

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

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 43 of 2017

Petitioner : The Tribunal on its own motion on the
Implementation of the Bio-Medical Waste
Management Rules, 2016 in Kerala

Versus

Respondent(s) : The State of Kerala & 7 Others

**REPORT FILED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
REGIONAL OFFICE, ERNAKULAM ON BEHALF OF THE KERALA
STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

Adv. Rema Smrithi.

ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE RESPONDENT:

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VOLUME 1

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Dated this the 17th day of February 2022

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**REPORT FILED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER ON
BEHALF OF KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

- 1) I, Mini Mary Sam, aged 54 years, W/o Ranjan Jacob, Environmental Engineer do here by submit that I am authorised to represent the Kerala State Pollution Control Board, and that I am conversant with the facts of the above case and I may state as follows.
- 2) The Board Officers had conducted inspection at IMAGE plant on 19.04.2021, 13.05.2021 and 05.07.2021. During inspections, it was noticed that back log of yellow bags of waste was stored there. Necessary directions were issued to IMAGE based on these inspections



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mini Mary Sam' with a stylized flourish.

Mini Mary Sam
Environmental Engineer(HG)

to clear the backlog. The copies of directions are attached as **Annexure 1 and 2.**

In the context of accumulation of waste at IMAGE plant and the underutilized running of KEIL plant, with the advice of the Govt. the Board issued order dated 13.08.2021 bifurcating area between the two service providers to be made effective from 01.09.2021. Board Officers conducted inspection at IMAGE plant on 25.11.2021 and it was noticed during inspection that backlog of BMW remained there and hence direction was issued to process the same within 30 days. Copy of the instruction is attached as **Annexure 3.**

A major fire incident happened at the IMAGE plant on 16.01.2022 and BMW accumulated in the storage area caught fire. The Board Officers reached the site within an hour of the incident and started ambient monitoring utilizing in-house facility. Assistance of NIIST has also been sought for assessment of dioxins and furans.

The report of the Environmental Engineer, District office, Palakkad regarding the fire incident is attached as **Annexure 4.** In the light of the findings notice has been issued to IMAGE. Copy of the notice is attached as **Annexure 5.** The study of risk assessment and the analysis of dioxin/furans by NIIST is progressing . The damage assessment will be done based on the report of NIIST.

It is submitted that IMAGE and Private Hospital Association have approached various courts including the Apex Court against the order




Mini Mary Sam
Environmental Engineer(HG)

dated 13.08.2021 of the Board . If IMAGE and the Hospital authorities had followed the order with effect from 01.09.2021, this accumulation of waste could have been avoided.

The details of average BMW collection and disposal quantity received through e mail from IMAGE and KEIL for the last one week is furnished below:

CBWTF	Avg COVID BMW TPD)	Avg Non-COVID BMW TPD	Total BMW disposed TPD	Consented capacity TPD
IMAGE	9.3	43	52.3	55.8
KEIL	1.7	6	7.7	16

From the above, it can be seen that the % utilization of IMAGE is 93% whereas that of KEIL is 48%.

It is submitted that the plant of KEIL is running with underutilized capacity. It is a submitted that more number of CBWTFs with minimum capacities especially at the southern and northern districts of the state is the urgent need of the hour for effective management of bio-medical waste.



Mini Mary Sam
Environmental Engineer(HG)



All that is stated above are true to the best of my knowledge information and belief.

Dated this 17th day of February 2022



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mini Mary Sam", written over two horizontal lines.

Environmental Engineer

Mini Mary Sam
Environmental Engineer(HG)