

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 256 OF 2020 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion
Suo Motu based on the News Item in
News Desk Magazine dt. 11.11.2020,
Air Pollution and Industries, “These Six Industries in
North Chennai are polluting the air for more than half the Year”

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi and Ors.

... Respondent(s)

Interim Report of the Joint Committee in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 15.12.2020 in the matter of Original Application No. 256 of 2020 (SZ)

1. Hon'ble NGT Order dated 15-12-2020

The Hon'ble NGT, Southern Bench in the matter of Tribunal on its own motion-Suo Motu based on the news item in News Desk Magazine dated 11.11.2020, Air Pollution and Industries, "These Six Industries in North Chennai are polluting the air for more than half the year, the North Chennai Thermal Power Station alone Ennore Port." vs Union of India & Ors, OA No. 256 of 2020 (SZ) vide order dated 15-12-2020 has constituted a Joint Committee to inspect the unit in question and submit a factual and action taken report, if there is any violation is found. The directions of NGT are reproduced below:

"8. In order to ascertain the real state of affairs and also the genuineness of the allegations in the news paper report and also to take the remedial measures if such things are happening, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of 1) a Senior Officer from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Regional Office, Chennai, (2) a Senior Scientist from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Regional Office, Chennai (3), a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board as designated by its Chairman, (4) a Professor from Anna University of Environmental Engineering, Guindy, Chennai who is dealing with the Environmental related issues to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found".

"9. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, (MoEF &CC), Regional Office, Chennai will be the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing all necessary logistics for this purpose".

"10. The committee is directed to inspect the units in that area and ascertain as to whether the units are complying with the pollution norms and also complying with the conditions imposed while granting permission to establish such industries in that area by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) as the case may be and the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and if there is any violation, what is the action taken by the regulators, so as to make the erring industries to comply with the norms".

"11. They are also directed to assess the environmental compensation against the erring units as has been directed by the Principal Bench in several cases of this nature applying the guide line provided by the Central

Pollution Control Board (CPCB)”.

“12. They are also directed to conduct the Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) test, so as to ascertain the quality of air in that area and from the nature of pollutants available in the air trace out the sources of pollution and the persons responsible for the same and take appropriate legal action against those persons in accordance with law and submit a factual as well as action taken report”.

“13. The committee is also directed to ascertain as to whether the necessary pollution control mechanism are in operation efficiently in these existing units in that industrial area and if there is any improvement required, for the purpose of abating the air pollution that is likely to be caused on account of their activities, then suggest and recommend the nature of improvement to be done by each industry considering the nature of pollutants being released by them in the air to avoid such things in future”.

“14. The committee is also directed to ascertain the environment carrying capacity of the area as to whether any more such industries can be accommodated in that area, considering the nature of pollution load created on account of existing units”.

2. Joint Committee

The MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office (IRO), 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 the Joint Committee consists of the following members:

1.	Dr. R. Sridhar Scientist 'D' MoEFCC, Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Chennai
2.	Dr. Rajkumar Scientist 'D' Regional Directorate, CPCB, Chennai.
3.	Shri M. Malayandi Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (Monitoring) Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-600 032
4.	Professor, Dr. S. Kanmani Director Centre for Environmental Studies Anna University, Chennai

3. Report Status

The Joint Committee conducted site inspections in all six industries [North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) Stage 1, NTECL Vallur Power Plant, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), Tamil Nadu

Petroproducts Limited (TPL), Manali Petrochemicals Limited (MPL) and Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)] on 28-29 January 2021 and 2-3 February 2021.

Further, The Joint Committee had earlier filed an interim report stating that status of the task completed by the Joint Committee and remaining task to be undertaken. It was also informed by the Joint Committee that monitoring schedule was temporarily halted during lockdown period and required two months time to complete the remaining task of the Committee and for submitting the final report. Thereafter, vide order dated 05-07-2021, the Hon'ble NGT has granted further time to the Committee to submit a report on or before 26-08-2021.

The Joint Committee in its meeting held on 20-7-2021 and 13-08-2021 reviewed the studies on environmental monitoring (Ambient Air Quality and Stack emission) and dispersion modelling in five industries. The following reports for five industries have been completed and reports are being further reviewed by the Joint Committee for final submission to the Hon'ble Tribunal:

Sl.No.	Industry	Detailed Study Report completed
1	CPCL	Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Manali, Chennai
2	MFL	Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s Madras Fertilizers Limited, Manali, Chennai.
3	MPL	Plant 1: Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s Manali Petrochemical Ltd unit-1, Manali, Chennai
4	MPL	Plant 2: Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s Manali Petrochemical Ltd unit-1, Manali, Chennai
5	NTECL	Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s. NTECL, Athipattu Pudhunagar, Chennai.
6	TPL	ECH – PO Plant: Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s. Tamilnadu Petroproducts Limited – Lab Division, Manali, Chennai.
7	TPL	LAB Plant: Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s. Tamilnadu Petroproducts Limited – Lab Division, Manali, Chennai.
8	TPL	HCD Division: Report on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at M/s. Tamilnadu

4. **Prayer:**

In view of huge quantum of work involved in preparation of final study reports along with Conclusions & Recommendations for all individual industries and to carry out the following remaining two tasks, it is respectfully requested to the Hon'ble Tribunal to grant an additional time of **six weeks** for the Joint Committee:

- 1) **NCTPS:** Study on Air Pollution Monitoring and Source Dispersion Modelling at North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) Stage 1 and Stage 2. (Analysis is under progress)
- 2) **Manali carrying capacity:** A Comprehensive AAQ monitoring in and around Manali industrial area to check the present ambient air quality concentrations against the calculated assimilative capacity has to be conducted for Manali carrying capacity. Further, to calculate cumulative air pollution load and dispersion, Line source load to the ambient atmosphere, GLC, assimilative capacity, cumulative Manali industries emission load and dispersion to be carried out. (AAQ for Manali Area, the locations were finalized with Manali Industry Association and sampling is under progress)

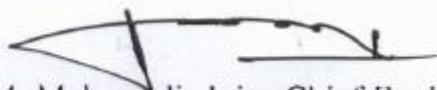
By considering the above facts and observation of the Joint Committee, the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate Order (s)/Direction (s) as deemed fit.



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