

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

Original Application No. 184of 2020 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU Based on the News item in The Times of India newspaper, Chennai Edition dated: 17.09.2020, "Medical waste dumped along Cooum in Anna Nagar."

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
and Others

... Respondents(s)

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DEPONENT

**Place: Bengaluru
Date : 29.11.2020**



S Suresh
S. SURESH
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE (SOUTH)
MIN. OF ENV, FORESTS & CC, GOVT. OF INDIA
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB : 9480672128

Report of the Joint Committee
*(As per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai
Order dated 28.09.2020 in the matter of OA no. 184/2020)*

1. Background

The Honourable National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, in the matter of OA no. 184 of 2020, SUO MOTU Based on the News item in The Times of India newspaper, Chennai Edition dated: 17.09.2020, "Medical waste dumped along Cooum in Anna Nagar." directed on 28.09.2020 as;

8. In order to ascertain the real state of affairs, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of 1) a Senior Scientist from Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Chennai, 2) the District Collector, Chennai District, or a Senior Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or Sub Divisional Magistrate deputed by the District Collector 3) a Senior Officer from Greater Chennai Corporation as deputed by its Commissioner, who is dealing with the Sanitary aspects in carrying out the cleaning activities in this area and 4) a Senior officer, as deputed by the Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found.

9. The committee is directed to ascertain the persons responsible for such dumping and trace out those persons, take action against those persons including launching of prosecution apart from imposing environmental compensation for the damage caused to the environment for such violation and also health of the people in the locality.

10. The committee is also directed to consider the question as to whether the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board as per order of the Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal in respect of disposal of BioMedical Waste is being followed.

11. The committee is also directed to make their suggestions as to how these things can be avoided in future, as such things are being brought to the notice of this Tribunal through paper reports and necessary directions are being given from time to time, but without taking any penal action against those persons who are responsible for the same or tracing out those persons and bringing them before the court of law

12. The Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Chennai will be the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing all necessary logistics for this purpose.

13. The committee is directed to submit the report to this Tribunal on or before 18.11.2020 by e-filing along with necessary hard copies to be produced as per rules.

2. About Committee

The CPCB, Regional Directorate, Chennai, as the nodal agency, requested all concerned authorities for the nomination of the officials for the joint committee and site inspection. As per the nominations received from the District Collector, Chennai , Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai (nominated three officials viz, Zonal Officers of Zone 7, 8 & 10), Tamil Nadu State

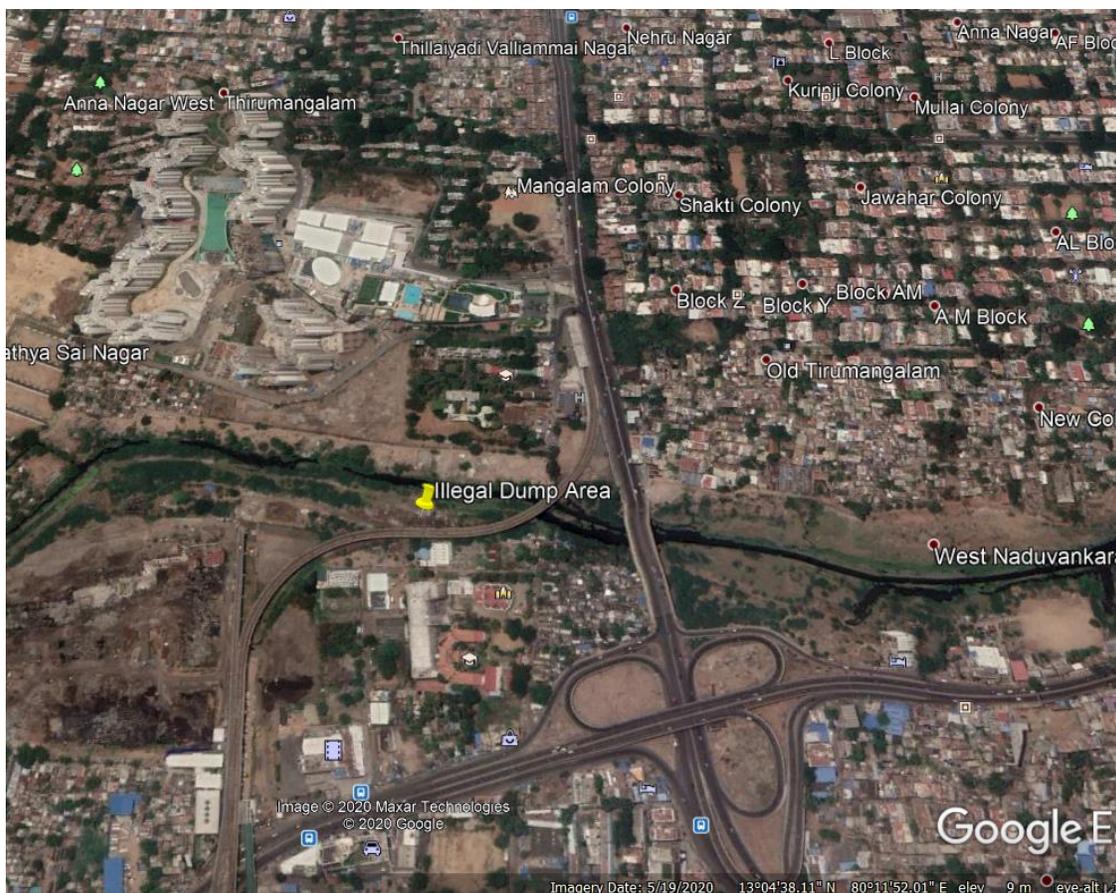
Pollution Control Board (nominated two officials viz, DEE Chennai & Ambattur) and including from the Regional Directorate (Chennai), the Joint Committee consists of the following members.

1. Smt. A. N. Lavanya, RDO Chennai Central (Rep. District Collector, Chennai)
2. Sh. G. Tamil Selvan, Zonal Officer, Zone 7, Chennai Corporation, Ambattur
3. Dr. B. M. Senthil Kumar, Zonal Officer, Zone 8, Chennai Corporation, Anna Nagar
4. Sh. T. P. Jai Beam, Zonal Officer, Zone 10, Chennai Corporation, Kodambakkam
5. Dr. R. Umayakunjaram, District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Chennai
6. Smt. S. Indiragandhi, District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Ambattur
7. Sh. R. Rajkumar, Scientist D, CPCB, RD Chennai

3. Joint Inspection of the Committee:

The joint committee had discussion at DEE Office, Chennai and carried out field visit on 06.11.2020 based on the Hon'ble NGT direction. The other officials present during discussion & field visit are as follows;

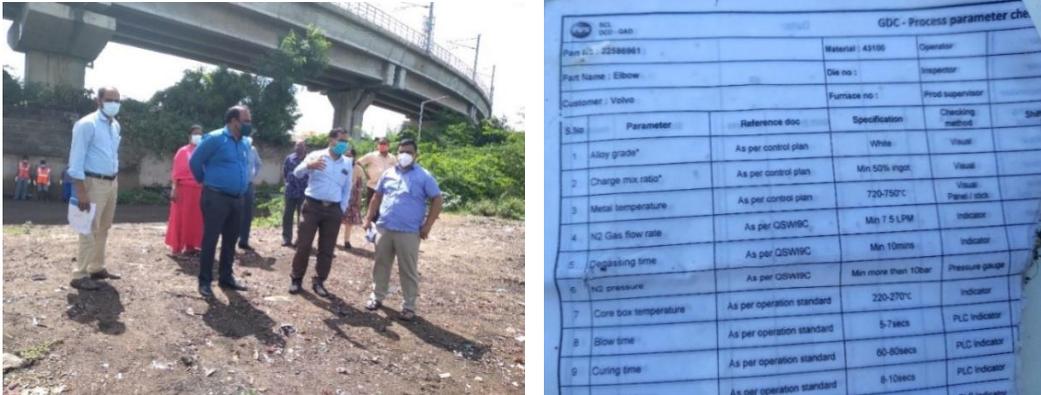
- i) Sh. V. Periyaswamy, EE, Zone 10, Chennai Corporation
- ii) Sh. S. Santhamurthy, Thasildar, Amjikalai (Rep. RDO, Chennai)
- iii) Smt. T. Manimegalai, AEE, TNPCB, Chennai
- iv) Sh. A. Jothi Prakash, AE, TNPCB, Ambattur
- v) Sh. G. Manivasagam, AE, TNPCB, Ambattur



During the discussion it is learnt that, the dump area comes under Chennai Corporation Zone 10, Kodambakkam. The Zonal Officer informed that after getting news of the illegal dumping, he inspected the site and observed that the dumped material is nonhazardous paper wastes and no biomedical or other hazardous waste was found in the dump yard. Thereafter waste was removed and disposed off on 17.09.2020 & 18.09.2020.

On the day of site inspection, the joint committee observed an illegal waste dump area along the banks of River Coovum, however no waste was found. The committee enquired about the illegal dumping with the local people in that area, based on discussion, it is understood that illegal dumping happens frequently once in two or three days. Committee learnt that there was no dumping at site since the issue was publicized in newspaper.

The committee informed the Zonal Officer, Zone 10, to get the copies of the video recordings through camera installed in that area to identify the vehicle used for illegal dumping.



The corporation officials showed the paper, which was found during the cleaning of illegal dumped waste. The identified document was consisting of production details belong to TVS Sundram Clayton Ltd. During investigation of the committee, a scrap dealer was found nearby the illegal dump area and similar discarded documents were found in that shop. The scrap dealer is located at New Colony opp. to St. Thomas College of Arts & Science. The owner of shop is Sh. G. Ravi (Mble no. 9841804342) and he was not available during the visit.



Investigation Action by Greater Chennai Corporation:

The joint Committee requested Zonal Officer, Zone 10, Kodambakkam to investigate the matter and take necessary action against the scrap dealer identified near the dump area. It was informed by the zonal officer that the scrap dealer was not available in that area, so the District Revenue Officer Zonal Officer, Zone 10 registered a complaint against G. Ravi in CMBT police station, and the copy of receipt of Application no. 338/2020 dated 10.11.2020 is annexed as **Annexure 1**.

Investigation Action by TNPCB:

Based upon the document identified during the joint committee visit, TNPCB & CPCB has enquired M/s Sundram Clayton Ltd., on 09.11.2020 regarding the illegal dumping of waste. It was informed by the industry that the non-hazardous waste generated is being disposed through the Greater Chennai Corporation. Sometimes the waste is being disposed through M/s G Baskaran Lorry Service at Nungambakkam waste collection center in the absence of Greater

Chennai Corporation on payment basis. As per the record of industry, the waste disposed in 7 Trips During 10th to 17th September 2020 through the said lorry service. The vehicle found during the dumping of waste is belongs to M/s G Baskaran Lorry Service and same is confirmed by the owner Mr. Daniel. The vehicle used by him is Tata 407 mini truck Register No. TN 10 F 1450). Upon the enquiry made by the industry, Mr. Daniel informed that during the incident time, he was hospitalized due to COVID and utilized the service of call on driver for picking up the waste using his vehicle. Further he informed that, the illegal dumping might have happened during this period because of call on drivers. The copy of the letter submitted by M/s Sundram Clayton Ltd., is annexed as **Annexure 2**.



4. Environmental Compensation Calculation:

The joint committee suggested to calculate environmental compensation based on the cost incurred for removal and disposing of illegal waste dumped on the bank of river Coovum. The breakup of the total amount of Rs 11690/- incurred for removal is submitted by Zonal Officer, Zone 10 enclosed as **Annexure 3**.

Accordingly, the joint committee suggested Rs. 11690/- as compensation against the M/s G Baskaran Lorry Service, No. 54/A Thiruveethi Amman Koil Street, Arumbakkam, Chennai.

5. Conclusion & Recommendations as per NGT directions:

As per the statement of corporation, no bio medical waste was dumped and informed that only the paper waste was found in that location. The waste was cleared by the corporation, zone 10 on 17 & 18 September 2020. The joint committee has identified two-person M/s G Baskaran Lorry Service and Mr G. Ravi (Scarp dealer). Details of action initiated against the violators, compliance of bio medical waste management, and suggestions for non-recurrence as direct by Hon'ble Tribunal are as follows;

5.1 Action Initiated Against Violator:

Action against M/s G Baskaran Lorry Service:

The compensation calculated by the joint committee based on the disposing cost is Rs. 11690/- (Leven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Only).

Accordingly, the committee suggested to direct TNPCB/ Corporation to impose the compensation charges against the M/s G Baskaran Lorry Service for illegal dumping of solid waste.

Action against Sh. G. Ravi:

During the visit, committee identified scraper dealer near the illegal dump yard and found the similar type documents illegally disposed, which was available in that shop. But the owner Sh G. Ravi was not available for investigation to identify how the waste is collected & disposed, so the District Revenue Officer Zonal Officer, Zone 10 registered a complaint against Sh. G. Ravi in CMBT police station.

The joint committee suggested to direct the corporation for further follow up the matter and submit the action taken report in this regard.

5.2 Compliance Status of Bio Medical Waste:**5.2.1 Compliance of COVID19 BMW in the matter of OA. No. 72 of 2020:**

Compliance report of TNPCB in the matter of OA. No. 72 of 2020 dated 20.07.2020 on status of COVID-19 related biomedical waste management as per the provisions of BMWM Rules, 2016 as well as CPCB guidelines is give below;

i) Segregation of COVID-19 biomedical waste and general solid waste;

In Tamil Nadu, 339 healthcare facilities, 12 sample collection centers, 84 Laboratories and 148 Quarantine homes/camps (operated by ULBs) are involved in handling COVID19 biomedical waste.

TNPCB has instructed all the stakeholders involved in generation of COVID19 BMW to comply with the CPCB guidelines issued for handling of COVID – 19 wastes.

All the HCFs/ Testing Centres/ Labs & ULBs are disposing the COVID – 19 BMW generated through the CBMWTFs as per the Guidelines issued by CPCB for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Bio–medical waste generated during Treatment/ Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients.

Also, directions under Section 5 of the E(P) Act, 1986 has been issued to all the ULBs vide Board's Proc. dated 12.08.2020 for strict compliance of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court and directions issued by CPCB.

All the local bodies have executed agreement with the CBMWTFs in the respective region and are disposing the BMW generated from the Quarantine Homes / Home care facilities such as used syringes, Date expired or discarded medicines, used masks/gloves, drain bags, urine bags, body fluid or blood soaked tissues/cotton, empty ampules, etc., through the CBMWTFs.

Further, TNPCB has issued directions under section 5 of the E(P) Act, 1986 to the Directorate of Medical Education, Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services and Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine vide Proc. dated 02.09.2020 to ensure proper segregation of COVID19 waste from general solid waste as per the orders of Hon'ble NGT in OA.No. 72 of 2020 dated 20.07.2020 and to comply with the CPCB guidelines on COVID19 waste management.

District wise details on the daily generation and disposal of COVID – 19 BMW are maintained by the TNPCB.

The COVID19 biomedical waste generation and disposal from the isolation wards of HCFs/ Quarantine camps/ homes or home care facilities/ Testing Centres/ Labs & ULBs from March to as on date (31.10.2020) is around 3345434.68 kg.

All the HCFs/ Testing Centres/ Labs are segregating the solid waste and the biomedical waste separately. The segregated solid waste is being disposed through local bodies as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

ii) Constant and regular monitoring by the Chief Secretaries, State PCBs/PCCs and Health Department for compliance to CPCB guidelines

Use of CPCB tracking App. for COVID19 waste

As per the orders of Hon'ble NGT, CPCB has developed an online 'COVID19BWM' mobile app for assessing and tracking of the COVID19 BMW generation and disposal from the HCFs, sample collection centres, laboratories, quarantine camps/homes, home care facilities to the CBMWTFs and directed all the SPCBs to ensure the uploading of the details on generation and disposal of the COVID19 wastes by the Stakeholders involved in the generation and disposal of COVID19 wastes on daily basis.

TNPCB has directed all the stakeholders to register and upload the details on generation and disposal of COVID19 wastes in the online 'COVID19BWM' mobile app.

8 CBMWTFs are handling COVID19 BMW have registered with the Mobile tracking App and are uploading the data as required. The institutes involved in handling of COVID19 biomedical waste have registered with the mobile app and are uploading the daily disposal quantity. Also, details on the daily generation and disposal of COVID – 19 biomedical waste as obtained from the District Offices is being verified and approval is given by TNPCB in the mobile application. The CBMWTFs have installed OCEMS for monitoring the core emission parameters and the same has been connected to CPCB and TNPCB server.

Also, directions under section 5 of the E(P) Act, 1986 has been issued to the CBMWTFs vide Proc. dated 23.09.2020 to comply with orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court and directions issued by CPCB dated 11.08.2020 on implementation of OCEMS & 'COVID19BWM' tracking application by CBMWTFs.

All the CBMWTFs are being inspected by the respective District Officers every fortnight and compliance report are furnished to the Board w.r.t compliance of the disposal of BMW as per the BMW Rules, 2016 and CPCB guidelines for CBMWTFs. The CBMWTFs handling COVID – 19 BMW have registered with the Mobile app and are uploading the data as required.

iii) In case there is no CBWTF existing in the State/UT, deep burial system should be verified as per standards given in CPCB guidelines so as to ensure proper disposal of biomedical waste.

No deep burial is practiced in the State of Tamil Nadu. The entire quantity of biomedical waste generated is disposed through the CBMWTFs.

The TNPCB has issued instructions to all the CBMWTFs to operate for extra hours so as to treat the increased quantity of COVID19 BMW along with the regular BMW by complying with the CPCB guidelines at all times.

Apart from the above, the TNPCB has issued permission to the TSDF, Gummidipoondi to utilize the existing incinerator of capacity 1 T/hr to incinerate the bio medical waste as per the CPCB guidelines.

The COVID-19 BMW generated from the HCFs, Laboratories and ULBs are incinerated through the 8 CBMWTFs that are in operation in the State. The installed capacity of the Incinerators (42.6 Tons/Day) is adequate for the treatment of the daily waste generation of COVID-19 biomedical wastes.

The TNPCB is taking all possible effective steps and continuously monitoring the operation of the CBMWTFs, so that there is no gap in the generation and disposal quantity of BMW in the State and also to ensure no illegal dumping of BMW in the open land.

5.2.2 Action Taken Report on Bio-Medical Waste Management

Action taken report of TNPCB in the matter of OA 130/ 2015 and 710-713/2017 as follows;

i) Inventory of Health Care Facilities

- The Hon'ble NGT passed its order dated 15.07.2019 in O.A.No.130/ 2015 and 710-713/2017, wherein the SPCBs have to complete the inventory within a period of two months.
- Based on the orders, the inventory of HCFs increased from 4307 numbers (as per the Annual report for the year 2018) to 24573 as on September 2020 and Authorisation has been issued to these HCFs under BMWM Rules, 2016 as amended. Further inventorisation is a continuous process to bring all the HCFs under the purview of Consent/ Authorisation mechanism, whenever new HCF is established. The biomedical waste generated from these HCFs is around 70 T/D.
- In order to facilitate non-bedded health care units to get authorisation without difficulty, TNPCB has addressed the Commissionerate of e-Governance / Tamil Nadu e - Governance Agency vide letter dated 05.12.2019 to render necessary assistance in filing applications for one time Authorisation under BMWM Rules, 2016 through e-seva outlets by creating a separate web portal which shall be linked to OCMMS, in order to comply with the Hon'ble NGT order.
- The Tamilnadu Homeopathy Medical Council, Chennai, Ayush Indian Medical Association (AYUSH IMA) and private Siddha Clinics have addressed TNPCB stating

that no biomedical wastes are generated and the medicines given are organic, non-hazardous & biodegradable and has requested to exempt them from executing agreement with CBMWTFs. In this regard, all the DEEs have been addressed to carryout random inspection of the AYUSH hospitals and to report whether these HCFs generate biomedical waste, so as to examine the request of AYUSH Hospitals.

ii) *Initiatives taken by TNPCB with respect to the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities*

- In Tamil Nadu, there are 12 CBMWTFs, out of which 8 facilities are in operation, one facility is ready for operation and three facilities at Coimbatore, Ooty and Ramanathapuram have been issued with closure direction by TNPCB for noncompliance of consent order conditions and Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. The biomedical wastes generated from the Health Care Facilities attached to these three facilities which are under closure are sent to other CBMWTFs for further treatment and disposal. On an average, 70 Tons/day of bio-medical wastes are handled by these facilities. In addition, three common facilities are under establishment in Gummidipoondi, Hosur and Tiruppur Districts.
- Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board invited Expression of Interest from the project proponents to identify suitable land and to establish Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility in the State of Tamilnadu on 11.11.2018.
- Earlier, all the above 11 CBMWTFs have been earmarked with territorial boundary jurisdiction and one facility which is ready for operation is yet to a lot with the jurisdiction. The Board vide B.P.No.46 dated 18.12.2018 issued orders that, Bio Medical Waste generated from HCFs situated anywhere in Tamil Nadu can be taken for treatment and disposal within 48 hrs by a CBWTF situated anywhere in Tamil Nadu and there is no restriction for establishment of another Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility within a radial distance of 75Kms.
- TNPCB has addressed MoEF& CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 14.11.2018 to consider the issue of the following amendments in Schedule 7 (da) of MoEF Notification dated 17.04.2015:
 - Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal facilities in existence before EIA Notification, 2006 as amended, shall not obtain EC for modernization of its equipments including incinerator if there is no change in the capacity of the equipments which is being modernized.
 - For Expansion of existing facility and establishment of new facility, EC may be obtained under B2 category.
- Further, TNPCB has addressed MoEF& CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 27.09.2019 to clarify whether the existing Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities may be issued with Consent under the Water (P & CP) Act 1974 as amended and under the Air (P & CP) Act, 1981 as amended for the already installed capacity which is more than the consented capacity without obtaining Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification

2006 as amended after carrying out third party audit of the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities.

- In order to increase the number of common facilities in the State, the TNPCB has instructed the Major Hospitals like M/s. Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore to establish Common facilities on their own. This facility can be utilized by the nearby small health care units.
- TNPCB is under the process of carrying out third party audit of the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities through reputed Institutions/ organizations. Willingness of the Institutions have been called for vide letter dated 07.11.2019/ 10.12.2019. Five Institutions have given their willingness; and the same is under scrutiny.
- Further, the Principal Secretary, Industries Department & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department were addressed vide letters dated 02.12.2019 & 06.12.2019 to allocate suitable land in notified Industrial areas to the proponents who approach for development of CBMWTFs in the State of Tamilnadu, as per the Rule 17, Site for common bio-medical waste treatment and disposal facility of the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016.

iii) Action taken by TNPCB for liquid Biomedical Waste Management

- The unit of M/s. Advy Chemical Pvt Ltd, Plot No. A.334/336/338, Road No.26, Wagle Industrial Area, Thane (West), Maharashtra has been issued with Authorization under BMWM Rules, 2016 vide Proc. dated 26.12.2019 for the collection, storage, packaging & interstate transportation of the Biomedical fluids from Health Care Facilities in Tamilnadu for conducting R & D in the field of In-Vitro Diagnostics (IVD) and Purification of Diagnostic proteins, antigens, “Utilization of Biomedical Fluids, an Alternative Disposal”.
- Circular has been issued to all the DEEs vide memo dated 09.01.2020 to communicate to all the HCFs that the HCFs are allowed to handover only the biomedical fluids to the Industries having valid authorization under BMWM Rules, 2016 for research, development and production purpose of diagnostic reagents/ methods. Also the Health and Family Welfare (H1) Department has been addressed vide letter dated 09.01.2020 in this regard.

iv) Awareness/ Meetings conducted by TNPCB

- The Hon’ble Minister for Environment conducted a meeting with all the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilitators and IMA, TN on 26.06.2019 and discussed on the variation in rates fixed by the CBMWTFs for the collection and disposal of biomedical waste from the Health Care Facilities.
- An interaction meeting was held with the Stake holders of the Health Care Facilities chaired by the Hon’ble Justice Dr.P.Jyothimani, Chairman, State Level Monitoring Committee along with the Government Officials on 27.06.2019 and instructions were issued to strictly comply with the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended in 2018.

- Brainstorm meeting was conducted with the District Coordinators of Eco Club, National Green Crops, Scouts on 20.09.2019 at TNPCB to create awareness on waste management.
- One-day training program for health care facilities was conducted in all Districts of the State in co-ordination with the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities on BMWM.

v) ***Action taken by TNPCB against violators***

- So far, 63 HCFs have been issued with closure direction and disconnection of power supply for operating the unit without consent under the Water (P & CP) Act 1974 and the Air (P & CP) Act 1981 as amended and Authorization under BMWM Rules 2016. Subsequently, 39 HCFs have been issued with revocation of closure direction and restoration of power supply out of 63 HCFs, as the HCFs have complied with the conditions stipulated in the closure directions.
- Directions were issued to 24 Nos. of HCFs including Government Hospitals for violation of consent order conditions and for operating without consent of the Board under the Water and the Air Acts. Also, five of the HCFs including Government Hospitals were levied with Environmental Compensation for non-compliance of Directions issued to the HCF, out of which three HCFs have remitted the compensation.
- Further, three of the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities have been issued with closure direction and disconnection of power supply for non-compliance of consent order conditions and BMWM Rules, 2016.

vi) ***Action taken regarding dumping of Biomedical Waste***

- As per the Rules, the Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board monitors all the Health care Facilities (HCFs) and the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (CBMWTFs) for effective implementation of the Rules. TNPCB is also initiating action against the HCFs and the CBMWTFs such as issue of Directions for closure and stoppage of power supply and levy of Environmental Compensation, if found violating the BMWM Rules, 2016 as amended.
- However, a news was flashed in various press and media regarding the dumping and the burning of the expired medicines on the outskirts of Chennai namely Tiruneermalai, Kundrathur Road, Vandalur-Minjur and Uthiramerur and also discharge of waste water into water bodies causing deterioration of the quality of the water in the lake and also causing health hazard to the residences in the nearby area.
- On investigation of the above compliant prone area, it was noticed that, the date expired stocks of medicines, hand gloves, head covers and the plastic wastes generated from the Commercial and the Industrial sectors have been dumped.
- Hence, the Director of Drugs Control, Chennai was addressed vide letter dated 10.10.2019 to monitor the drug dealers/ medical shops in regard to the disposal of the expired medicines and to take necessary action against the violators.

- Directions were issued to the local bodies such as Tirunermalai Town Panchayat, Kundrathur Panchayat Union and Kattankulathur Panchayat Union vide Proc. dated 10.10.2019, 12.12.2019 & 12.02.2020 to identify and take action against the violators as per the Local Body Act, to impose fine and to keep vigil in the said area to prevent dumping of the solid waste along the road side and to adhere the Solid Wastes Management Rules, 2016 in letter and spirit.
- Also, in order to avoid the unauthorized disposal of biomedical waste, press release was given by TNPCB in the Newspapers dated 19.12.2019 warning all the HCFs that severe action will be initiated in case of violation of BMWM Rules, 2016 including closure and disconnection of HCF besides levy of Environmental compensation.
- M/s.Heamcure Health Care PvtLTd located at No.1, BhajanaiKoil Street, Malayambakkam Village, Pallavaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District was issued with Directions for closure and stoppage of power supply for having disposed the discarded medicines and for operating the unit without valid consent of the Board.
- Further, regarding the illegal of transport of biomedical waste from Kerala to Tamilnadu, the KPCB has been addressed vide letter dt 31.12.2019 to take the issue seriously and take appropriate measures to curtail the unauthorised movement of the Biomedical waste and further dumping inside the Taminadu besides taking up to the Kerala State Government so as to intensify the checking at the borders of Kerala and to prevent transportation and dumping of biomedical waste or any solid wastes to the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Also, MAWS Department has been addressed vide letter dated 31.12.2019 to instruct all the local bodies to monitor the unauthorized disposal of discarded/ expired medicines and also to take stringent action against the violators under the Local Body Act and also to place caution boards and install CCTVs at vulnerable locations, so as to identify/ avoid the illegal dumping of discarded/ expired medicines.
- Press Release was also given in the Newspapers dated 30.01.2020 instructing the distributors/ stockist of the medicines to hand over the expired/ discarded medicines to the manufacturers or to dispose scientifically as per the BMWM Rules, 2016 and no waste shall go unauthorized or mixed with any other solid waste. Further, in case of violation, stringent action will be initiated by the local bodies against the violators.
- DO letter has been sent from the Chairman to the Indian Drug Manufacturer's Association (IDMA) vide letter dt: 03.03.2020 to give stringent instructions to the concerned Officials not to dump the expired/ discarded medicines illegally and to ensure that the Expired or Discarded Medicines are properly disposed off in accordance with the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- The CBMWTF of M/s. Ramky Energy and Environment Ltd, SF No.10, Thangaiyur village, Edappappdi Taluk, Salem District has been levied with Environmental compensation of Rs. 11,87,500/- for dumping of Bio-medical wastes collected from their member Hospitals illegally on open land.

5.3 Suggestions for non-recurrence;

For Greater Chennai Corporation:

- Identification of illegal waste pickers/ dealers and direct them for registering with local bodies and also to monitor regularly to ensure organized waste collection, segregation, resource recovery and disposal.
- Identification of hotspot zone (where regularly waste is being dumped) in & around the city and increase the surveillance by installation of cameras, deploying security etc. especially at vacant public lands/spaces, as well as utilizing service of Traffic police for seizing the vehicles involved in illegal dumping.
- Stringent action shall be taken against the illegal dumpers, by incorporating more fine & also prosecution in the Bye-laws.

For TNPCB:

- TNPCB shall issue a notice to all the industries for disposing of non-hazardous waste such as solid waste through authorized waste pickers and recyclers. It should be the responsibility of industry to track their waste to ensure safe disposal/recycling.

For Public Works Department

- The PWD shall protect the water bodies in Chennai by means of fencing, CCTV or any other alternative means, so that illegal waste is not dumped along the banks of water bodies such as Coovum, Adyar river etc.

For Police Department

- The Police to effectively coordinate with Greater Chennai Corporation and Public Works Department in preventing illegal dumping of wastes, expedite investigation and promptly bring to book the violators.

A. N. Lavanya
RDO Chennai Central
Chennai

G. Tamil Selvan
Zonal Officer - Zone 7
Chennai Corporation, Ambattur

Dr. B. M. Senthil Kumar
Zonal Officer - Zone 8
Chennai Corporation, Anna Nagar

T. P. Jai Beam
Zonal Officer - Zone 10
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