

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

Original Application No. 15 of 2021 (SZ)

SUO MOTU Based on the News
item in the Hindu English Newspaper
dated:05.01.2021, & In Dinamalar
Tamil Newspaper dt: 05.01.2021,
"White foam Observed in Cooum
stretch near Napier Bridge".

Vs

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Govt Secretariat,
Fort St. George Chennai,
Tamil Nadu – 600009 & 12 others.

... Respondents

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Filed by
Thiru. C. Kasirajan
Advocate, Chennai.

**REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON
“WHITE FOAM OBSERVED IN COOUM STRETCH NEAR
NAPIER BRIDGE”**

**Before The National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai
Original Application No. 15 of 2021 (SZ)**



TNPCB

July, 2021

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

*Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No. 75, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai – 600032.*

1. ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai in the matter of O.A No. 15 of 2021(SZ) Tribunal on its own suo moto – based on the News Item in the Hindu English Newspaper dated: 05.01.2021 & In the Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper Chennai Edition dated: 05.01.2021, “White foam Observed in Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge” Vs The Chief Secretary to Government, The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dept of Environment, Chennai & Ors., passed orders dated 20.01.2021 in Annexure – I to ascertain the source of pollution and cause of pollution and also to suggest remedial measure to be taken in coovum stretch near Napier Bridge.

Excerpts of the News Item in the Hindu English Newspaper dated: 05.01.2021 under the caption, “White foam Observed in Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge” high phosphate content, rough sea and high wind conditions were cited as possible reasons & In Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper Chennai Edition dated: 05.01.2021.where in they have mentioned that similar issue has been projected in pattinapakkam beach area, showing large scale foam being formed near Napier Bridge at a place where Cooum River joins the Marina Beach.

2. Constitution of Joint Committee

In compliance to the aforesaid orders dated 20.01.2020 of Hon'ble Tribunal (SZ), Chennai, a Joint Committee comprising of following members as directed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (Nodal Agency) vide its Office proceedings No. Proc. No: TNPCB/LAWIII/NGT/02451/2021 dated: 09.02.2021. (Annexure - II)

1.	Thiru. G. Tamil Selvam, Zonal Officer-5, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai	Member
2.	Dr.V. Selvam, Member, Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA), Chennai	Member
3.	Dr. Pravakar Mishra, Scientists-F, Dr. K. Ramu, Scientist-E, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai	Member
4.	Thiru. C. Rajinikumar, PA to Revenue Divisional office, North Chennai	Member
5.	Thiru. Sankara Subramanian, Assistant Director, Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai	Nodal Officer & Member

The Joint Committee meeting was organized by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai (Nodal Agency) with the members of Joint Committee on 23.03.2021 and minutes were circulated for necessary actions (Annexure - III). The meeting was conducted to discuss about the joint inspection before conducting the sampling at Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge. Then, the joint committee decided to collect the samples at Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge, shoreline near Napier Bridge at the confluence point of River Adyar and also decided to take the samples from the frequent recurrence of sea foaming at shoreline of Srinivasapuram near the confluence point of River Adyar.

3. Joint Inspection of the Committee

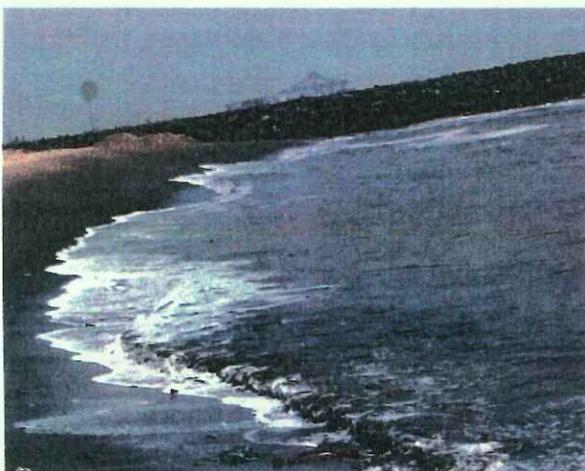
The Joint Committee has inspected the stretch of Napier Bridge at a place where Cooum River joins the marina beach and up to Srinivasapuram near the confluence point of River Adyar on 25.03.2021. Water was found to be flowing dark in color with unpleasant odour and domestic sewage, solid waste were found mixing down the drain near Cooum River.



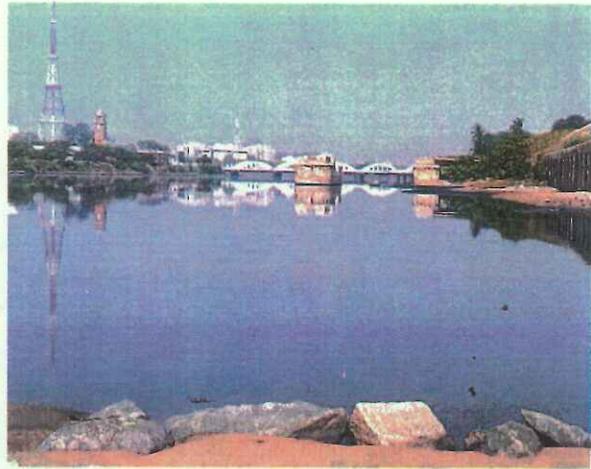
Joint Committee Inspection on 25.03.2021

4. General Description of the River

Chennai is a metropolitan city with a population of 4.65 million (Census, 2011) and a major industrial hub in south India. The study area (Lat. $12^{\circ}59'1.03''N$, Long. $80^{\circ}19'0.05''E$ and Lat. $13^{\circ}3'59.62''N$, Long. $80^{\circ}17'41.92''E$) along the Chennai coast. Point sources of pollution are mainly from large to small scale industries and untreated urban wastes from Chennai metropolitan through Cooum, Adyar river. The Cooum river (65 Km of which 18 Km fall within the city limits) and Adyar river (42 km) with catchment area of 290 and 860 km^2 respectively, are the major point sources to the coastal waters of Chennai. Formation of sand bar at river mouth, gentle river bed slope and tidal range of $\sim 0.7m$ prevents the effective flushing. As a result, except for the monsoon months, the river water becomes stagnant, anoxic and rich in organic matter. Frequent dredging of sand bar is undertaken to maintain the inlet and enhance the tidal exchange, which has a direct impact on adjacent coastal water quality.



Debris found in the sea shore away from Cooum River confluence point.

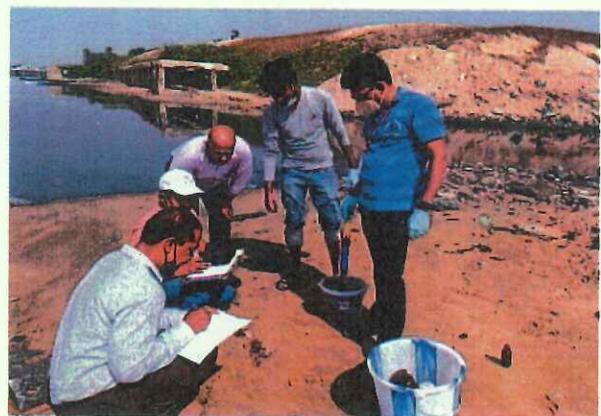


Cooum River confluence point near Napier Bridge

5. Method of Sampling and Analysis

The samplings were done by the joint committee members National Center for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai, the Collectorate of Chennai, Chennai and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (Chennai) on 25.03.2021. Onshore sampling was done by NCCR in the sea who are monitoring the coastal water quality along the Chennai coast since 2013. TNPCB has done sampling in offshore at Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge, shoreline near Napier Bridge at the confluence point of River Adyar and also decided to take the samples from the frequent recurrence of sea foaming at shoreline of Srinivasapuram near the confluence point of River Adyar. The sampling locations are:

1. Cooum River stretch near Napier Bridge
2. Shoreline near Napier Bridge at the confluence point of River Cooum
3. Srinivasapuram near the confluence point of River Adyar



Sampling at confluence point of Cooum River near Napier Bridge on 25.03.2021

The samples were analyzed as per APHA 23rd Edn 2017 and the analytical results of the samples collected from the above locations

reveals that BOD of the samples was found to be not complying as per Designated Best Use (DBU) – (Annexure- IV) as per Water Quality Criteria by CPCB. On perusal of report of analysis of samples, the TNPCB observed that the presence of total Coliform in Cooum river near Napier Bridge and in the sea water at Srinivasapuram near the confluence point of River Adyar were in the range of 40 to 230 MPN/100ml which indicates high influence of sewage in sea water as well as in Cooum river. The presence of ammoniacal nitrogen indicates the presence of untreated sewage to the river water body.

The report of analysis of the surface water samples collected on 25.03.2021 is given in below table:

Parameters analyzed	Unit	Cooum River stretch near Napier Bridge	Shoreline near Napier Bridge at the confluence point of River Cooum	Srinivasapuram near the confluence point of River Adyar	Test method
General Parameter					
Water Temperature	°C	32°C	32°C	31°C	--
pH	Number	7.42	7.47	8.61	APHA 23rd Edn 2017- 4500 H+ B
TSS @ 105	mg/L	84	90	30	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-2540 D
TDS @ 180	mg/L	5004	5968	36658	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-2540 C
Chloride	mg/L	3108	3200	16000	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-4500 CL - B
Sulphate	mg/L	282	332	2004	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-4500 SO ₄ ²⁻ E
Organic Matter					
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	NIL	NIL	2	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-2540 C
BOD	mg/L	22	27	9	IS 3025 (Part 44) - 1993, Reaff 2009
COD	mg/L	120	128	40	IS 3025 (Part - 58), Reaff 2006
Nutrient Parameter					
Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/L	11.2	8.96	2.80	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-4500-NH3C
Dissolved Phosphate	mg/L	1.34	1.23	1.46	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-4500-P-E
Total Kjeldhal Nitrogen	mg/L	20.2	16.8	4.48	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-4500-N-B
Free Ammonia	mg/L	13.7	10.9	3.40	--
Microbiology					
Total Coliform	MPN/100ml	460	140	40	APHA 23rd Edn 2017- 9221 B,C
Feacal Coliform	MPN/100ml	140	45	<1.8	APHA 23rd Edn 2017-9221 B,E

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is monitoring water quality under the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) project by the Central Pollution Control Board in rivers Adyar, Cooum, Buckingham Canal and Otteri Nullah and also the 4 STPs Nesapakkam, Kodungaiyur, Perungudi and Koyambedu from 2019 onwards in Chennai city. The details of monitoring stations by monthly at Adyar and Cooum outfalls in Chennai as per CPCB directions are as follows:

Details of monitoring stations at Adyar and Cooum outfalls			
Sl. No.	Monitoring Stations at Adyar river outfall / Code No.	Sl. No.	Monitoring Stations at Cooum river outfall / Code No.
1	Nandambakkam - 10033	8	Anna Nagar - 10040
2	Ekkaduthangal - 10034	9	Arumbakkam - 10041
3	Jafferkhanpet - 10035	10	Aminjikai - 10042
4	Maraimalai Nagar - 10036	11	Poonamallee - 10043
5	Before Golf course - 10037	12	College Road - 10044
6	Kotturpuram Bridge - 10038	13	Near Central Jail - 10045
7	Near Boat Club - 10039	14	Napier Bridge - 10046

The trend of analysis shows that Dissolved oxygen is ranges from nil to 2 mg/L, Long term past data of the study reveals that the total and fecal coliform is higher than normal in Cooum stretch and found to be moderate in Adyar river stretch. The absence of Dissolved oxygen and presence of ammoniacal nitrogen and the total and fecal coliform clearly indicate that untreated sewage is being discharged. It is also due to the settlements along the bank of the water bodies and also dumping of solid wastes.

The observation made from the study of NCCR reveals that untreated waste disposal be a major source of pollutants in both the water ways- Adyar and Cooum. Microbial studies also indicate presence of very high values of faecal coliforms (many folds higher than normal values) throughout the year attests to the fact there is a leakage of untreated sewage to the environment.

6. ACTION TAKEN BY TNPCB.

The study reveals that the pollutants are at high levels. The reason for pollution of the water bodies is mainly due to the mixing of sewage from the unsewered areas, settlements along the bank of the water bodies and also due to dumping of solid wastes. The restoration of Chennai city water ways is entrusted with **Chennai River**

Restoration Trust. The Trust formulates plans and undertakes implementation of programmes on restoration of Chennai city water ways in co-ordination with the line Departments. Accordingly, Integrated Cooum River Eco-Restoration Project and Adyar River Restoration Projects are being implemented by the respective line Departments. TNPCB has provided a sum of rupee 20 Crores for this project

The TNPCB vide Proc. Dated. 04.12.2019 (Annexure – V) has issued directions to the Chennai Metro Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Chennai to take immediate action to connect the unsewered wards located on the banks of River Adyar to underground sewerage system and shall take necessary action to install Tertiary Treatment Plant comprising RO system to the three STPs located at Nesapakkam and explore the possibility of reusing the RO permeate for industrial purpose and to convey & dispose the RO reject directly into sea after conducting the marine impact study through reputed institution to curtail the discharge of sewage into River Adyar. TNPCB has again issued directions dt. 16.03.2021 (Annexure – VI) to the CMWSSB, CMA, DTP, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine on the installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) and using of mobile based application on STP monitoring towards the compliance of CPCB directions dt. 15.02.2021.

7. Conclusion:

The source and cause of Sea foam is mainly created by agitating sea waters, particularly when it contains higher concentrations of dissolved organic matter. The overall analysis of the data reveals that the contamination of surface water of the river is due to the unhygienic anthropogenic activities and disposal of either untreated or partially treated municipal and domestic waste into the river systems directly or indirectly. The water quality of River Cooum and River Adyar is being monitored every month under National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) project report reveals that the presence of heavy load of organic matter and total and fecal coliform (reason for pollution of the water bodies) is mainly due to the mixing of sewage from the

unsewered areas. Microbiological study report from NCCR who is monitoring the Chennai coast since 2013 indicates the presence of very high values of faecal coliforms (many folds higher than normal values) and also occasional blooming of phaeocystis sp. along the Chennai coast attest to the fact there is leakage of untreated sewage to the environment. The joint committee has recommended based on the reports that the continuous dredging in the mouth of the rivers near confluence point and the free flow of river water without any stagnant, will prevent the recurrence of froths in the sea.

.....
Dr. V. Selvam,
Member,
Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management
Authority

.....
Tamil Selvam
22/7/21
Thiru. G. Tamil Selvam,
Zonal Officer-5,
Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai

.....
Revenue Divisional Officer,
North Chennai

.....
Pravakar Mishra
22/7/21
Dr. Pravakar Mishra,
Scientist – F,
National Centre for Coastal Research

.....
Sankara Subramanian
22/7/21
Thiru. Sankara Subramanian,
Assistant Director,
Advanced Environmental Laboratory,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai.

Item No.03:

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

Original Application No. 15 of 2021 (SZ)

(Through Video Conference)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU Based on the News item in the Hindu English Newspaper dated:05.01.2021, & In Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper dt: 05.01.2021, "White foam Observed in Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge".

...Applicant(s)

Versus

- 1) The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Govt Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600009
- 2) The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Department of Environment,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, TamilNadu- 60000
- 3) The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Department of Industries,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, TamilNadu - 600009
- 4) Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, TamilNadu - 600009

- 5) The Director
Department of Environment
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building,
Ground Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600-015
- 6) The Chairman
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, TamilNadu- 600032
- 7) The Managing Director
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet, Chennai - 600031.
- 8) The Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu Coastal Zonal Management Authority
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building,
First Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015
- 9) The Member Secretary
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
No.6, Adyar Eco-Park, 103,
Dr DGS Dhinakaran Salai,
Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai - 600028
- 10) The Director
National Centre for Coastal Research
2nd Floor, NIOT Campus,
Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd,
Pallikaranai, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu 600100
- 11) The District Collector
Chennai District
District Collectorate Office,
No.62, Rajaji Salai, 4th Floor,
Chennai - 600001
- 12) The Commissioner
Greater Chennai Corporation

Ripon Building, Chennai - 600 003.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 20.01.2021.

CORAM:

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

HON'BLE MR. SAIBAL DASGUPTA, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu by Court

For Respondent(s): Sri. Dr. V.R. Thirunarayanan for R1 to R5, R8, R9 & R11.
Sri. C. Kasirajan through
M/s. Meena for R6.
Sri. G. Janaki Raman for R7
Smt. P. T. Ramadevi through
Sri. Raghul Adithya for

ORDER

1. The above case has been SuoMotu registered by this Tribunal on the basis of the newspaper reports published in the Hindu English newspaper dated 05.01.2021 under the caption "**White foam observed in Cooum Stretch near Napier Bridge**". High Phosphate content in water, rough sea and high wind conditions cited as possible reasons and also another newspaper report published in Dinamalar Tamil newspaper, dated 05.01.2021 wherein they have mentioned that similar issue has been projected in Pattinapakkam beach area, showing large scale

foam being formed near Napier Bridge at a place where Cooum River joins the Marina Beach.

2. Ongoing through the allegations in the newspaper report, we are satisfied that there arises a substantial question of environment which requires the interference of this Tribunal for resolving the same. Though on earlier occasions, when similar issues were brought to the notice and certain directions have been issued, no effective steps have been taken to prevent such things being happening in future. If it is due to the presence of any detergents in the untreated sewage that is being discharged into the river then, it is for the regulators to regulate the standard of detergents to be used, so as to prevent such things being happening. It is brought to our notice on the basis of the directions given by the National Green Tribunal in O. A. No. 125 of 2017 pertaining to Agara, Bellanduru & Varthur Lakes located in the city of Bengaluru causing pollution the lake water, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) had issued certain directions fixing the standards for use of detergents in the washing soap and the other detergents that is being produced by the manufacturers, so as to reduce the forming of foam by using such detergents which is also according to the authorities' one of the reason for such things recurring during rainy season. So that be the case, it is

necessary to ascertain as to whether any such steps have been taken by the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNPCCB) also in this State. So, the matter is admitted.

3. When the matter came up for hearing for admission today through Video Conference, Sri. Dr. V.R. Thirunarayanan represented respondents 1 to 5, 8, 9 & 11, Sri. C. Kasirajan through M/s. Meena represented 6th respondent, Sri. G. Janaki Raman represented 7th respondent and Smt. P. T. Ramadevi through Sri. Raghul Adithya represented 12th respondent.
4. The Registry is directed to issue notice to 10th respondent along with the copy of the newspaper reports and gist of the Suo-Motu proceedings with full cause title immediately by-email so as to enable them to appear and submit their response in the matter or give their suggestion to remedy the situation to protect marine ecology.
5. In order to ascertain the source of pollution and cause of pollution and also remedial measures to be taken, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of (1) The District Collector, Chennai District or a Senior Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or Sub Divisional Magistrate to be deputed by the District Collector, (2) a Senior Scientist or a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNPCCB) as designated by its Chairman, (3) a Senior

Officer from Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) (4) a Scientist/Competent senior staff having knowledge in the field to be deputed by the Director, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) and (5) The Commissioner from Greater Chennai Corporation or a Senior Officer who is dealing with such issues in the Corporation as deputed by the Commissioner to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report. If there is any violation found then, the committee is also directed to mention about the action to be taken against those persons who are responsible for committing such issues.

6. The committee is also directed to ascertain the source and cause of such foam being formed and the reason for its recurrence and the remedial measures to be taken to avoid such things being recurring in future and the persons who are responsible to take measures to redress this menace. If this is due to any illegal discharge of untreated sewage then, the regulators are directed to take appropriate action against such persons responsible for the same, including assessment of environmental compensation against such persons.
7. The committee is also directed to conduct water analysis test to ascertain the quality of the water and the contents of the water which results in such foam formation and also the remedial

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measures to meet such issue. They may also consider the question as to whether any guidelines or directions have been issued by the TNPCB in the manner of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for fixing the standard of detergents to be used in the Household Laundry Detergent Bars and other detergents so as to control such issue.

8. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) will be the nodal agency for co-ordination and also for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.
9. The committee as well as official respondents are directed to submit their report as well as independent responses to this Tribunal on or before 03.03.2021 by e-filing in the form of searchable PDF/OCR-Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF along with necessary hardcopies to be produced as per rules.
10. The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the members of the committee as well as to the official respondents immediately through e-mail along with the copy of the paper report and the gist of the Suo Motu proceeding with full cause title so as to enable them to comply with the direction and for filing their independent response to the allegations made in the newspaper report and filing the report as directed by this Tribunal.

11. For appearance of parties and submitting their independent responses and also for consideration of report, post on 03.03.2021.

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

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

O.A. No.15/2021 (SZ)
20th January, 2021. Sr.



Item No.19:

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

Original Application No. 15 of 2021 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion
Suo Motu based on the news item in
The Hindu English Newspaper dt. 05.01.2021 & in
Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper dt. 05.01.2021,
"White foam observed in Cooum Stretch near
Napier Bridge"

Versus

...Applicant(s)

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Govt. Secretariat,
Fort St. George, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 03.03.2021

Matter stands adjourned to 07.04.2021.





Annexure - II
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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD CHENNAI

Proc. No: TNPCB/LAW/LAIII/NGT/02451/2021 dated:09.02.2021

Sub: TNPC Board – Law - Hon'ble NGT Application No.15 of 2021(SZ) –Suo Motu based on the News item in the Hindu English Newspaper dated:05.01.2021, & In Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper dt: 05.01.2021, "White foam Observed in Coom stretch near Napier Bridge" – Formation of the Joint Committee – To inspect and furnish report to the Hon'ble NGT - Regarding.

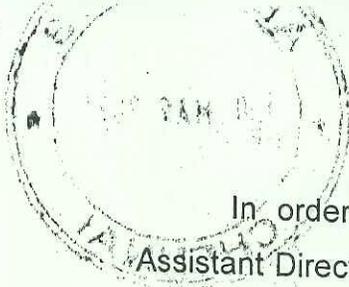
Ref: 1.Email received from the Consultant Judicial, NGT(SZ),Chennai along with Copy of the Hon'ble NGT dated:20.10.2020 passed in O.A.No.15 of 2021 .

It is submitted that an Original Application No. 15 of 2021 Suo Motu News item in the Hindu English Newspaper dated:05.01.2021, & In Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper dt: 05.01.2021, "White foam Observed in Coom stretch near Napier Bridge".

In this regard, the Hon'ble NGT has passed order dated 20.01.2021 and issued the following directions among other things inter alia as follows:

"In order to ascertain the source of pollution and cause of pollution and also remedial measures to be taken, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of (1) The District Collector, Chennai District or a Senior Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or Sub Divisional Magistrate to be deputed by the District Collector, (2) a Senior Scientist or a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as designated by its Chairman, (3) a Senior Officer from Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) (4) a Scientist/Competent senior staff having knowledge in the field to be deputed by the Director, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) and (5) The Commissioner from Greater Chennai Corporation or a Senior Officer who is dealing with such issues in the Corporation as deputed by the Commissioner to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report. If there is any violation found then, the committee is also directed to mention about the action to be taken against those persons who are responsible for committing such issues.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board will act as the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing all necessary logistics for this purpose.



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In order to comply the above said NGT order dated 20.01.2021, the Assistant Director, AEL, Chennai are nominated as Nodal Officer and Member of the Joint Committee respectively.

Therefore, the Assistant Director, AEL, Chennai are requested to comply the NGT order and coordinate with the Joint Committee and furnish the Joint Committee Report to this office immediately.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

Encl:- As above.

To
The Assistant Director (Labs-II)
Advanced Environmental Laboratory,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Corporate Office, Chennai - 32.

[Signature]
For CHAIRMAN
[Date]

Annexure - III

Minutes of Hon'ble NGT Application No. 15 of 2021 (SZ) "white foam observed in Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge" - Formation of the Joint Committee held at 11.30 A.M. on 23.03.2021 at Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Conference Hall, VIth Floor, 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.

The meeting with the Senior Officers from The District Collector office, Greater Chennai Corporation, Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority, Department of Environment, National Centre for Coastal Research, was held at 11.30 A.M. on 23.03.2021 at Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, VIth Floor Conference Hall, TNPCB, following participants were present at the meeting:

1. C. Lawrence, Executive Engineer GCC, Mobile No. 9445190025, email. acgone5@chennaicorporation.gov.in
2. G. Tamil Selvam, Zonal Officer-5/ GCC, Mobile No. 9445190005, email. acgone5@chennaicorporation.gov.in
3. V. Selvam, Member TNCZMA, Mobile No. 9442227680, email. vselvam45@hotmail.com
4. B. Sivakumar, Executive Engineer / Sub GCC, Mobile No. 9566082476, email. bsivakumar1964@gmail.com
5. AR. Viswanathan, Assistant Engineer / Sub GCC, Mobile No. 9884147146, email.
6. C. Rajinikumar, PA to Revenue Divisional office, North Chennai., Mobile No. 9790930878, email. Rdotpt-chn@gov.in
7. U.S. Panda, Scientists-E, NCCR, Mobile No. 9042687777, email. uspanda@nccr.gov.in
8. K. Ramu, Scientists-E, NCCR, Mobile No. 9444721294, email. ramu@nccr.gov.in
9. Dr. Pravakar Mishra, Scientists-F, Mobile No. 9444054364, email. mishra@nccr.gov.in

The Thiru. Sankarasubramanian, Assistant Director, AEL, Chennai Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, has welcomed the members of the committee, discussed about the about the formation of the Joint Committee with respect to the Hon'ble NGT Application No.15 of 2021 (SZ).

Further discussed with the members of the committee about the source of pollution and cause of pollution for the formation of white foam observed in Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge and requested the senior officers from other departments to present their views.

Senior scientist from NCCR, presented about the cause and source of foams in beach shore due to concentration of phosphate and ammonia, phytoplankton blooms, fatty acid formation due to decomposition of organic matter in sea water. They also briefed about the foam formation is high near the confluence point of sea.

It is also discussed with the members of the committee that the case study can be done on the basis of a model study of the directions given by the National Green Tribunal on O.A. No. 125 of 2017 to Karnataka Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for pollution causing lakes such as Agara, Bellanduru & Varthur Lakes located in the city of Bengaluru.

Further the collection of coastal samples is entrusted to be collected from the Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge by the team of senior scientists, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) who has the knowledge in the field of coastal sampling.

The participants from each concerned departments deputed a senior officer for on shore and offshore sample collection.

Further the team members will furnish report of analysis of the coastal samples collected and will furnish the report to the Joint Committee and to the NGT.

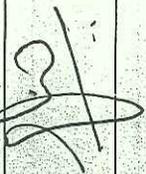
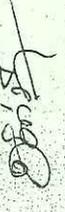
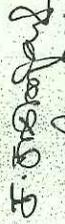
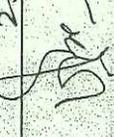
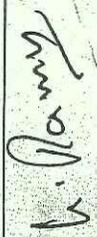
The meeting ended with the thanks to the participants.

Sd/- Assistant Director (Lab),
Advanced Environmental Laboratory,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai - 32

Copy to: File

Hon'ble NGT Application No.15/2021- "White foam observed in Coom stretch near Napier Bridge"

23/03/2021 Attendance Sheet

SI.NO	Name	Designation	Contact Details/ E-Mail ID	Signature
1	C. LAWRENCE	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GCC	9445790025	
2	A. Tamil selvam	Zone Officer-5/GCC	aczone5@chemmali.coopntr gov.in 9445780005	
3	U. Selvam	Membr, TNCZMA Vselvam45@hotmail.com	9442227680	
4	B. Sivakumar	Executive engineer/sup GCC	9566082471 bsivakumar1964@gmail.com	
5	AR. Viswamathan	Asst-Engineer/sup/scc	9884147146	
6	C. RASIN KUMAR	PA to Revenue Divisional officer, North Chennai.	9790930878 rso1pt-chn@gov.in	
7	U.S.Panda	Secretary E, NCCR	9042687777 uspanda@nccr.gov.in	
8	K. Ramu	Secretary E, NCCR	9444721294 ramu@nccr.gov.in	

Hon'ble NGT Application No.15/2021-"White foam observed in Coom stretch near Napier Bridge"**Attendance Sheet**

Sl.NO	Name	Designation	Signature
9	Dr. Pravakar Mishra	Mishra@ncr-gov.in 9444054864	
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Annexure - IV

Water Quality Criteria by CPCB, Govt. of India

Best-Designated-Use	Class of water	Criteria
Drinking Water Source without conventional treatment but after disinfection	A 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total Coliforms Organism MPN/100ml shall be 50 or less 2. pH between 6.5 and 8.5 3. Dissolved Oxygen 6mg/l or more 4. Biochemical Oxygen Demand 5 days 20°C 2mg/l or less
Outdoor bathing (Organized)	B 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total Coliforms Organism MPN/100ml shall be 500 or less 2. pH between 6.5 and 8.5 3. Dissolved Oxygen 5mg/l or more 4. Biochemical Oxygen Demand 5 days 20°C 3mg/l or less
Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection	C 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total Coliforms Organism MPN/100ml shall be 5000 or less 2. pH between 6 to 9 3. Dissolved Oxygen 4mg/l or more 4. Biochemical Oxygen Demand 5 days 20°C 3mg/l or less
Propagation of Wild life and Fisheries	D 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pH between 6.5 to 8.5 2. Dissolved Oxygen 4mg/l or more 3. Free Ammonia (as N) 1.2 mg/l or less
Irrigation, Industrial Cooling, Controlled Waste disposal	E 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pH between 6.0 to 8.5 2. Electrical Conductivity at 25°C $\mu\text{S/cm}$ max. 2250 3. Sodium absorption Ratio Max. 26 4. Boron Max. 2mg/l
	Below-E 	Not Meeting A, B, C, D & E Criteria

O/o District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
950/1, 2nd floor,
Poonamallae High Road,
Arumbakkam, Chennai-600 106.

Proceedings.No.CHN 1662/RL/DEE/CHN/W/2019/dt.04.12.2019

Sub: TNPC Board- O/o. the DEE/ Chennai- Industries-Show cause notice under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 to the CMWSSB's Sewage treatment plants located at Nesapakkam Village, Mambalam Taluk and Chennai District- Show cause notice issued - Reg.

- Ref:
1. Proc F.CHN1968/RM/DEE/TNPCB/CHN/W&A/2013 dt. 12/12/2013
 2. Proc.No.DEE/CHN/TNPCB/OL86/W&A/2006dt. 29.01.2007
 3. Proc F.CHN1850/RL/DEE/TNPCB/CHN/W&A/2014 dt. 10/02/2014
 4. Application No.299 of 2013 (SZ) and 164 of 2014 (SZ) of Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai
 5. Inspection of STP's on 04.12.2019

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board serves this notice to you as occupier of the CMWSSB's Sewage treatment plants located at Nesapakkam Village, Mambalam Taluk, Chennai District for contravening the conditions imposed in the consent order issued under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 (herein after referred to as the Act).

Consent to operate has been issued vide reference 1st, 2nd and 3rd cited for operating the 23 KLD STP, 40 KLD STP, 54 KLD STP respectively subject to certain conditions inter alia that the CMWSSB shall operate and maintain the STP effectively and continuously so as to satisfy the standards prescribed by the Board.

Whereas during inspection of the STP on 04.12.2019, the following were observed:

1. The CMWSSB's Sewage treatment plants located at Nesapakkam Village, Mambalam Taluk, Chennai District were under operation partially.
2. In 23 MLD STP, one stream of components only was in operation and the other stream was under maintenance due to break down of 1 No. of Grit removal mechanism and 1 No. of secondary Clarifier mechanism.
3. In 23 MLD STP, Primary Clarifier settling sludge was pumped to inlet of 54 MLD STP Primary Clarifier
4. Therefore, the 23 MLD plant was operating and handling only 50% of the capacity.
5. In Sludge treatment system of 40 MLD plant, Clarifier settling sludge transfer pumps were not in operational condition, Sludge Thickener was not in operation, Sludge digester and Centrifuge were not in operation

6. In 54 MLD plant Sludge treatment system, Sludge digester and Centrifuge were not in operation
7. Also, found that discharging untreated sewage into River Adyar
8. Overall, the sludge treatment and dewatering was not done in the all three STPs (23 MLD, 40MLD, 54 MLD) located at Nesapakkam STP Campus
9. There is a case in Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai vide reference 4th cited, to direct the respondent authorities to maintain Coovum, Adayar River and Buckingham canal free from any contamination of pollution. The CMWSSB is one of the respondent authority to maintain the said water bodies free from causing pollution. However, it is noticed that the respondent authority itself is causing pollution of the water body.

Thereby, you are violating the conditions of the consent order already issued to the STPs under the provisions of the Section 25 of the Act, which are offences punishable under Section 44 read with Section 45-A of the Act with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year and six months, but which may extend to six years and with fine.

Hence, you are directed to show cause within 7 days from the date of receipt of this notice as to why penal action for an offence punishable under section 44 read with Section 45-A of the Act should not be initiated against you, as occupier for contravention of the conditions imposed in the consent order already issued to the said STPs under the provisions of the section 25 of the Act and also to show cause as to why directions under section 33-A of the Act should not be issued for closure, stoppage of power supply, water supply etc. to the STPs.

It is informed that non-receipt of any reply within the prescribed period will be construed that you have no satisfactory explanation to offer for the above said contravention and action will be taken against you on merits in accordance with law.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

District Environmental Engineer,
TNPCB / Chennai

A. Sankar
4.12.19

To

1. The Chief Engineer (O&M-II),
CMWSS Board,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road, Chinthatharipet, Chennai -600002.
2. Superintending Engineer (Waste Water Treatment & Reuse),
CMWSS Board,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road, Chinthatharipet, Chennai -600002.
3. The Executive Engineer,
CMWSS Board's Sewage Treatment Plant,
No:68, Anna main road, MGR nagar, Nesapakkam, Chennai- Pin: 600078

Copy submitted to

1. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai for favour of kind information please.
2. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M), TNPCB, Chennai for favour of kind information please.
3. The Member Secretary, Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust

BY Speed Post



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PROCEEDING No:T1/TNPCBd/F.5656/STP/W/2021 Dated: 16.03.2021

Sub: TNPCB - Industries - Compliance of directions issued by CPCB to the TNPCB under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for wider use of Mobile Based Application on STP Monitoring and for installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) - Board issues directions under Section 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended - issued - Regarding.

- Ref:
1. CPCB Letter No. File No. A- 19014/43/06-UPC-I4648 dt. 07.08.2020
 2. Board Proceeding No:T1/TNPCBd/F.15335/STP/W/2020 Dated: 27.08.2020
 3. CPCB Letter No.A-14011/1/2020-UPC-I/ dated 03.11.2020
 4. Board Letter No. T1/TNPCB/ F.5656/STP/2020, Dated: 24.11.2020 addressed to the Municipal Administration and Water Supply(MAWS) Department
 5. CPCB Letter No. File No. A- 19014/43/06-UPC-I/6114 dt. 15.02.2021(copy enclosed)

Whereas, in due compliance of the directions issued by CPCB vide reference 1st cited, the TNPC Board has issued directions vide reference 2nd cited to the Authority of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Commissionerate of Municipal Administration, Directorate of Town Panchayats, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine under Section 33 A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended to install Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) for self surveillance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) which are operated by them within the specified time stated in CPCB directions.

Whereas, the CPCB vide reference 3rd cited forwarded STP - wise User Ids and Passwords to the Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply(MAWS) Department and requested to direct the STP operators under Urban Local Bodies(ULBs) to use the Mobile Application and to upload the STP monitoring data on weekly basis. Subsequently the MAWS Department was addressed by the TNPC Board vide reference 4th cited to follow the directions issued by CPCB and report to CPCB with copy to TNPCB.

CPCB vide reference 5th cited has issued directions keeping in view strengthening of monitoring mechanism to the TNPCB under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 regarding using the mobile based application on STP monitoring and for installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS).

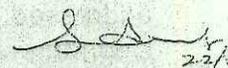
29
Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 33 A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended, in compliance of the directions issued by CPCB, the Board hereby issues the following directions for compliance:

1. The STP operators of all Municipal Corporations concerned Local Body/Agency/Authority who are operating STP shall start using the mobile based application on STP monitoring and upload data on weekly basis with immediate effect
2. The directions issued for installation of OCEMS vide CPCB vide Letter No. A-19014/43/06-UPC-I/4625-4672 dated 07.08.2020 are implemented without any delay.

Failure to comply with the above said direction, necessary steps will be initiated as per the provisions in the said Act.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged and the concerned departments are requested to furnish action taken on the above issues to the Board once in 30 days from the date of CPCB direction dated 15.02.2021, so as to furnish the status of compliance report to CPCB by the TNPC Board in time.

The receipt of this proceeding may be acknowledged.


27/03/2021
For Chairman
MCMW
27.3.2021

To

1. The Managing Director
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB),
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600031
2. The Commissioner of Municipal Administration,
Commissionerate of Municipal Administration,
No.78, Urban Administrative Building,
Santhome High Road, Chennai-28
3. The Director of Town Panchayats,
Directorate of Town Panchayats
Kuralagam, Chennai 600108
4. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009
5. The Director,
Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
359, Anna Salai, DMS Complex,
Teynampet, Chennai 600 006

Copy to:

- 1) The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 600 009 - for information and necessary action
- 2) All the JCEEs(M),
TNPCB- for follow up and report
- 3) All the DEEs,
TNPCB- for follow up and report

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

**Original Application No. 15 of
2021 (SZ)**

SUO MOTU Based on the News
item in the Hindu English Newspaper
dated:05.01.2021, & In Dinamalar
Tamil Newspaper dt: 05.01.2021,
"White foam Observed in Cooum
stretch near Napier Bridge".

Vs

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil
Nadu Govt. Secretariat,
Fort St. George Chennai,
Tamil Nadu-600009 & 12 ors.

... Respondents

**REPORT OF THE JOINT
COMMITTEE IN NGT O.A.NO.15 OF
2021 FILED BY THE TNPCCB.**

**Advocate for Respondent:TNPCCB
Thiru. C. Kasirajan.**

Date:23.07.2021.

Date of hearing:29.07.2021