

COMPLIANCE REPORT ON THE DIRECTIONS OF THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL IN O.A.No. 44/2021, ORDER DATED 03.03.2022.

In Sri Mariammal Fireworks located at Achankulam Village, Virudhunagar District blast occurred on 12.02.2021 at about 1.30 PM. In the said accident 27 persons died and 27 persons injured. Proceeding in the above matter was initiated on the basis of the media report on the said accident, by the Hon'ble National Tribunal Principal Bench, Delhi and formed an eight (8) member committee with an objective to visit the site and submit a report

Based on the above said committee report, order has been passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 11.06.2021 and 03.03.2022. In the said orders, remedial measures to prevent Accidents were suggested from SI No 1 to 18 under the chapter XIII and fixed responsibilities to various regulating authorities. In addition the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has directed the Director of Industrial Safety and Health to conduct study with the assistance of State Pollution Control Board & Central Pollution Control Board on carrying capacity of the Virudhunagar area to sustain the extent of the fire crackers manufacturing activity which lead to accidental and pose occupational and environmental hazards.

Consequently Director of Industrial Safety and Health had constituted a committee with the experts from Central Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization, Fire and Rescue Department, District Revenue Department and Expert in pyrotechnics for conducting the study. The Committee visited the firework factories at Virudhunagar and conducted the study. It was ascertained, by the Special Tahsildar, Virudhunagar district, that carrying capacity of the Virudhunagar area has not been fully saturated; rather still more barren lands are available in the revenue villages of Sivakasi and Virudhunagar Taluk to start new firework units for which No Objection Certificate will be issued by the District Magistrate. Once No Objection Certificate is issued, buildings of firework factories are constructed as per the Standards prescribed under the Indian Explosives Act 1884. Additionally, it was stated by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization that the latest amendment vide G.S.R 17 (E) dated 09.01.2019 made in the Explosives Rules, 2008 clearly mandates that **“Separation-distance between outer fencings of two fireworks factories shall be at least 200m”** and the same is strictly complied by the new factories which are approved after the amendment of the rules.

As per the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, dated 03.03.2022, the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu reviewed the remedial measures suggested by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 11.01.2023 with all stakeholders and suitable instructions were given by the Chief Secretary to Government. These instructions were circulated to the concerned regulating authorities for necessary compliance. Further, as directed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the State Government of Tamil Nadu have given necessary instructions to the District Collector to publish the substances of the order in local area in vernacular language for the information of the local inhabitants, vide this Government letter No.18452/M2/2022-5, dated 14.03.2023. The same has been published in Tamil daily namely, Dinamalar, dated 30.03.2023.

V. IRAI ANBU
CHIEF SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU