308 Email: deetnpcbtanjore@gmail.com
2.	Thiru. R. Gunaseelan	DEE, TNPCB, Nagapattinam	Mobile No: 8870470696 Email: aeetnpcbnagai@yahoo.co.in

#### Scope of the Committee

Hon'ble NGT vide order 06.07.2021 has vested the committee with the following mandate:

1. inspect the Soap Industries in these areas and ascertain as to whether they are complying with all the pollution norms and the conditions imposed in the permission or Consent order granted and if there is any violation then they are directed to ascertain the nature of violation,
2. to ascertain the soil quality in those areas and ascertain as to whether there was any damage caused to the soil on account of any illegal activity of discharging effluents or other waste in the nearby agricultural lands and if there is any contamination

caused, then, they are directed to suggest the remedial measures to restore the soil quality in that area,

3. the committee is also directed to assess the damage caused to the environment and assess the environmental compensation payable by the Soap industries which are responsible for such contamination applying the Polluter Pays' Principle and also the guideline issued by this Tribunal in several cases of this nature,
4. to ascertain as to whether any such untreated effluents are being dumped in the nearby water bodies as well, if there is any water body adjacent to the Soap manufacturing units, and also make analysis of the water and sediments in those water bodies and if there is any contamination found on account of the such illegal activities of any soap factory, then that also will have to be taken into consideration for the purpose of assessing damage to environment and for cost of restoration while calculating the environmental compensation
5. the committee is also directed to ascertain as to whether any loss of yield has been caused to the agriculturists, whose lands have been affected and if so assess the loss of income caused to each land owner..."

In this connection, first meeting of the committee was convened on 13.08.2021 through video conference (VC). Tmt Mahima T, Scientist D, CPCB briefed about the case along with a power point presentation. Thiru. K. Elankumaran, JCEE explained the total number of sodium silicate industries located in Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam Districts and the current status of industries. It was also reported that no such industry is located in Mayiladuthurai District.

OA 142/2021 Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU based on... Chat Files Photos Join 16

Mahima T joined the conversation.  
Mahima T named the meeting to OA 142/2021 Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU based on the News Item in the Hindu Tamil Newspaper, Chennai Edition Dated: 5th June 2021.

Today

13:50 Meeting started

elankumaran has temporarily joined the chat.  
DEE/TNPCB/NAGAPATTINAM has temporarily joined the chat.  
DEE/TNPCB/Nagapattinam (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.  
Tiruvarur, PA Agri (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.  
DEE Nagaipattinam (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.  
Tiruvarur PA Agri has temporarily joined the chat.  
DD SS has temporarily joined the chat.  
A Alvin has temporarily joined the chat.  
JDA TNJ has temporarily joined the chat.  
Vijaya priya has temporarily joined the chat.  
DEE/TNPCB/Nagapattinam (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.  
AO CI TNJ has temporarily joined the chat.  
Prof. P.Balasubramaniam (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.  
ADA CI, (I/c), Tnj has temporarily joined the chat.  
ADA CI, (I/c), Tnj has temporarily joined the chat.

15:03 Meeting ended: 1h 13m 11s

**The following decisions were taken by the committee during the meeting:**

1. Copies of CTO's and other Clearances obtained by the soap industries will be made available to the committee by 16.08.2021

*Action: DEE's, TNPCB*

2. Copies of complaints received against the industry in last three years regarding pollution caused by industry or complaints by farmers regarding decrease in yield etc will be compiled and made available to committee by 16.08.2021.

*Action: DEE's TNPCB and JD's Agriculture*

3. Agricultural department shall compile available information on annual agricultural yield in the region surrounding the industry for last ten years and also comment on increase or decrease in yield along with reasons for the same (example drought year or heavy rains etc).

*Action: JD's Agriculture*

4. Agriculture department shall furnish available information on soil test carried out in the region during last five years and also comment on the fertility of soil. The type of crops grown in the region will also be reported to committee by 16.07.2021.

*Action: JD's Agriculture*

5. The committee shall inspect the industries in Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam Districts on 17.08.2021 and 18.08.2021. On behalf of the committee, TNPCB shall carry out stack monitoring in all units to verify whether the unit is complying with stipulated standards or not. TNAU and agricultural department shall carry out soil sampling at locations identified by the committee to study the fertility of soil. The soil samples shall be analysed at respective laboratories and results shall be furnished to committee at the earliest.

*Action: DEE's, TNPCB, JD's Agriculture and TNAU*

6. Questionnaire shall be prepared to collect information from the sodium silicate industries including water balance and material balance.

*Action: CPCB*

7. TNPCB shall provide logistic arrangements to committee members.

The meeting ended with thanks to the committee members and the officials of the TNPCB and Department of Agriculture.

  
Tmt. T. Mahima,  
Scientist-D,  
Central Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Directorate,  
Chennai

  
Dr. P. Balasubramaniam,  
Professor & Head,  
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Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College  
& Research Institute, Trichy

  
Thiru. K. Elankumaran,  
Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (Monitoring),  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Trichy



BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL  
GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.

Original Application No. 142 of 2021(SZ)

Suo Motu based on the news item in  
The Hindu Tamil Newspaper , Chennai  
Edition Dated -06.06.2021,  
“ Soap factories spoiling Agricultural  
Lands in the Cauvery Delta, which has  
been declared a protected Agricultural  
Zone: Farmers worried about yields ”-

Vs

The Secretary to Government,  
Department of Environment ,  
Climate Change & Forest ,  
Govt., Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai – 600 009 & 7 others

...Respondents

INTERIM REPORT OF THE JOINT  
COMMITTEE IN O.A.NO. 142 OF 2021  
REGARDING SUO MOTU BASED ON THE  
NEWS ITEM IN THE HINDU TAMIL  
NEWSPAPER CHENNAI EDITION DATED  
6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021, “SOPA FACTORIES  
SPOILING AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN  
THE CAUVERY DELTA, WHICH HAS  
BEEN DECLARED A PROTECTED  
AGRICULTURAL ZONE, FORMERS  
WORRIED ABOUT YIELDS

Advocate for Respondent:

Date:25.08.2021

Hearing date on 26.08.2021

