

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

**Original Application No. 230 of 2020 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion-  
SUO MOTU Based on the News item in Dinakaran  
Newspaper, E-Paper Chennai Edition dated 06.10.2020,  
“The Chembarambakkam Lake becoming garbage yard  
as effluents of different private Factories are being  
dumped in the lake : Villagers complain”

**-Vs-**

The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Public works Department,  
Chennai and others.

... Respondents

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Advocate for the Respondent: TNPCB  
Tr. S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai



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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> RESPONDENT  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, D/o. Jesu Rajan, Christian, aged about 56 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-32, and I am filing this Report on behalf of the 6<sup>th</sup> Respondent, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case as per the records.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in its order dated 28.05.2021 directed as follows:-

*"...para 4. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has filed a report dated 12.03.2021 e-filed on 22.03.2021 received on 23.03.2021 wherein, they have stated that they conducted the Ambient Air Quality test in the disputed area of Katrambakkam Village and also taken water samples from the*

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*Chembarambakkam Lake in those areas and in analysis, it was found that water quality is conforming with the standard prescribed by the Board and the ambient air quality is also within the parameters prescribed.*

*Para 5. They have not mentioned anything about the allegations regarding the dumping of waste or discharge of untreated effluents into the lake and what is the present status of the Chembarambakkam lake in that area and also the things directed to be considered by them in the previous order regarding the manner in which the industrial estate people are disposing their waste generated within the industrial area”.*

3. It is respectfully submitted that the SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Irunkattukottai is located at eastern side of Chennai-Bangalore National Highway. The SIPCOT area comes under Irunkattukottai, Thandalam and Katrampakkam villages, Sriperumpudur taluk, Kancheepuram District. The SIPCOT is surrounded by Thandalam Eri, Keevalur Eri, Keevalur habitation and Catchment of Sembarambakkam on Northern side, Irunkattukottai and Katrampakkam habitations on Southern side, Chembarambakkam Eri on Eastern side and Chennai-Bangalore National Highway on western side. The SIPCOT is in existence since 1997. The total extent of the SIPCOT is 515.727 hectares. At present, there are 246 Nos of industrial plots/sheds housed in the SIPCOT.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the main type of industries located in the SIPCOT is Automobile manufacturing, Metal surface treatment units, Automobile spare part units and Engineering units. All the trade effluent generating industries have installed full-fledged Effluent Treatment Plant. The treated trade effluent is either utilized for gardening within the premises or recycled for their uses. The SIPCOT has provided storm water drain disposal facility and the storm water reaches nearby Thandalam Eri and Keevalur Eri through the culvert located opposite to Hyundai Motors Ltd. During very heavy rain, the overflow from the Thandalam Eri and Keevalur Eri may reaches water shed area of

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Sembarambakkam Eri. But, there is no possibility of trade effluent from the industries located in SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Irunkattukottai reaching the Eri.

5. It is also respectfully submitted that all type of non hazardous solid wastes generated from the industries located in the SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Irunkattukottai are disposed through the recyclers for further beneficial purposes. Also, all the hazardous solid wastes generated from the industries are disposed through the TNPCB authorized facility for further recycling / Incineration / landfill.

6. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in order dated 29.06.2021 has reported the following:

*"....para 8. They have not mentioned anything about the presence of Total Coliform and Ecoli in the report so as to ascertain as to whether there is any discharge of sullage/sewage water into the lake as alleged in the newspaper report. They have also not mentioned anything about the manner in which the sewage/trade effluents in the industrial area nearby is being managed by the industries so as to ascertain as to whether there was any possibility of discharge of untreated trade effluents into the lake as alleged in the newspaper report".*

7. It is respectfully submitted that, water samples were collected from the Chembarambakkam lake in two locations on 22.07.2021 and analyzed through Advanced Environmental Laboratory, TNPCB, Chennai. Report of Analysis of the sample reveals that the parameters of Total coliforms, pH, Dissolved oxygen and BOD satisfy the standards prescribed by the CPCB for drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is regularly monitoring the industries located in the SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Irunkattukottai in due compliance with the waste water management and the solid waste management at all times.

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9. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in order dated 20.09.2021 has reported the following :

*"10. It is quite unfortunate that the matter was admitted on 20.10.2020 and the committee has been appointed to go into the question and submit a report. Except the Pollution Control Board filed some report earlier, neither the committee members nor the official respondents have filed any statements regarding the allegations made in the newspaper report and the steps taken by them which they are expected to take. The committee has also not submit the report, though substantial environment issues have been raised and most of the members of the committee are expected to take steps to protect the water body against pollution and encroachment, in spite of that they have not taken pro active steps to file the report despite several opportunities given.*

*11. However, we feel that one more opportunity can be given to the committee to submit the report, failing which, the members will be bound to appear before this Tribunal to answer as to why action should not be taken against them for non-compliance of the directions issued by this Tribunal as contemplated under Section 25 & 28 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.*

*13. The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the members of the committee, official respondents including the Principal Secretary for Environment, Additional Chief Secretary for PWD, WRD and also to the Principal Secretary for Industries Department by e-mail immediately for their information and giving direction to the authorities to comply with the direction so as to avoid coercive steps being taken by this Tribunal".*

10. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 23.09.2021 directed the Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department to take action on the issue of leakage of water through the gates of Poondi lake and also to check the pollution of Chembarambakkam lake water from the discharge of sewage water from nearby villages and industrial waste water

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discharge based on the news flashed in the Dinamalar dt 23-09-2021 under the caption "order to submit Joint Committee Report regarding disposal of sewage into the Chembarambakkam Eri".

The Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu along with Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, Chief Engineer, Chennai Region and other officials made an inspection to Puzhal, Poondi and Chembarambakkam Reservoirs on 24.09.2021. During the inspection of Chief Secretary, Collectors of Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram were also present.

Based on Hon'ble Chief Minister instructions, the Chief Engineer(WRD), Superintending Engineer(WRD) and Executive Engineer (WRD) inspected the Chembarambakkam lake on 27.09.2021 and recommended the following action:

- Keevalur and Thandalam Panchayat of Sriperumbudur Taluk should immediately construct the underground sewage system with STP.
- Keevalur and Thandalam Panchayat of Sriperumbudur Taluk should adhere the Solid Waste Management Rules to process the generation of solid waste.
- The SIPCOT Unit II, Kattarambakkam panchayat should take the stringent action against erring industries through TNPCB.
- The CCTV cameras have to be installed by SIPCOT at vulnerable places to catch the illegal decanting of sewage water into the drain by lorries and should take appropriate action against lorries

11. It is further respectfully submitted that based on the above recommendation, inspection was carried out by the TNPCB officials on 04.10.2021 and 05.10.2021 and observed that:

- As per the Hon'ble NGT[SZ] order dated 20-09-2021, the Joint Committee comprising of C.E., [O&M], CMWSSB, S.E., PWD[WRD], Technical Consultant [SIPCOT] and TNPCB officials have inspected the Chembarambakkam eri and its periphery to identify the inlet sources.

  
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During inspection, storm water drain from Irunkattukottai SIPCOT reaches Chembarambakkam lake crossing through Katarambakkam village was noticed. Water flow was observed in the said storm water drain and sample was collected behind the unit of M/s Nikita Containers pvt ltd, Plot No. F2 & F7 SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irunkattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk and at Storm water drain, Keevalur Panchayat nearby FDI college and sent for analysis. However, there was no flow observed at the entry of Chembarambakkam lake at the time of inspection. Also TNPCB has already submitted individual report to the Hon'ble NGT [SZ], Chennai.

- Further, show cause notice under Water Act was issued vide proc. dated 27-09-2021 to the following three units based on the letter dated 23-09-2021 received from Project Officer., SIPCOT, Irunkattukottai stating that the units are letting out waste water into storm water drain.
  - a) M/s Nikita Containers Pvt Ltd, Plot No. F2 & F7 SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irunkattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District
  - b) M/s Polyhose India Rubber Pvt Ltd, Plot No. F37-42 & F50-55, SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irunkattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk , Kancheepuram District
  - c) M/s TGI Packaging Pvt Ltd, Plot No. F44 and 45 SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irunkattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk., Kancheepuram District
- Further there is no other industrial outlet found by the committee leading to the Chembarambakkam lake.

The SIPCOT storm water drain as well as the above said three industries were again inspected on 04-10-2021 and 5-10-2021 by the TNPCB officials and it was observed that :

**A. M/s Nikita Containers pvt ltd, Plot No. F2 & F7 SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irunkattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District**

- Consent was issued and latest renewal issued valid upto 31-03-2022.

  
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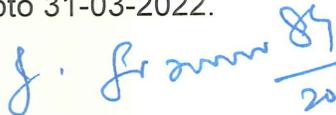
- Consented sewage generation is 4 KLD and permit to dispose into the septic tank followed by soak pit.
- Consented Trade effluent generation is 9 KLD and provided ETP, RO [single stage], Mechanical Evaporator [single stage] followed by SEP so as to achieve ZLD.
- Storm water drain inside the premises is now blocked so as to stop the discharge of storm water into the SIPCOT storm water drain.
- The unit has to provide adequate nos. of rainwater harvesting pits so as to recharge ground water and to avoid any surface runoff into the SIPCOT storm water drain

**B. M/s Polyhose India Rubber Pvt Ltd, Plot No. F37-42 & F50-55, SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irunkattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District**

- Consent was issued and latest renewal issued valid upto 31-03-2020.
- Consented sewage generation is 5.5 KLD and STP provided, treated sewage is utilized for gardening. The unit has to apply for expansion for increase in generation [15 KLD] of sewage.
- Consented trade effluent [BBD] generation is 0.05 KLD and discharged into solar evaporation pan. The unit has to apply for expansion for increase in generation of trade effluent [2KLD]
- Storm water drain inside the premises is now blocked so as to stop the discharge of storm water into the SIPCOT storm water drain.
- The unit has to provide adequate no. of rainwater harvesting pits so as to avoid any surface runoff into the SIPCOT storm water drain.

**C. M/s TGI Packaging Pvt Ltd, Plot No. F44 and 45 SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irunkattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District**

- Consent was issued and renewal issued valid upto 31-03-2022.

  
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- Consented sewage generation is 3.6 KLD and disposed into the septic tank followed by soak pit.
- Consented trade effluent generation is 0.6 KLD which is recycling.
- Storm water drain inside the premises is now blocked so as to stop the discharge of storm water into the SIPCOT storm water drain.
- The unit has to provide adequate no. of rainwater harvesting pits so as to avoid any surface runoff into the SIPCOT storm water drain.

12. It is respectfully submitted that the report of analysis of the samples collected at the SIPCOT drain at End, 7<sup>th</sup> main road, Kattrambakkam/untreated and Keevalur panchayat storm water drain – nearby FDI college / untreated received from the Advanced Environmental Laboratory, TNPCB for the sample collected on 23-09-2021 during joint committee inspection revealed that

- All the parameters are satisfying the standards prescribed for the disposal of trade effluent into the inland surface water standards.
- Parameters such as TSS and BOD are exceeding the treated sewage standards in the sample collected at SIPCOT drain at End, 7<sup>th</sup> main road, Kattrambakkam /untreated which is may be due to the disposal of untreated sullage from Kattarambakkam village within the jurisdiction of Sriperumbudur Panchayat Union and also due to the disposal of sewage through private tanker lorries.

13. It is respectfully submitted that sediments sample has also been collected from the Chembarambakkam Eri and sent for analysis and samples for the above said location will be collected after 15 days so to assess the quality of surface water. During inspection on 04-10-2021 and 05-10-2021, there is no discharge of sewage and trade effluent into the storm water drain noticed.

  
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14. It is respectfully submitted that the DEE, Sriperumbudur issued Show Cause notices vide Proc. dt. 28.09.2021 under Water Act to the Special Officer/Panchayat Secretaries of Village Panchayats in Sriperumbudur Panchayat Union namely (1) Keevalur Village Panchayat (2) Thandalam Village Panchayat, (3) Kattrambakkam Village Panchayat, (4) Irungattukottai Village Panchayat and (5) Mevalurkuppam Village Panchayat for the following violations:

- Un-segregated municipal solid waste including plastics generated in and around the Village Panchayat in Sriperumbudur Panchayat Union area were disposed on State Highways and other open area within the Panchayat limits in haphazard manner without following the said rules thereby polluting the soil/groundwater/surface water and also creating nuisance to the localities.
- There is no sewage treatment plant found to be operation in the Village Panchayat in Sriperumbudur Panchayat Union area for the treatment and disposal of sewage generated.
- The sewage from the septic tank of individual house disposed through private sewage tanker lorry and discharged in nearby lowlying area/water bodies, streams and public storm water drain etc., and thereby polluting the soil/ground water/surface water and also creating nuisance to the localities.
- The Special officer/Panchayat Secretary of the Village Panchayat in Sriperumbudur Panchayat Union has not taken any effective steps to comply the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and continued to disposal of solid wastes and untreated sewage indiscriminate manner thereby leads to pollute to water bodies such as Chembarambakkam lake and other surrounding water bodies within the Village Panchayat limits.

  
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**TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,**  
**No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.**

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) at Chennai may be pleased to take this Report on Record and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

*J. Josephine Sahayarani*  
20/10/2024

**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
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BEFORE ME**

**VERIFICATION**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, D/o. Jesu Rajan, Working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-32, do hereby submit that the contents of the above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

*J. Josephine Sahayarani*  
20/10/2024

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POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB  
Thiru. Sai Sathyjith  
Advocate, Chennai.

Date: 22.10.2021

Date of Hearing: 15.11.2021

