

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
OA No. 180 of 2023 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF :

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU

... Applicant

Vs

The District Collector and Ors.

... Respondents

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY M/s. CHENNAI PETROLEUM
CORPORATION LIMITED , THE 7TH RESPONDENT (21.12.2023)**

THE 7TH RESPONDENT BEGS TO SUBMITS AS FOLLOWS :

1. It is submitted that the present Application has been Suo Motu initiated by this Hon'ble Tribunal with respect to the Oil Leak in the Buckingham Canal and Ennore Creek areas. It is submitted that this Respondent had filed a status report on 14.12.2023 and 18.12.2023, the same may be taken as a part and parcel of this present status report.
2. It is submitted that the present status and further taken action of the situation is as under :
3. Clean up activity at Ennore creek, by the four professional agencies engaged by CPCL, is nearing completion. From the containment booms of about **1500mts, oil skimmers** are being operated based on the oil content in water which is **miniscule**.
4. Absorbent booms and pads are being used to sweep the residual oil traces from the water. Around **28,000 nos. of absorbent pads and 1400mts of absorbent booms** have been used so far.
5. Around **444 drums of oily water** have been recovered and shifted to CPCL for further processing as per TNPCB guidelines. On visual

B. S. Sahu

inspection, the material being recovered is observed to be predominantly water.

6. Around **128 boats with 512 manpower** have been deployed for oil removal activities.
7. **Mechanized cleaning efforts have been successfully completed in 4 out of 5 village shore areas viz., Ennorekuppam, Mugathuvarakuppam, Nettukuppam and Thazhankuppam. The last one at Kattukuppam is also nearing completion.**
8. Around **160 Tons of Solid waste debris** have been removed from site and shifted to CPCL for bioremediation and disposal as per TNPCB guidelines.
9. It is being ensured that all workmen involved in the clean-up activities are using requisite Personal Protective Equipment. All required Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), including **1300 gloves, 1300 masks, 800 gumboots, 500 Helmets, 900 Boiler Suits and 700 goggles** were distributed to the local workforce at the Ennore creek area for Safety of the workers.
10. Three mobile medical units continue to be deployed by CPCL which has benefited about 3500 individuals so far.
11. Cleaning of more than **1100 houses, schools, shops, etc.**, has been completed with the help of men and machinery.
12. A huge flock of migratory birds were observed since 19.12.2023 in the creek area and the mangroves, which is indicative of the significant improvement in the region.

Raj Sahu

- 13.** CPCL has also taken the initiative to bring in environmental experts from **TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute)** and also **IOCL R&D** to review the progress of clean-up activities and suggest further remedial measures, if any.

Salient Points of TERI visit :

- i. The team visited Ennore creek and conducted survey by boat from the mouth of creek to mangrove area. It was observed that between the mouth of the creek up to Ennore road bridge there is no oily film or visible oil contamination was noticed.*
- ii. The TERI team did not observe any abnormal conditions at site like dead fish or oil layers or any loss of flora and fauna. However, the team observed odour which could be of sewage wastewater.*
- iii. The team observed that the oil spread controlling booms have been placed effectively to control the spread of shine from containment zone to sea area."*

Salient Points of IOCL R&D visit :

- i. At the beach, the top layer of sand was clean without any oil or tar ball.*
- ii. The boat visit was carried out in the affected area and no free-floating oil was observed seen in water body. However, at some places oil sheen was observed which can be removed by absorbent booms.*
- iii. Some foul smell resembling to sewage was noticed near to the source and the water colour was also black. This may be because of sewage ingress in the water body.*

Rudra Kumar

14. The mangrove area was also inspected and it appears that the interiors of the mangrove are unaffected and the oil traces was found only along the outer line of the mangrove, near the mouth of the Buckingham canal which is being cleaned under the guidance of National Institute of Oceanography.
15. As directed by the Honorable panel of NGT, a separate team from CPCL had visited the shore areas near Pulicat lake and confirmed that there were no oil traces in the vicinity. Since, no tar balls were visible in the Ennore shores, the presence of the same at Pulicat cannot be attributed to the oil spill at Ennore creek.
16. It is submitted that the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment and Climate Change, has also reported that the emergency oil recovery work in the aftermath of oil spillage in the Ennore Creek area was completed in four stretches.
17. It is submitted that this respondent is ready and willing to abide by any condition or direction as may be imposed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, in the interest of justice.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to consider the present status report and pass such orders as it deems fit and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 21st day of December 2023

Aul Sahni

7th RESPONDENT

VERIFICATION

I, ANIL SAHNI, Son of K.K SAHNI, aged 56 years, the CGM(TS) of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, the 7th Respondent herein, do hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true to the best of my personal knowledge and grounds are based on legal advice and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Verified at Chennai on this the 21st day of December 2023



7th RESPONDENT



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ANNEXURE - I

20.12.2023

Field Observation Report

The environmental team from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi have visited Ennore oil contaminated site on 20.12.2023 to assess the status of area and restoration process of oil spill area.

TERI Team Members:

Dr. Veeranna Channashettar

Dr. K.Nanthakumar

The team observed the following

1. The team visited Ennore creek and conducted survey by boat from the mouth of creek to mangrove area. It was observed that between the mouth of the creek up to Ennore road bridge there is no oily film or visible oil contamination was noticed.

2. AT the junction of Buckingham canal and Kosasthalaiyar river to Ennore railway bridge the physical observation showed some traces of oily sheen. However, the major cleaning has been achieved and residual cleaning in mangrove area is in progress.

3. The TERI team did not observe any abnormal conditions at site like dead fish or oil layers or any loss of flora and fauna. However, the team observed odour which could be of sewage wastewater.

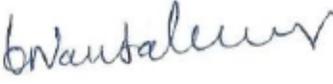
4. The oil contaminated water collected using skimmers have been collected in barrels and shifted to CPCL Refinery and stored in designated area. Also, the solid waste is also collected in plastic bags and shifted to refinery.

5. The team observed that the oil spread controlling booms have been placed effectively to control the spread of shine from containment zone to sea area.

6. The TERI team recommended that CPCL undertake the sampling and analysis of water, sediment and biological organisms after completion of cleanup process to know the efficiency of restoration.

7. TERI informed that they shall undertake further assessment, sampling and analysis study at Ennore site within a couple of days know the actual conditions after the completion of clean-up activities.


(Veeranna Channashettar)


(K.Nanthakumar)

20.12.2023

Site visit report of oil spill at Ennore Creek

IOC R&D team visited CPCL refinery and Ennore creek site on 20.12.2023, and following activities carried out and observations made.

Activity carried out:

- IOC R&D team visited the collected oil and sludge storage site at CPCL refinery, Manali
- IOC R&D visited maximum possible locations of the site at Ennore creek, through road as well as on boat.
- Mangrove sites were also visited on the shores of Kosasthaliyar river and the leaves as well as plants were observed.

Observations at refinery site:

- Oil mixed water has been collected and stored in barrels at refinery location. Visual observation showed very thin layer of oil on top of water.
- Soil mixed with oil and other oil contaminated plant waste, were also collected and stored in the sludge pit located at CPCL refinery.

Observations at Ennore creek:

- Different groups are found working at site for oil removal, waste collection, washing of oil traces from stones and plants using jet spray.
- Absorbent pads and boom barriers are being used for oil absorption at different locations of site and the spreading of oil is minimized.
- At the beach, the top layer of sand was clean without any oil or tar ball.
- The boat visit was carried out in the affected area and no free-floating oil was observed seen in water body. However, at some places oil sheen was observed which can be removed by absorbent booms.
- Some foul smell resembling to sewage was noticed near to source and the water color was also black. This may be because of sewage ingress in the water body.
- In mangrove area, the bottom portion of plants in some places seen black in color but in total, plants were green and appeared to be in healthy condition. Apparently, the outer line of the mangrove seems to have come in contact towards the south side with oil and the same need to be cleaned.
- Migratory birds were seen at both sides of Ennore creek, which is a positive sign.



(Dr. Manoj Kumar)

IOC, R&D
F&D

Way forward

- IOC R&D advised that the used absorbents are to be squeezed to separate the oil and the used absorbent pads & booms are to be disposed through CPCB authorized party.
- IOC R&D advised to continue the efforts for washing the mangrove area and all plants at shore using high volume, low pressure water jet spray. Absorbents and boom barriers to be used at the surrounding of these area while washing for immediate absorption of washed oil.
- If required, IOC R&D will suggest suitable formulation of bio-origin to mix in the jet spray water for improved washing of mangrove area. However, the application will be subject to approvals from competent authority.
- The collected plant material with oil and soil contaminated with oil, can be subjected to bioremediation as per CPCB draft guidelines for conducting bioremediation of oily sludge. CPCL will take necessary approvals from TNPCB for conducting bioremediation and will inform IOC R&D. IOC R&D will supply the required bacteria and microbe adjuvant along with the SOP for the same.
- IOC R&D advised that the oil contaminated water after separation of oil to be treated in ETP. IOC R&D will provide specific bacteria for using in ETP.
- Thorough analysis of collected water and oil samples need to be done before disposal and to be shared with IOC R&D.



(Dr. Navoj Kumar)
IOC, R&D
Faridabad

Press Release No: 2573

Date: 20.12.2023

Press Release**Ennore Creek Emergency Oil Spill Recovery work completed**

The emergency oil recovery work in the aftermath of oil spillage in the Ennore Creek area got over today. The work was completed in four stretches as below.

S.No	Stretch Name	Name of Agency	Distance
1	Creek mouth to Ennore bridge	Viraj Sea cleaning enterprise	1.5kms
2	Ennore Bridge to railway bridge	Sea Care Sea cleaning services	0.350kms
3	Railway bridge to entrance of Buckingham canal	Viraj Sea cleaning enterprise	1km
4	Sivanpadai Veedu to sathyamurthi nagar	Neowin India Ltd	6 kms
5	Entrance of Buckingham Canal to Sivanpadai veedu	Vens hydralift Pvt Ltd	0.1 Kms

Close to 900 people involving trained sea cleaning agencies with the support of local fishermen completed the task. The entire oil recovery and mitigation work was supervised by the State level oil spill crises management group headed by Chief Secretary Thiru Shiv Das Meena.

Tmt. Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Climate Change and Forests who has been leading the teams on ground, took an overview of the affected areas with a team of officers, CPCL representatives, cleaning agencies, and impacted fishermen communities in Ennore Creek area to supervise the completion of tasks. The team took a boat ride along the four stretches viz, Buckingham Canal, Kosathalaiyar river and Ennore creek area and reviewed the completion of operations. The team observed that while the oil recovery and mitigation was over in most of the areas, deposits of oil in Mangroves needed a longer time

period, as it is a specialized task and has to be done carefully. In consultation with experts, it was decided to shift the entire focus now on cleaning oil ingress in Mangrove areas. It was further decided that for this purpose the Forest Department shall engage local fishermen through CPCL resources to undertake oil cleaning work in Mangroves with the help of smaller boats using oil boomers and soak pads. For this purpose, the Department will work on Ennore Mangroves restoration project.

The team also inspected mudflats and the breeding grounds of migratory birds. The Forest Dept. has involved volunteers to check for birds which are impacted by the oil spillage. It was decided that 4 rescue teams will start moving from tomorrow to look for birds in need of rehabilitation including pelicans.

The entire cleaning operation was undertaken by four specialised agencies viz., Viraj Sea cleaning enterprise, Sea Care sea cleaning services. Vens Hydralift Pvt. Ltd. and Neowin India Ltd. with the deployment of 128 boats, 7 JCBS, 2 tractors, 8 gully suckers, 6 poclains, 3 hydracranes, 4 pickup trucks, absorbent pads, 8 oil boomers, 6 oil skimmers and 15 tippers. A total of 105.82 KL of oily water and 393.5 tonnes of oily sludge was removed until date.

CPCL has deployed 3 ambulances with a team of specialised doctors to take care of health concerns in the impacted areas. Health Dept., Govt. of Tamil Nadu has also deployed 3 ambulances with doctors and paramedics. These facilities will continue to operate on mobile mode.

**Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change
& Forest Dept.**

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

OIL SPILL: SLICK REMOVED COMPLETELY, SAYS GOVT

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR,
D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, DEC. 20

The oil slick that had spread itself out on the water bodies from the Ennore Creek to the Buckingham Canal to the River Kosasthalaiyar in north Chennai after Cyclone Michaung, posing a major environmental hazard besides affecting the livelihood of people in villages in the

region, has been fully removed with the recovery of 105.82 KL of oily water and 393.5 tonnes of oily sludge.

"The emergency oil recovery work in the aftermath of oil spillage in the Ennore Creek area got over today," the state department of environment, climate change and forests (ECCF) secretary Supriya Sahu said in a release on Wednesday. ■ P6

OIL SPILL: SLICK REMOVED COMPLETELY, SAYS GOVT

FROM PG 1

Close to 900 people involving trained sea cleaning agencies with the support of local fishermen completed the task of clearing the oil spill that happened during the floods with water entering the premises of several facilities dealing with petroleum products and other chemicals, including Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), in the Manali area.

The entire oil recovery and mitigation work was supervised by the state level oil spill crisis management group headed by chief secretary Shiv Das Meena with Ms Sahu

leading the teams on the ground, said the release.

A team of officers, CPCL representatives, cleaning agencies and affected fishing community members took a boat ride along the impacted stretches to review the completion of the operation in the Buckingham Canal, Kosasthalaiyar river and Ennore creek area and found that the oil recovery and mitigation work was over in most of the areas, the release said.

However, deposits of oil in mangroves were still there and might need a longer time to be removed as it was a specialised task that needed to be carried out carefully, it said, adding: "In consultation

with experts, it was decided to shift the entire focus now on cleaning oil ingress in mangrove areas."

So, the forest department would engage local fishermen through CPCL resources for cleaning work in the Mangroves using smaller boats, oil boomers and soak pads.

The team also inspected mudflats and the breeding grounds of migratory birds.

The forest department that had involved volunteers to check for birds impacted by the oil spill would start moving 4 rescue teams on Thursday to look for birds in need of rehabilitation, including pelicans.

கடற்கரையோரப் பகுதிகளில் எண்ணெய் கழிவுகள் அகற்றம்: திருவள்ளூர் கலெக்டர் பிரபு சங்கர் ஆய்வு

திருவள்ளூர், டி.ச. 20-

திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம் கடற்கரை பகுதியில் எண்ணெய் கழிவுகள் குறித்து மாசுக்கட்டுப்பாட்டு வாரியம், மீன்வளத்துறை, வருவாய்த்துறை மற்றும் மீனவர்களுடன் கலெக்டர் டாக்டர் த. பிரபுசங்கர் நேரில் பார்வையிட்டு ஆய்வு செய்தார்.

அப்போது அவர் கூறியதாவது:

கடந்த மிக்ஜாம் புயல் வெள்ளத்தின் போது, எண்ணூர்கடற்கரைப்பகுதியில் எண்ணெய் கழிவுகள் கலந்தது கண்டறியப்பட்டு, மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் அவர்களின் உத்தரவின்பேரில், எண்ணெய் கழிவுகள் அகற்றும் பணி நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. அந்த எண்ணெய் கழிவுகள் திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டத்திற்குட்பட்ட கடற்கரைப்பகுதியில், கலந்துள்ளதா என்பதை கடந்த ஒரு வாராமாசு மாசுக்கட்டுப்பாட்டு வாரியம் சுற்றுச்சூழல் பொறியாளர், உதவிபொறியாளர்கள், மீன்வளத்துறை அலுவலர்கள், வருவாய்த்துறை அலுவலர்கள் மற்றும் மீனவர்கள் தொடர்ந்து கண்காணித்து வருகின்றனர். கழிவு எண்ணெய் மீன் திசுக்களில் உள்ளதா என்பதை ஆய்வு செய்து மீனவர்களுக்கு இருக்க



கூடிய சந்தேகங்களை நிவர்த்தி செய்ய பல்வேறு கட்ட ஆய்வப் பணிகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்படவுள்ளது. தொடர்ந்து 15 பேர் அடங்கிய குழு கண்காணிக்கும். மீனவர்களின் வாழ்வாதாரம் பாதிக்காத வகையில் தமிழக அரசின் வழிகாட்டுதலின்படி, தொடர் நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இவ்வாறு அவர் கூறினார்.

தொடர்ந்து, காட்டுப்பள்ளி முதல் லைட்ஹவுஸ் சாலை வரை 12.4 கிலோ மீட்டர் நபாட்டு திட்டத்தின் கீழ் சாலை அமைக்கும் பணிகள் குறித்தும்

துறைச்சார்ந்த அலுவலர்களுடன் ஆய்வு மேற்கொண்டார்.

இந்த ஆய்வின்போது, பொன்னோரி சார் ஆட்சியர் வாகே சங்கேத் பல்வந்த, மாவட்ட சுற்றுச்சூழல் பொறியாளர் லிவிங்ஸ்டன், உதவி இயக்குநர் மீன்வளத்துறை கங்காதரன், பொன்னோரி வட்டாட்சியர் மதிவாணன், மீன்வளத்துறை ஆய்வாளர் பாரதிராஜா, நெடுஞ்சாலைத்துறை உதவிப்பொறியாளர் டில்லிபாபு, மீனசங்கப்பிரதிநிதிகள் மற்றும் அதிகாரிகள் உடனிருந்தனர்.

மீனவர்கள் உட்பட 900 பேர் தீவிரம் எண்ணூரில் எண்ணெய் கழிவு அகற்றும் பணி நிறைவு

சென்னை, டிச. 21: உள்ளூர் மீனவர்களின் ஆதரவுடன் பயிற்சி பெற்ற கடல் சுத்திகரிப்பு முகவர்களுடன் 900 பேர் எண்ணூர் எண்ணெய் கழிவுகள் அகற்றும் பணியை முடித்தனர் என்று தமிழ்நாடு அரசு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

இது குறித்து தமிழ்நாடு அரசு வெளியிட்ட அறிக்கை: எண்ணூரில் சுற்றுச்சூழல் துறையின் கூடுதல் செயலாளர் சுப்ரியா சாஹு, சிபிசிஎல் பிரதிநிதிகள், துப்புரவு முகவர்கள் மற்றும் மீனவர் சமூகங்கள் அடங்கிய குழுவினருடன் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட பகுதிகளை பார்வையிட்டனர். க்ரீக் பகுதி குழுவினர், பக்கிங்காம் கால்வாய், கொசஸ்தலை ஆறு மற்றும் எண்ணூர் சிற்றோடை ஆகிய நான்கு பகுதிகளிலும் படகுமூலம் சென்று பணிகள் நிறைவடைந்ததை ஆய்வு செய்தனர். பெரும்பாலான பகுதிகளில் எண்ணெய் மீட்பு முடிவடைந்த நிலையில்; சதுப்பு நிலங்களில் எண்ணெய் வைப்புகளுக்கு நீண்ட காலம் தேவைப்பட்டது. நிபுணர்களுடன் கலந்தாலோசித்ததில், சதுப்புநில பகுதிகளில் எண்ணெய் கழிவுகளை சுத்தம் செய்வதில் முழு கவனத்தையும் மாற்ற முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டது. இந்த நோக்கத்திற்காக வனத்துறை சிபிசிஎல் வளங்கள் மூலம் உள்ளூர் மீனவர்களை ஆயில் பூமர்கள் மற்றும் சோக் பேட்க

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு தகவல்

ளைப் பயன்படுத்தி சிறிய படகுகளின் உதவியுடன் எண்ணெய் சுத்தப்படுத்தும் பணியை செய்ய முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டது.

இக்குழுவினர் சேறும், சகதியுமான நிலங்கள் மற்றும் புலம்பெயர் பறவைகள் இனப்பெருக்கம் செய்யும் இடங்களையும் ஆய்வு செய்தனர். எண்ணெய் கழிவால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட பறவைகளை சரிபார்க்க வனத்துறை தன்னார்வலர்களை ஈடுபடுத்தியுள்ளது. முழு துப்புரவு நடவடிக்கையும் 4 சிறப்பு நிறுவனங்கள், 128 படகுகள், 7 ஜேசிபிஎஸ், 2 டிராக்டர்கள், 8 கல்லிசக்கர்ஸ், 6 பொக்லைன்கள், 3 ஹைட்ராக்ரேன்கள், 4 பிக்கப் டிரக்குகள், உறிஞ்சும் பட்டைகள், 8 ஆயில் பூமர்கள், 6 ஆயில் ஸ்கிம்மர்கள் மற்றும் 15 டிப்பர்கள் என நேற்று வரை மொத்தம் 105.82 கே.எல் எண்ணெய் நீர் மற்றும் 393.5 டன் எண்ணெய் கசடு அகற்றப்பட்டது.

மேலும் சிபிசிஎல் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட பகுதிகளில் உடல்நல பாதிப்புகளைக் கவனிப்பதற்காக சிறப்பு மருத்துவர்கள் குழுவுடன் 3 ஆம்புலன்ஸ்களை அனுப்பியுள்ளது. சுகாதாரத்துறை சார்பில் 3 ஆம்புலன்ஸ்கள், மருத்துவர்கள் மற்றும் துணை மருத்துவர்களுடன் நிறுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன.

Ennore Creek emergency oil spill recovery work completed

The work was supervised by the State-level oil spill crises management group. Close to 900 people, including trained sea-cleaning agencies, with the support of local fishermen, completed the task

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The emergency recovery work taken up in the aftermath of the oil spill in the Ennore Creek area was completed on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department, the work was completed at the stretch from Creek Mouth to Ennore bridge; Ennore bridge to railway bridge; railway bridge to entrance of Buckingham canal; Sivanpadai Veedu to Sathyamurthi Nagar and entrance of Buckingham canal to Sivanpadai Veedu.

Close to 900 people, including trained sea-cleaning agencies, with the support of local fishermen completed the task.



Done and dusted: The team reviewed work on Buckingham Canal, Kosasthalaiyar river and Ennore creek area. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The entire oil recovery and mitigation work was supervised by the State-level oil spill crises management group, headed by Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena.

Review work

Ms. Sahu, along with government officials, CPCL representatives, and fishermen visited Ennore creek,

Kosasthalaiyar river, and Buckingham Canal and reviewed the completion of operations.

Restoring mangroves

The team observed that while the oil recovery and mitigation was over in most of the areas, oil deposit in mangroves need a longer time period, as it is a specialised task and has

to be done carefully.

In consultation with experts, it was decided to shift the focus to cleaning oil ingress in mangrove areas.

It was further decided that for this purpose, the forest department shall engage local fishermen through CPCL resources to undertake oil cleaning work there with the help of smaller boats and using oil boomers and soak pads. The department will work on Ennore mangroves restoration project.

The team also inspected mudflats and the breeding grounds of migratory birds. The forest department has involved volunteers to check for birds that are affected by the oil spillage.

Four rescue teams will soon begin to look for birds in need of rehabilitation, including pelicans.