

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.191 of 2015 (SZ)

With

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.178 of 2014 (SZ)

S.P.Muthuraman,
S/o.S.Ponnusamy,
No.204, Railway Feeder Road,
Sankar Nagar Post,
Tirunelveli District

...Applicant

Versus

The Union of India,
Rep. by the Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi and Others

...Respondent(s)

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Filed by
Thiru. C. Kasirajan,
Advocate, Chennai.

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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT -
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani , Daughter of Jesu Rajan , Christian, aged about 56 years, having my office at 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I am the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (i/c), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Chennai – 32, and filing this Report on behalf of the Respondent Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone), Chennai *in its order dated 08/06/2021 in O.A. No. 191 of 2015 & O.A. No. 178 of 2014 has directed the following in Para-6, Para-10, Para-11 and Para-12 which is as follows*

Para-6 *"It is seen from the reports that though there is certain progress in the implementation of the action plan but it is not moving at the speed at which it was*

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expected to be implemented. Further, it is not known from the report submitted as to whether on account of temporary measures that are taken by the local bodies including Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation, any improvement has been caused to the water quality in the Thamirabarani River”.

Para-10. “So, the Pollution Control Board as well as the committee are directed to ascertain as to whether the temporary measures taken by the municipality/corporation had achieved any improvement in the water quality in the river and if not, what are the further steps to be taken by Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation as well as other neighbouring municipalities to mitigate the situation of polluting the water in Thamirabarani River. It is a long term grievance of the people to get clean water and save Thamirabarani river from pollution which is the obligation of the State Government to implement and redress”.

Para-11. “The committee as well as the Pollution Control Board are directed to ascertain as to whether the recommendations given by the committee are being implemented by the concerned corporations and municipalities and whether any improvement has caused on account of the implementation of the temporary measures that have been provided in the water quality and if not, what are the further steps proposed to be taken by them to accelerate the completion of these projects and give their specific recommendations as to how this can be implemented in a shorter time line so as to protect the Thamirabarani River from pollution”.

Para-12. “The Joint Committee, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Tirunelveli Corporation, Vickramasingapuram and Ambasamudhram Municipalities and also Kallidaikurichi, Veeravanallur, Mukkudal, Cheranmahadevi, Pathamada, Gopalamudram, Melaseval & Naranammalpuram Town Panchayats are directed to submit their status report regarding the progress of the work done by them to mitigate the situation of protecting Thamirabarani River as envisaged in the minutes of meeting of the Joint Committee”.

3. It is respectfully submitted that earlier the Joint Committee with a team of officials from Central Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, District office, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation, Water Resources Department/PWD, Thamirabarani basin, Tirunelveli constituted by the District Collector Proceeding R.C. No. NGT/DEE/TNV/2020, Dated 04.02.2020 as per Hon'ble NGT order dated 17.01.2020 in O.A. No. 191/2015 inspected the stretch of River Thamirabarani to identify the sewage/industrial effluent mixing into River


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Thamirabarani and collected Thamirabarani River Water samples on 15/02/2020 at 14 locations as follows.

S. No	Point of sample collection (Downstream to upstream points)
1	Seevalaperi (Near Cremation Ground)
2	Manapadai Veedu, (Near Online monitoring Station)
3	Vellakovil (Near Cremation Ground)
4	Manimoortheeswaram, (Opposite to Sudalaimadan Temple)
5	Vannarapettai (Near By-pass Road Bridge)
6	Kokkirakulam (Near Collectorate)
7	Meenakshipuram (Near Railway Bridge)
8	Cheranmadevi (Near Road Bridge)
9	Thirupudaimarudhur (Behind Temple)
10	Kallidaikurichi (Near Road Bridge)
11	Ambasamudram (Near Railway Bridge)
12	Madura Coats Bridge
13	Papanasam Temple
14	Thalayanai

4. It is respectfully submitted that the samples were analysed at Advanced Environment Lab, TNPCB, Tirunelveli and the Report of Analysis of the water samples collected on 15/02/2020 reveals the following:

- The water quality of River Thamirabarani collected at 5 locations (Manapadai Veedu, Thirupudaimarudhur, Ambasamudram, Papanasam Temple, Thalayanai) out of 14 locations satisfies Class-A standards (Drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection).
- The water quality of River Thamirabarani collected at remaining 9 (Seevalaperi, Vellakovil, Manimoortheeswaram, Vannarapettai, Kokkirakulam, Meenakshipuram, Cheranmadevi, Kallidaikurichi, Madura Coats Bridge) locations out of 14 locations satisfies Class-B standards (outdoor bathing).
- BOD was in the range of 1.4 mg/L to 3.9 mg/L in the entire stretch of River Thamirabarani in Tirunelveli District.
- COD was in the range of 8 mg/L to 32 mg/L in the entire stretch of River Thamirabarani in Tirunelveli District.

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TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
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- The Heavy metals as analysed such as Arsenic, Cadmium, Copper, Lead. Total Chromium, Zinc, Manganese, Iron, Fluoride & Cobalt are found within drinking water standards.
- The Total Coliform is between 110 MPN/100ml to 280 MPN/100ml in the river stretch between Meenakshipuram to Manimoortheeswaram where Tirunelveli City sewage mixing was identified during inspection for sample collection.
- The Fecal Coliform is between 40 MPN/100ml to 94MPN/100ml in the river stretch between Meenakshipuram to Manimoortheeswaram where Tirunelveli City sewage mixing was identified during inspection for sample collection.

5. It is respectfully submitted that River Thamirabarani is also being monitored by TNPCB at 9 locations every month under MINARS programme from Road Bridge near Madura Coats Ltd, V.K.Puram to Cremation Ground, Seevalaperi. The quality of River water generally satisfies Class – A standards (Drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection) and Class – B standards (outdoor bathing).

6. It is respectfully submitted that the values of range of DO, BOD, TSS and Fecal Coliform as noticed in the 9 sampling locations for the River water samples collected during **2020-21** (12 Samples) is as below:

S. No	Station Name	DO mg/L	BOD mg/L	TSS mg/L	Fecal Coliform MPN/100 mL
1	Road bridge near M/s. Madura Coats Limited	6.1 – 8.6	<2 – 2.6	2 – 8	< 1.8 - 4
2	Railway Bridge near Ambasamudram	6.6 – 8.4	<2 – 2.8	2 – 20	<1.8 - 14
3	Kallidaikurichi Road bridge	6.2 – 9	<2 – 3.2	2 – 20	<1.8 - 17
4	Thirupudaimarudhur temple backside	6 – 8.3	<2 – 2.9	2 – 16	1 8 - 17
5	Road bridge near M/s. Sun Paper Limited.	6.1 – 8.2	<2 – 3	4 - 18	2 - 17
6	Road bridge near Tirunelveli Collectorate	6.1 – 8	2.05 – 3.07	4 – 12	11 - 70
7	Manimoortheeswaram	6 – 8	2.05 – 3.1	4 – 16	17 – 94
8	Vellakovil	5.6 – 7.6	2.2 – 3.2	4 – 16	6.8 – 94
9	Seevalaperi near crematorium	6 – 7.5	2.2 – 3	4 – 14	11 – 120


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3) *The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall expedite the UGSS Phase-II and III and to ensure that the time schedule for completion Phase-II (25.01.2022) and Phase-III (22.07.2022) to be adhered to.*

4) *The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall monitor the septic tank cleaning process carried out in the Corporation area and only dedicated septic tank cleaning vehicles to be utilized with GPS tracking mechanism to ensure that the same is not disposed into any water bodies and may be disposed in the existing waste stabilization pond after conducting necessary studies*

5) *The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall explore the possibility of providing a full fledged STP with ultra filtration system for the total capacity of sewage collected from the existing underground sewerage system presently treated in the WSP and from the proposed UGSS Phase II & III under implementation.*

6) *The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall utilise the treated sewage for further beneficial use and a proposal shall be prepared and to be implemented.*

7) *Since DEWAT system is a temporary arrangement for treating wastewater until full fledged STP being provided by Tirunelveli Corporation. The objective is to reduce the load to river until providing full fledged treatment and hence study by reputed institute is not required. However, treatment technology proposed by other municipality/town panchayats shall be studied by reputed institute, since it is permanent treatment technology going to be adopted.*

8) *Expedite to complete plantation proposed in DEWAT treatment system, so that further pollution load will be reduced before discharge to river.*

9) *The temporary insitu treatment systems proposed by Tirunelveli Corporation for the treatment of sewage directly let into river Thamirabarani is located in the river bed within the river boundary and in flood plain zone. The activity will be affected during heavy floods.*

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10) *The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall expedite the action in providing dhobikana arrangements with ETP for the treatment of trade effluent generated to satisfy the disposal standards prescribed by the Board and there by avoid washing of clothes by washer man in River Thamirabarani. The treatment system shall be provided after assessment of effluent generation*

11) *Vickramasingapuram and Ambasamudram Municipalities has submitted action plan without assessing the quantum of sewage generation. Both municipalities shall submit modified action plan after assessing the quantum of generation.*

12) *The local bodies shall expedite the completion of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) and the treatment system proposed for grey water treatment to avoid contamination of River Water flowing in the irrigational channel.*

13) *The Local bodies shall provide warning sign board at all accessible locations to River Thamirabarani which should carry the fine to be paid by the offender who carries washing of vehicles and also seizure of such vehicles as per prevailing regulations.*

14) *The District Administration shall continue to monitor the illegal sand mining in River Thamirabarani."*

10. It is respectfully submitted that Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 21.01.2021 directed the Joint Committee to submit the report on the compliance of above recommendation which was submitted on 16.03.2020.

Based on the suggestion made in the report the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation has proposed 10 numbers of DEWATS (Treatment with series of filter beds) (photo enclosed) treatment units along the stretch of river Thamirabarani as a temporary measure to treat the sewage let into river Thamirabarani at 8 major outfalls (between Kurukkuthurai & Manimoortheeswaram) to reduce the pollution load to River Thamirabarani until UGSS Phase – II & Phase III are completed. Out of 10 DEWATS, 7 numbers were put into operation as below.

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Sl. No	DEWATS Locations	Date from which put into operation
1	Kailasapuram	August '2020
2	Meenakshipuram	August '2020
3	Sindhupoondhurai	August '2020
4	Kokkirakulam (Opp. to Collectorate)	August '2020
5	Kokkirakulam (Mariamman Kovil Street)	February' 2021
6	Meenakshipuram Anna Street	March' 2021
7	Vannarapettai Valaiyapathi Street	July' 2021

The performance of DEWATS Treatment units with respect to parameters TSS & BOD based on the sewage samples collected at the inlet and outlet of DEWATS is detailed below.

S.No	Location	TSS mg/L			BOD mg/L		
		Inlet of filter bed	Outlet of filter bed	% reduction	Inlet of filter bed	Outlet of filter bed	% reduction
1	Kailasapuram						
	12.08.2020	88	26	70	99	81	18.2
	08.07.2021	172	418	-	205	336	-
2	Meenakshipuram						
	12.08.2020	94	26	72	75	66	12
3	Meenakshipuram – Anna street						
	18.03.2021	2018	188	91	333	167	50
	08.07.2021	910	316	65	338	225	33
4	Sindhupoondhurai						
	12.08.2020	56	22	60	64	48	25
	18.03.2021	74	130	-	167	212	-
5	Kokkirakulam (opp. to Collectorate)						
	12.08.2020	212	338	-	125	130	-
	18.03.2021	710	296	58	252	197	22
6	Kokkirakulam Mariamman Kovil Street						
	19.02.2021	76	138	-	65	108	-
	08.07.2021	376	454	-	215	245	-
7.	Vannarapettai Valaiyapathi Street						
	08.07.2021	4614	342	92	306	215	30

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From the above table, the reduction in TSS & BOD values are noticed in the DEWATS where the system is operated efficiently and in certain DEWATS the values of TSS & BOD for the samples collected at outlet of DEWATS was found higher than at the inlet of DEWATS which is due to inefficient operation, clogging of sewage in the filter bed and stagnation of sewage.

The DEWATS were cleaned by Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation to remove blockage due to suspended materials and filter bed material changed for effective operation during the month of July'2021. Hence samples were collected on 21/07/2021 after cleaning at the inlet and out let of all 7 DEWATS and sent for analysis to TNPCB lab and ROA awaited.

The quality of River Thamirabarani was monitored on 08.07.2021 at upstream of DEWATS & Downstream of DEWATS and the values of BOD & TSS are as follow.

Parameters	Kurukkuthurai River Bridge (Upstream of existing all 7 DEWATS)	Kokkirakulam River Bridge (Downstream of 5 DEWATS)	River Bridge Manimoortheeswaram (Downstream of 7 DEWATS)
TSS in mg/L	44	18	12
BOD in mg/L	4.7	3.45	2.95

From the above values it was noticed that parameter TSS & BOD values have been reduced in the river Thamirabarani at the downstream of DEWATS. This shows that there is some reduction in the pollution load to river Thamirabarani due to DEWATS treatment.

The Tirunelveli Corporation is in the process of construction of the remaining 3 DEWATS units proposed at Kurukkuthurai, Udayarpatti and Vannarapettai Ramalinga street and expected to be completed by 31/07/2021.

The photograph showing the ongoing construction activity of the remaining three DEWATS is enclosed as **Annexure – I**.

11. It is submitted that the Tirunelveli Corporation has proposed to construct Dhobikana with ETP at 3 locations namely 1. Karuppanthurai (43.2 KLD), 2.


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Vannarapettai Thiru kurippu thondar street (43.2 KLD) and 3. Vannarapettai Ettuthogai street (28.8 KLD). The construction has been started at Vannarapettai Thiru kurippu thondar street & Vannarapettai Ettuthogai street (photograph enclosed as Annexure - I) .

12. It is respectfully submitted that certain recommendation were suggested by the Joint Committee during March 2021 based on Hon'ble NGT order dated 21.01.2021 after tagging of O.A. 178/2014 filed by Thiru. Rajamanickam with O.A. 191/2015 filed by Thiru. S.P. Muthuraman enclosing the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on 25.02.2021 at District Collectorate, Tirunelveli. Further compliance report of the certain recommendations of Joint Committee was submitted before Hon'ble NGT on 28.07.2021. The recommendation and the compliance of the same are as follows

S. No	Recommendations	Status of compliances
1	The corporation has informed that action plan for temporary treatment of Sewage of 0.26 MLD was submitted only for Sewage water directly let into the River Thamirabarani. Committee is of the opinion that sewage pollution causing to any water bodies needs to be addressed, so the corporation shall prepare action plan for remaining sewage being discharged without treatment other than the Thamirabarani river.	Action plan to be furnished. It was informed that a survey is proposed to be conducted to identify number of domestic sewage outlet let into irrigation channels
2	The Corporation has informed that the temporary DEWATS system provided in the flood plain zone is not affected during the recent flood of January 2021. In order to verify the claim made by the corporation, TNPCB shall inspect the site to assess the status as well as functioning/ working efficiency of temporary treatment system & its maintenance and submit the report with evidences.	No damage to the structures of DEWATS were noticed during inspection. All the 7 DEWATS put into operation were cleaned by Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation to remove blockage due to suspended materials and filter bed material changed for effective operation during the month of July'2021. Hence samples were collected on 21/07/2021 after cleaning at the inlet and out let of all 7 DEWATS and sent for analysis to TNPCB lab and ROA awaited.


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3	Even though corporation claims that the system is not affected due to flood. Committee is of the opinion that any activities being carried out in flood plain zone found to be in violation, so PWD shall issue necessary notice to corporation to stop & relocate the activities from flood plain zone.	A letter dated 24/06/2021 has been addressed to EE, PWD, Tirunelveli to take necessary action for the locating of DEWATS in flood plain area of River Thamirabarani.
4	The Tirunelveli Corporation shall complete the construction of DEWATS treatment in the left out location namely Kurukkuthurai, Vannarapettai Ramalingar Street & Udayarpatti and put into operation after obtaining necessary permission from PWD.	It was informed that work is under progress for the remaining 3 DEWATS units proposed at Kurukkuthurai, Udayarpatti and Vannarapettai Ramalinga street and expected to be completed by 31/07/2021
5	DEWATS technology includes specific vegetation to reduce pollution load, which is not completed so far. Corporation shall take necessary steps to complete the work within a month.	It was informed that Corporation has planned to plant 200 Nos of sapling in each DEWATS location in consultation with forest department by end of July'2021.
6	The Tirunelveli Corporation shall periodically maintain the DEWATS treatment units in operation for removal of solids captured and the filtration bed materials to be regularly replaced for effective operation.	All the 7 DEWATS put into operation were cleaned by Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation to remove blockage due to suspended materials and filter bed material changed for effective operation during the month of July'2021. The Corporation has also proposed to transport the sewage let out from DEWATS provided at Sindhupoondhurai to the nearest UGSS Phase-I instead of letting into River and expected to complete by 31/07/2021.
7	The Tirunelveli Corporation shall explore the possibility of providing temporary treatment units to treat the sewage let into irrigation channel namely Kodagan Channel, Palayamkal Channel, Tirunelveli Channel to reduce pollution load.	The Tirunelveli corporation has proposed to conduct a survey to identify the number of domestic sewage outlet let into irrigation channels
8	The Tirunelveli Corporation shall expedite the completion of the UGSS Phase-II & Phase-III and to adhere to the time schedule.	The Tirunelveli Corporation has informed that UGSS Phase-II & Phase-III are under progress and expected to be completed by 25/07/2022 and 31/12/2022 respectively.
9	The Tirunelveli Corporation shall take necessary action to obtain Consent to Establish from TNPCB for the proposed Sequential Batch Reactor based Sewage Treatment Plant.	Agreed to comply with


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10	The Tirunelveli Corporation shall take necessary action to assess the quantity of effluent to be generated from the dhobikana to be setup and the details on the Effluent Treatment Plant proposed and to commence the establishment of the plant after obtaining Consent to Establish of the TNPCB.	It was informed that construction of dhobikana is proposed at 3 locations namely 1. Karuppanthurai (43.2 KLD), 2. Vannarapettai Thiru kurippu thondar street (43.2 KLD) and 3. Vannarapettai Ettuthogai street (28.8 KLD). Construction has been started at Vannarapettai Thiru kurippu thondar street and Vannarapettai Ettuthogai street. Photograph enclosed as Annexure - I
11	The Tirunelveli Corporation shall take necessary action to explore all possibilities to utilise the treated sewage for beneficial use	It was informed that a letter has been addressed to Joint Director of Agriculture, Tirunelveli for the utilisation of treated sewage for social forestry and for grass farming.
12	The Vickramasingapuram & Ambasamudram Municipality shall finalise the mode of short term treatment options for the treatment and disposal of grey water and to expedite the work immediately.	The DPR prepared during November'2020 is yet to be approved by the Commissioner of Municipal administration, Chennai and work yet to be commenced
13	The Vickramasingapuram & Ambasamudram Municipality shall take necessary action to prioritize the septic tanks for cleaning and ensure that the vehicle engaged for septic tank cleaning disposes the septic tank waste only to FSTP for further treatment and disposal.	Action plan to be furnished by the Vickramasingapuram & Ambasamudram Municipality.
14	The Town Panchayats mentioned in the report shall take necessary action to prepare DPR for the treatment and disposal of the sewage /sullage let into irrigation channels/ Thamirabarani river	The DPR prepared during March'2021 is yet to be approved by the Director of Town Panchayats, Chennai and work yet to be commenced.

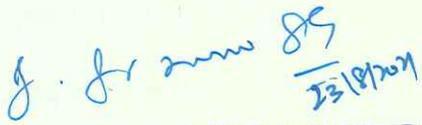
13. It is respectfully submitted that the following actions were taken by TNPCB

1. The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation was issued with direction under Section 33-A of the Water(P&CP) Act,1974 as amended for not providing UGSS for the entire Corporation limit and not providing full fledged STP with disinfection arrangements vide Board's proc. Dated 25/06/2020.
2. A letter dated 19/03/2021 was addressed to the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation based on the inspection of the DEWATS units carried out on 18/03/2021 to take necessary action on the following.


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- i. The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall take necessary action to operate and maintain the temporary DEWATS treatment units to ensure that the sewage from the assigned area is treated in the treatment system and no bypass of sewage shall take place.
- ii. The filter bed in the DEWATS treatment shall be changed periodically for effective treatment.
- iii. The floating materials carried by the sewage shall be removed then & there before let into DEWATS treatment unit so as to avoid chocking in the system.
- iv. The DEWATS treatment units provided in the following locations namely i) Kokkirakulam (opp. to Collectorate) ,ii) Kailasapuram, iii) Meenakshipuram & iv) Meenakshipuram Anna Street, was found not in operable condition and stagnation of sewage was noticed in the downstream side of the treatment units. Bypass of sewage was noticed
- v. The corporation has to provide suitable vegetation to utilise the partially treated sewage from the DEWATS units so as to ensure that the treated sewage is not reaching the River Thamirabarani.
- vi. The design capacity of DEWATS treatment units provided at namely i) Kokkirakulam (opp. to Collectorate) ,ii) Kailasapuram, iii) Meenakshipuram & iv) Meenakshipuram Anna Street may be checked to ensure that adequate capacity of DEWATS treatment units is provided. If not additional treatment facility need to be provided.
- vii. The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall also provide temporary treatment measures to the sewage joining in Kodagan Channel, Palayamkal Channel & Tirunelveli Channel apart from River Thamirabarani to reduce the sewage pollution load.
- viii. The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall furnish the design details of the ETP proposed to be provided to treat the trade effluent generated from dhobikana due to clothes washing by washer man.

- ix. The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation shall ensure that 100% of the sewage presently let into River Thamirabarani, Kodagan Channel, Palayamkal Channel & Tirunelveli Channel is covered under the ongoing UGSS phase – II & phase – III.
3. A letter dated 05/04/2021 was also addressed by the TNPCB to the Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation to take necessary action on the above said (i – ix) points for compliance.
4. A letter dated 05/04/2021 was also addressed by the TNPCB to the Commissioner of Municipal Administration, Chennai to take necessary follow up action on the finalization of the proposed short term treatment measures by Vickramasingapuram Municipality & Ambasamudram Municipality of Tirunelveli District suggested in the DPR prepared by Tamilnadu Water Investment Company Limited (TWICL), for the control of sewage / sullage let into irrigation channel and for necessary implementation.
5. A letter dated 05/04/2021 was also addressed by the TNPCB to the Director of Town Panchayats to take necessary follow up action on the finalisation of the treatment methods to be executed by the following Town Panchayats namely 1. Kallidaikurichi, 2. Veeravanallur, 3. Mukkudal, 4. Cheranmahadevi, 5. Pathamadaai, 6. Gopalamudram. 7. Melasevel & 8. Naranammalpuram for the control local bodies sewage/sullage let into irrigation channel or any other water bodies and for necessary implementation.
6. TNPCB has issued directions vide Board Proceedings dated: 18.06.2021 to the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation with copy to the Commissioner of Municipal Administration (CMA), Chennai to comply with the following conditions within three months, among other things:
- i. The Municipality shall complete the underground sewerage system for the unsewered area and to ensure that the untreated sewage presently let into nearby land and water bodies shall be stopped and to ensure 100 % treatment of sewage.


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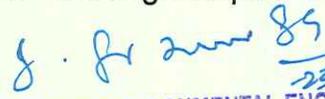
- ii. The Municipality shall expedite the process of sewer connection, construction, completion and commissioning of under construction STPs so as to bring them into operation
- iii. The Municipality shall furnish time bound plan of action and show the progress made in the construction of proposed STPs so as to bring them into operation.
- iv. The Municipality shall comply with the above directions within the time period specified therein. Otherwise Board shall impose Environmental Compensation as given below:

Environmental Compensation (EC) = Capital Cost Factor x [Marginal Average Capital Cost for Treatment Facility x (Total Generation-Installed Capacity) + Marginal Average Capital Cost for Conveyance Facility x (Total Generation -Operational Capacity)] + O&M Cost Factor x Marginal Average O&M Cost x (Total Generation- Operational Capacity) x No. of Days for which facility was not available + Environmental Externality x No. of Days for which facility was not available

7. TNPCB has issued directions vide Board Proceedings dated: 18.06.2021 to the Town Panchayats with copy to the Director of Town Panchayats (DTP), Chennai to comply with the following conditions within three months among other things:

- i. The Town Panchayats shall complete the underground sewerage system for the unsewered area and to ensure that the untreated sewage presently let into nearby land and water bodies shall be stopped and to ensure 100 % treatment of sewage.
- ii. The Town Panchayat shall expedite the process of sewer connection, construction, completion and commissioning of under construction STPs so as to bring them into operation
- iii. The Town Panchayat shall furnish time bound plan of action and show the progress made in the construction of proposed STPs so as to bring them into operation.
- iv. The Town Panchayat shall comply with the above directions within the time period specified therein. Otherwise Board shall impose Environmental Compensation as given below:

Environmental Compensation (EC) = Capital Cost Factor x [Marginal Average Capital Cost for Treatment Facility x (Total Generation-Installed Capacity) + Marginal Average Capital Cost


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for Conveyance Facility x (Total Generation -Operational Capacity)] + O&M Cost Factor x Marginal Average O&M Cost x (Total Generation- Operational Capacity) x No. of Days for which facility was not available + Environmental Externality x No. of Days for which facility was not available

8. A Show Cause Notice dt. 26.07.2021 has been issued to M/s. Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation (STP), S.F.NO 23/1A, Megamudaiyarkulam Village, Tirunelveli Taluk and Tirunelveli District under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 for levying of Environmental Compensation for causing environmental damage by not operating the Sewage Treatment Plant efficiently for the period from 25.06.2020 to 30.06.2021 and thereby the discharging the untreated sewage into River Thamirabarani & other irrigation channels.

14. It is respectfully submitted that the following works to be completed as per recommendations made in the Joint committee report submitted on 28.07.2021.

1. The Tirunelveli Corporation shall complete the construction of DEWATS treatment in the left out location namely Kurukkuthurai, Vannarapettai Ramalingar Street & Udayarpatti and put into operation.
2. The Tirunelveli Corporation shall periodically maintain the DEWATS treatment units in operation for removal of solids captured and the filtration bed materials to be regularly replaced for effective operation.
3. The Tirunelveli Corporation shall conduct study on the number of sewage and outfall and quantity of sewage let into irrigation channel namely Kodagan Channel, Palayamkal Channel, Tirunelveli Channel and to furnish the report.
4. The Tirunelveli Corporation shall expedite the completion of the UGSS Phase-II & Phase-III and to adhere to the time schedule.
5. The Tirunelveli Corporation shall take necessary action to obtain Consent to Establish from TNPCB for the proposed Sequential batch Reactor based Sewage Treatment Plant.
6. The Tirunelveli Corporation shall complete the construction of dhobikana with Effluent Treatment Plant proposed and to commence the establishment of the plant after obtaining Consent to Establish of the TNPCB.

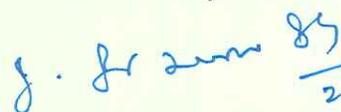
J. Prasad 85
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7. The Tirunelveli Corporation shall take necessary action to explore all possibilities to utilise the treated sewage for beneficial use.
8. The Vickramasingapuram & Ambasamudram Municipality shall expedite the process of obtaining the approval of DPR prepared by TWICL for the treatment and disposal of sewage/sullage let out into irrigational channels from Commissioner of Municipal administration, Chennai in respect of finalising the treatment options and tendering process for necessary implementation
9. The Town Panchayats Kallidaikurichi, Veeravanallur, Mukkudal, Cheranmahadevi, Pathamadai, Gopalamudram & Melaseval Town Panchayats shall take necessary action to expedite the process of obtaining the approval of DPR prepared by TWICL for the treatment and disposal of sewage/sullage let out into irrigational channels from The Director of Town Panchayats, Chennai in respect of finalising the treatment options and tendering process for necessary implementation.
10. The Naranammalpuram Town Panchayat shall take necessary action to prepare DPR for the treatment and disposal of the sewage /sullage let into irrigation channels/ Thamirabarani river.

15. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone), Chennai in its order dated 08/06/2021 in O.A. No. 191 of 2015 & O.A. No. 178 of 2014 has directed the following in Para-14 which is as follows:

Para-14 "The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the above said authorities by e-mail immediately so as to comply with the direction, apart from communicating this order to the Chief Secretary, State of Tamil Nadu, Principal Secretaries for Environment, Municipal Administration & Water Supply, PWD & WRO, Commissioner of Municipal Administration and Director of Town Panchayat to look into the issue seriously and take special interest to implement the action plan with shorter time line by providing necessary logistics including financial as well as technical support, if any, required to these local bodies to implement the scheme and protect Thamirabarani River from pollution. A meeting of these municipalities can be


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convened by the Principal Secretaries so that the progress of the work can be monitored and expedited at the earliest possible time”.

16. It is respectfully submitted that in compliance of the above said Hon'ble NGT (SZ) order, a preliminary meeting was conducted by the Principal Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department with the officials of Public Works Department(PWD/WRO), Commissionerate of Municipal Administration and Directorate of Town Panchayat on 11.08.2021. During the meeting, the Principal Secretary to Government discussed about the status of operation of the existing Waste Stabilisation Pond and 7 number of DEWATS system provided by the Tirunelveli Corporation and proposed action plan submitted by the Tirunelveli Corporation, Vickramasingapuram and Ambasamudhram Municipalities, Kallidaikurichi, Veeravanallur, Mukkudal, Cheranmahadevi, Pathamadai, Gopalamudram, Melaseval and Naranammalpuram Town Panchayats for the treatment of sewage generated from Tirunelveli district.

17. It is respectfully submitted that, further a high level meeting will be convened in the presence of the Chief Secretary to Government with the Principal Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department (MAWS), Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Public Works Department(PWD) and the District Collector, Tirunelveli to expedite the earlier implementation of the action plan.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstance of this case and thus render justice.

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**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.
BEFORE ME**

VERIFICATION

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, Daughter of Jesu Rajan, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, having office at No. 76, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 32, do hereby submit that the above contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief through records.

Verified at Chennai on this rd23 day of August, 2021.

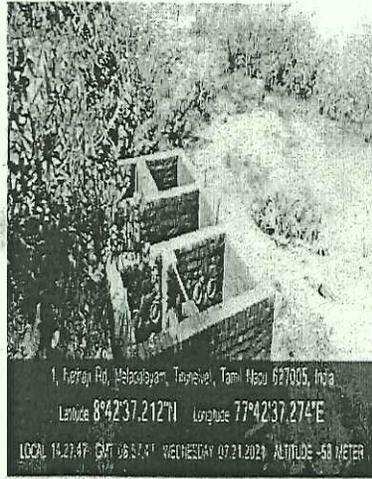
J. Josephine Sahayarani
23/8/2021
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

Annexure – I

The Photograph showing the ongoing construction activity of the remaining three DEWATS



Udayarpatti



Kurrukuthurai



Vanarapettai Ramalinga street

The photograph showing the construction of dhobikana with ETP at Vannarapettai Thiru Kurippu Thodar Street and Vannarapettai Ettuthogai Street.



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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.191 of 2015 (SZ)

With

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.178 of 2014 (SZ)

S.P.Muthuraman,
S/o.S.Ponnusamy,
No.204, Railway Feeder Road,
Sankar Nagar Post,
Tirunelveli District

...Applicant

Versus

The Union of India,
Rep. by the Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Environment,
Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi and Others

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE
RESPONDENT – TAMIL NADU POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD**

Advocate for Respondent:
Thiru.
Advocate, Chennai.

Date: 25.08.2021

Date of Hearing: 08.09.2021