





Status Report of the Joint Committee in the matter of O A No. 43 of 2019

**STATUS REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE AS PER THE DIRECTION OF HONOURABLE NGT (SOUTHERN ZONE) ORDER DATED OCTOBER 9, 2020 IN THE MATTER OF O. A. NO. 43 OF 2019 TITLED P. MADHUSUDAN REDDY Vs. STATE OF TELANGANA & ORS.**

**1.0 Background**

In compliance with the order dated November 15, 2019 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone), Chennai in the Original Application No. 43 of 2019 (SZ), a Joint Committee was constituted, the Committee inspected the industries in question and submitted its report to the Hon'ble Tribunal on January 6, 2020. In the said report, the Joint Committee submitted their observations, conclusions and recommendations in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Committee referred therein the order dated November 15, 2019. Hon'ble NGT after examining the Joint Committee report, an order dated January 7, 2020 was passed in the above matter, wherein it was directed Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) to submit the detailed action taken report on the basis of observations & recommendations made by the Joint Committee in respect of erring industries including imposing of environmental compensation and to take required remedial measure for the restoration of contaminated soil and submit the ATR within two months.

TSPCB submitted status report on the action taken based on the recommendations of the Joint Committee and also imposed environmental compensations to the 17 cotton ginning & delinting industries on October 06, 2020. The NGT on reviewing the status report of TSPCB, issued directions in its order dated October 9, 2020 as:

*".....The Joint Committee as well as the Pollution Control Board is directed to submit a further status of the proceedings initiate for recovery of environmental compensation as mentioned in their present report dated 6.10.2020 & also the status of the ETPs of the units who are having their own ETPs and submit a further report to this Tribunal on or before 10.11.2020....."*

**2.0 Inspection of Joint Committee**

In compliance with the order dated October 9, 2020 of Hon'ble NGT, Chennai, the joint committee inspected 13 cotton delinting units in Gadwal & Ieeza town on January 11, 2021

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comprising the following Joint Committee members along with the Officials from TSPCB, RO Hyderabad:

- i. Sh. V. Ramulu, Revenue Divisional Officer, Jogulamba Gadwal District
- ii. Smt. Poornima B M, Scientist 'D', Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Chennai.
- iii. Sh. B. Rajender, Environmental Engineer, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Regional Officer, Nalgonda.

**3.0 Status of recovering environmental compensation from erring industries**

As per the directions of Hon'ble NGT order dated January 7, 2020; TSPCB calculated environmental compensation for the erring industries based on the inspections conducted & directions issued by TSPCB and joint committee report dated January 6, 2020. Industries requested TSPCB for the exemption of days when the units were not in operations, as the units are operated seasonally during November to March every year.

TSPCB considered industries request and calculated EC as given table 1, and directions were issued vide order no. MHB-157/TSPCB/U-V/TF/2020 dated 3/10/2020 to industries to remit EC within one week's time. Out of 17 units only seven units have remitted partially whereas remaining ten units have not deposited any amount towards EC.

**Table 1: Status of EC remitted by Industries**

S No.	Name	Environmental Compensation levied by TSPCB in Rupees	Amount paid by industries in Rupees	Balance amount to be paid in Rupees
1	M/s Sree Ramya Industries, Sy. No. 244/KA, KA(PAIKI), KHA, Mellacheruvu (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba District	12,56,250	5,00,000	7,56,250
2	M/s Sri Sai Hybrid Cotton Seeds Processing Industries, Sy No: 186/jna2, 186/jna1/1, Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Gadwal District	5,06,250	Not paid	5,06,250

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3	M/s YSR Seed Processing Plant, Sy No. 221/KA, Ieeja Road, Gadwal (V &M), Jogulamba District	10,68,750	2,00,000	8,68,750
4	M/s Sri Laxmi Venkateshwara Seed Processing Unit, Sy.no.184 & 185, Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba District	10,81,250	2,00,000	8,81,250
5	M/s Sree Laxmi Srinivasa Ginning Mill, Sy. No. 132 & 149, Paramala (GP), Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba District	5,06,250	Not paid	5,06,250
6	M/s Sree Manikanta Seed Processing Industries, Sy No: 184/KHA, Meelacheruvu, Jogulamba District	12,56,250	Not paid	12,56,250
7	M/s Sri Lakshmi Venkataramana Ginning & Processing Unit, Sy. No: 170/k, Ieeja Road at Gadwal Jogulamba District	12,56,250	Not paid	12,56,250
8	M/s N.A.K.R. Processing Unit, S.No.174/KA, 175/5, Parumala (V), Ieeja Road, Gadwal (M),Jogulamba District	10,68,750	Not paid	10,68,750
9	M/s Sri Venkateshwara Ginning and Seed Processing Plant, Sy. No. 840, D.No.7-7-971/B, Ieeja Road, Gadwal (V&M), Jogulamba District	8,75,000	Not paid	8,75,000
10	M/s Sri Ayyappa Swamy Cotton Ginning Mill, Sy.No:858/Aa, Near Milk Cooling Centre, Gadwal, Jogulamba Gadwal Dist.	12,56,250	Not paid	12,56,250
11	M/s Aparna Cotton Traders , sy-no: 192/ka/2, 192/ka/5, 192/ka/6, Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba Gadwal District	5,06,250	1,50,000	3,56,250

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12	M/s Sri Venkateswara Cotton Ginning & Processing Unit, Kista Reddy Bangla, Godowns Bearing No.3-1-1, Gadwal (M), Jogulamba Gadwal District	7,56,250	Not paid	7,56,250
13	M/s Nageswar Reddy and others cotton Seed Ginning Mill, Ieeja Town (Sai Laxmi Venkateshwara Processing Unit, Sy.No.894/B, Medikonda Road, Ieeja (V&M), Jogulamba Gadwal Dist.)	10,68,750	5,00,000	5,68,750
14	M/s Sri Sai Ram Ginning and Processing Unit, Sy.no.891/A, 891/B, Ieeza (V & M), Jogulamba District	5,06,250	2,50,000	2,56,250
15	M/s Sree Balaji Ginning Mill, Sy No: 888/b2, Ieeja(V & M ), Jogulamba Gadwal Dist,509127	10,68,750	Not paid	10,68,750
16	M/s Vigneshwara Agritech (formerly Sri Laxmiprasanna Ginning Mill,) Sy. No 911, Near Bharath Petrol Bunk Ieeja Chowrastha, Ieeja (V & M ), Jogulamba Gadwal Dist.	7,00,000	Not paid	7,00,000
17	M/s Image Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Sy.No.412/A/2, Vemula (V), Itikyal (M), Mahaboobnagar Dist.	5,06,250	2,50,000	2,56,250

4.0 Status of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) in Industries

The status of construction of ETPs by the 15 cotton ginning and seed processing units in Jogulamba Gadwal district (delinting) is depicted in table 2. Except two units (M/s Sri Ayyappa Swamy Cotton Ginning Mill and M/s Image Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd.) all other units have constructed ETP and also verified its operation conducting trail run. M/s Sri Ayyappa Swamy Cotton Ginning Mill, Gadwal informed that in future only cotton ginning process will

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be carried out and have dismantled all the equipments required for cotton seed processing. It was also informed that the unit will obtain consent for operate (CFO) from TSPCB only for Cotton ginning process.

M/s Image Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Itikyal (M), Mahaboobnagar Dist. has not constructed ETP, however the equipments are in place. The unit has obtained amendment of CFO to treat effluent in their own ETP from TSPCB on December 7, 2020. On the day of joint committee inspection, the unit was not in operation due to non-availability of raw material.

TSPCB has issued amended CFO for 10 cotton ginning and seed processing units to operate & treat effluent generated in their own ETP and for three units additional information were sought for issue of amended CFOs.

*Table 2: Status of ETP construction & issue of CFO amendment*

S No.	Name	ETP construction Status	CFO amendment issued for operation of unit & ETP
1	M/s Sree Ramya Industries, Sy. No. 244/KA, KA(PAIKI), KHA, Mellacheruvu (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	16.10.2020
2	M/s Sri Sai Hybrid Cotton Seeds Processing Industries, Sy No: 186/jna2, 186/jna1/1, Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Gadwal District	ETP constructed	Amendment of CFO applied on 26.09.2020 and the TSPCB Regional Officer, Hyderabad has sought some information.
3	M/s YSR Seed Processing Plant, Sy No. 221/KA, Ieeja Road, Gadwal (V &M), Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	13.10.2020
4	M/s Sri Laxmi Venkateshwara Seed Processing Unit, Sy.no.184 & 185, Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	The Zonal office has sought information for issue amendment of CFO on 19.12.2019.

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5	M/s Sree Laxmi Srinivasa Ginning Mill, Sy. No. 132 & 149, Paramala (GP), Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	21.10.2020
6	M/s Sree Manikanta Seed Processing Industries, Sy No: 184/KHA, Meelacheruvu, Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	The Zonal office has sought information for issue amendment of CFO on 19.12.2019.
7	M/s Sri Lakshmi Venkataramana Ginning & Processing Unit, Sy. No: 170/k, Ieeja Road at Gadwal Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	Not applied for amendment
8	M/s N.A.K.R. Processing Unit, S.No.174/KA, 175/5, Parumala (V), Ieeja Road, Gadwal (M), Jogulamba Gadwal District	ETP constructed	16.10.2020
9	M/s Sri Venkateshwara Ginning and Seed Processing Plant, Sy. No. 840, D.No.7-7-971/B, Ieeja Road, Gadwal (V&M), Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	21.10.2020
10	M/s Sri Ayyappa Swamy Cotton Ginning Mill, Sy.No:858/Aa, Near Milk Cooling Centre, Gadwal, Jogulamba Gadwal Dist.	Not constructed	Not applied for amendment
11	M/s Aparna Cotton Traders, Sy. No: 192/ka/2, 192/ka/5, 192/ka/6 , Paramala (GP), Paramala (V), Gadwal (M), Jogulamba Gadwal District	ETP constructed	21.10.2020

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12	M/s Nagcswar Reddy and others cotton Seed Ginning Mill, Ieeja Town (Sai Laxmi Venkateshwara Processing Unit, Sy.No.894/B, Medikonda Road, Ieeja (V&M), Jogulamba Gadwal Dist.)	ETP constructed	16.10.2020
13	M/s Sri Sai Ram Ginning and Processing Unit.,Sy.no.891/A, 891/B, Ieeza (V & M), Jogulamba District	ETP constructed	13.11.2020
14	M/s Sree Balaji Ginning Mill, Sy No: 888/b2, Ieeja(V & M ), Jogulamba Gadwal Dist,	ETP constructed	12.01.2021
15	M/s Image Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Sy.No.412/A/2, Vemula (V), Itikyal (M), Mahaboobnagar Dist.	Not constructed ETP	07.12.2020

**5.0 Observations of the Joint Committee**

- i. The joint committee inspected all the 15 cotton ginning and seed processing units at Gadwal & Ieeza Taluk, Jogulamba Gadwal district. On the day of inspection, except M/s Sree Ramya Industries none of the units were operational.
- ii. It was informed by the unit members that due to non-availability of cotton seed (raw material), the units were not operational. Hence the operational status of ETP of the units except M/s Sree Ramya industries could not be verified by joint committee.
- iii. M/s Sree Ramya industries started its operation from November, 2020 and has CFO to process Cotton Ginning of 20,000 bales/year and Cotton Seed Processing (de-linting) of 300 T/Annum. The unit has four reactors for de-linting process and effluent generated is carried through pipeline to collection tank of ETP which was behind the unit.
- iv. The unit has constructed ETP outside the unit compound, the ETP consists of two Collection tanks of 2x 20 KL, neutralization tank of 15KL, primary settling tank of 20

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KL, aeration tank of 15 KL and filter feed tank of 2 KL capacity, 3 no. of sludge drying beds, dual media filter followed by softener.

- v. During inspection, the unit was operational at 2 tonnes/day and generating 2 KL of acidic effluent. To check the performance evaluation of the ETP, the sample from each unit of the ETP was collected and analysed for the parameters prescribed by TSPCB in the amended CFO. The sample collected was analysed at TSPCB, Central Laboratory, Hyderabad and the results are depicted in table 3.

Table 3: Analysis results of ETP collected from M/s Sree Ramya industries

S. No.	Parameters	Collection tank (inlet of ETP)	Outlet of neutralization tank	Outlet of settling tank	Outlet of aeration tank	Final treated effluent	Prescribed Standard by TSPCB as per amendment CFO
1	pH	1.74	10.80	5.88	8.36	8.17	5.5 - 9.0
2	TSS, mg/L	1062	211	416	408	192	200
3	TDS, mg/L	8270	4135	2236	2012	1200	-
4	COD, mg/L	7595	3600	2088	604	190	-
5	BOD, mg/L	-	-	-	-	26	30
6	Oil & grease	-	-	-	-	Nil	10

- vi. From the analysis results though it shows that values of consented parameters are meeting the prescribed standard given by TSPCB, the installed ETP is not suitable for treating the High TDS effluent and indicates that heavy dilution of effluent with fresh water to achieve prescribed standards.
- vii. As mentioned in the earlier report of the joint committee dated January 6, 2020; softener is suitable to treat hardness and not TDS. The softener will remove only  $Ca^{++}$  &  $Mg^{++}$  ions and will add  $Na^{++}$  and thus increase sodium in the final treated water. Sodium is much dangerous than calcium & magnesium for the plant growth and suggested to adopt any best suitable method.
- viii. During inspection, it was observed that the softener was not being replaced and continuing to treat the high-TDS.

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**6.0 Concluding remarks of the Joint Committee**

- i. TSPCB calculated EC for the 17 cotton ginning and cotton seed processing industries and issued directions to industries dated October 3, 2020 to remit EC within one week time. Out of 17 units only 7 industries have remitted EC as per the table 1 and remaining 10 units have not deposited any EC amount.
- ii. Out of 15 cotton seed processing units except two units all the units have constructed ETP and completed trial run. One unit (M/s Sri Ayyappa Swamy Cotton Ginning Mill) has dismantled the cotton seed processing equipment's and informed that in future only cotton ginning process will be carried out and also applying for modified CFO.
- iii. 13 cotton seed processing units applied for amendment of CFO and TSPCB has issued amended CFO for 10 units and sought additional information for the remaining three units.
- iv. During joint committee inspection, except M/s Sree Ramya Industries all other cotton seed processing units (13) were not operational. Hence the joint committee could not verify the operational status and performance evaluation of ETP.
- v. The effluent treatment plants constructed by the industries are not suitable to treat the High TDS (HTDS) effluent. Hence the industries may adopt any best suitable treatment system for treating HTDS effluent in consultation with TSPCB.
- vi. As suggested in the earlier joint committee report, the industries have not initiated any steps to replace softener and to rectify the treatment system. The industries are using same ETP as earlier without any modifications.

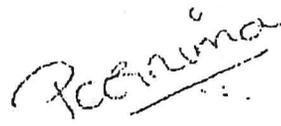
**7.0 Recommendations / Suggestions**

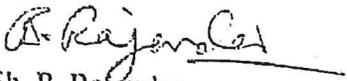
- i. Hon'ble NGT may give directions to industries to remit the entire amount of environmental compensations within 15 days or as per the Hon'ble NGT order dated December 6, 2018 in case of O A No. 125 of 2017 directed that a delay for payment of EC an interest @12% shall be payable.
- ii. M/s Image Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Itikyal (M), Mahaboobnagar Dist. shall not operate the unit till the construction of ETP is completed and environmental compensation is remitted.

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Signature of Committee Members:

  
Sh. V. Ramulu  
Revenue Divisional Officer  
Jogulamba Gadwal District

  
Smt. Poornima B M  
Scientist D  
Central Pollution Control Board  
Regional Directorate, Chennai

  
Sh. B. Rajender  
Environmental Engineer  
Telangana State Pollution Control Board  
Regional Officer, Nalgonda

**Item No.8:**

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

**Original Application No.43 of 2019 (SZ)**

*(Through Video Conference)*

IN THE MATTER OF:

P. Madhusudhan Reddy  
Godawari District, Telangana.

...Applicant(s)

*Versus*

State of Telangana  
Rep. by its Secretary,  
Secretariat, Hyderabad & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 09.10.2020.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. RAMAKRISHNAN, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE MR. SAIBAL DASGUPTA, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s):

Sri. Sravan Kumar.

For Respondent(s):

M/s. Renuga represented

Smt. H. Yasmeen Ali for R1, R3 & R4.

Sri. B. Lakshmi Narasimhan represented

Sri. T. Saikrishnan for R2.

Sri. K.S. Viswanathan represented

Sri. R. Gangadharan for R5 to R13, R19 to R21 &  
R25 to R27.

ORDER

1. When the matter came up for hearing today through Video Conference, M/s. Renuga represented Smt. H. Yasmeen Ali, the learned counsel appearing for respondents 1, 3 & 4 and Sri. K.S. Viswanathan represented Sri. R. Gangadharan, the learned counsel who proposed to appear for respondents 5 to 13, 16, 19 to 21, 25 to 27 whom notice has not been issued by this Tribunal so far.
2. M/s. Renuga, the learned counsel submitted that due to some technical difficulties, Sri. Sravan Kumar, counsel for the applicant and Sri. T. Saikrishnan, counsel for 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent are not able to attend the hearing through Video Conference. Since, the applicant could not appear due to technical difficulties though, he was trying for the same, we feel that the matter has to be adjourned to a further date.
3. We have received the action taken report dated 06.10.2020 submitted by the Telangana State Pollution Control Board.
4. The learned counsel appearing for the proposed parties submitted that the Pollution Control Board is not permitting the function of the ETP's by the persons who are having their own ETP's and they are not considering the application submitted for Consent to Operate or even in cases where consent has been granted, they are not permitting those ETP's to function as well citing the orders of this Tribunal.

5. It may be mentioned here that we have not directed the Pollution Control Board not to permit the functioning of the ETP's, if they are having all necessary consent as provided under the Environmental laws. We have also mentioned in the earlier order that on the basis of the earlier reports submitted that since none of these units are having Consent to Operate in respect of ETP's the validity period of which are expired, so we directed them to impose environmental compensation for the violation committed by the units in accordance with law. If permissions have been granted or consent have been obtained for operation of ETP's in accordance with law and the ETP's are functional meeting the norms, then it is for the Pollution Control Board to examine the same and permit the units to use the ETP's if it is satisfying the norms.
6. Nothing was mentioned about the operational part of the ETP's in the present report as well. So, the Pollution Control Board is directed to submit a further report as to whether the units which are having their own ETP's have obtained necessary consent and whether they are meeting the norms and if so, they are directed to pass appropriate orders permitting them to operate ETP's who are conforming to the norms in accordance with law.
7. The Joint Committee as well as the Pollution Control Board is directed to submit a further status of the proceedings initiated for recovery of

environmental compensation as mentioned in their present report dated 06.10.2020 and also the status of the ETP's of the units who are having their own ETP's and submit a further report to this Tribunal on or before 10.11.2020 by e-filing along with necessary hardcopies to be produced as per Rules.

8. For consideration of further report and objections, if any, to the action taken report submitted by the Pollution Control Board, post on 10.11.2020.

.....J.M.  
(Justice K. Ramakrishnan)

.....E.M.  
(Shri. Saibal Dasgupta)

O.A. No.43/21019,  
09<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. Mn.

