

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

**O.A.No.71 of 2021 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based  
On the News item in the New Indian Express  
Newspaper, Dated 10.02.2021, "Oil leak from  
titanium factory hits Thiruvananthapuram  
coast, public barred from affected stretch".  
News item in the Hindu, dated: 10.02.2021,  
"Furnace oil from Titanium Factory spills into sea".  
News item in Mathrubhumi, English Edition Dated  
10.02.2021, " Glass furnace pipe bursts at Titanium  
factory in TVM, oil leaked to sea"

...Applicant

Versus

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram  
and others

...Respondents

**STATUS REPORT ON THE ACTION TAKEN BY KCZMA**

Dated 19.02.2022

**Through  
Ms.Rema Smrithi VK  
Standing Counsel for KCZMA  
9445782946**

**Status Report on the action taken by KCZMA in O.A.No.71/2021 of  
Hon'ble NGT (SZ) Chennai regarding the oil leakage from Travancore  
Titanium**

The Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 17.02.2021, constituted a Joint Committee comprising of **(1)The District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram District, (2) a Senior Scientist from Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), (3) a Senior Officer from Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA), (4) a Senior Scientist from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Regional Office, Bangalore and (5) a Senior Scientist from 5 National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai** to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report including imposition of environmental compensation and the remedial measures for restoring the damage caused to marine ecology and the extent of oil spill in the sea, the nature of damage caused to the aquatic and marine life and the remedial measures to restore the same to its original position and also to assess the environmental compensation, if there is any violation found in carrying out the operation by the 10<sup>th</sup> respondent and whether they are having all safety measures and complying with the conditions imposed in the permissions and consent that has been obtained for this purpose and whether proper maintenance is being done by them and if further improvement is required, suggest the improvement which they will have to carry out for the purpose for avoiding such things happening in future.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Regional Office, Bangalore is the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.

The Chief Secretary directed the Secretary, Environment Department to call for a meeting of all respondents by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March 2021 to assess the situation and to learn the views of all Stakeholders.

The Chief Secretary also authorized the Secretary, Environment Department to coordinate and give necessary assistance to the committee members for carrying out their work in an effective manner and submit the report before the Tribunal. Vide Letter No.TTP/MD/GOVT/67/2021 dated 15.03.2021, Travancore Titanium Products Limited submitted the modified Action Taken Report.

The All India Performance Audit team on 'Conservation of Marine Ecosystem' conducted a Joint Physical verification on the factory premise of Travancore Titanium Products Limited (TTPL), Thiruvananthapuram and at the effluent discharge point of TTPL at Veli beach in Thiruvananthapuram on 07-07-2021. The Principal Accountant General, Audit has observed in the draft audit report that the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd, Thiruvananthapuram is situated within a radius of 500 m from the sea which falls under CRZ area and has not taken permission from KCZMA for the operation of the Phase II project. A report was called for from the Managing Director, Travancore Titanium Limited for not obtaining CRZ clearance/permission from KCZMA Vide letter dated 27.07.2021.

Vide letter No. TTPL/S&E/21/384 dated 10.09.2021 the Managing Director, Travancore Titanium Ltd. submitted a report that they have only Environmental Clearance for Phase -I of the Project. For phase II, the company has deferred the project due to lack of funds and hence they did not seek permission from KCZMA. The Company clarified that there was no major expansion of the production activities since 1975. The first CRZ Notification was issued on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1991.

The TTPL has not submitted an application to KCZMA for CRZ Clearance. The TTPL only assured that prior permission shall be taken from KCZMA for all construction/alteration work in the future.

The Audit memorandum regarding Environmental Clearance issued to TTPL and the explanation of TTPL was placed in the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting of KCZMA. And as per decision No.119.06.03 of 119<sup>th</sup> meeting of KCZMA, the Authority directed the Project Proponent to submit the application to KCZMA for obtaining CRZ clearance. Vide letter no. 1267/A2/2021/KCZMA dt.07.02.2022 the decision was conveyed to the Managing Director, Travancore Titanium Limited for further necessary action in this regard.

This may be brought to the notice of the Hon'ble NGT.

  
**Suneel Pamidi IFS**  
**Member Secretary KCZMA**

