

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE) CHENNAI  
O.A. NO. 64 OF 2020**

IN THE MATTER OF:

V. Rajesh

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

Union of India & Others

...RESPONDENTS

**JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT FILED WITH REGARD TO HON'BLE TRIBUNAL  
ORDER DATED March 03, 2021**

I, H. D. Varalaxmi, D/o Sh. H.S. Devaiah, Hindu, aged about 51 years and having office at the Regional Directorate – Chennai, Central Pollution Control Board, 2nd Floor, 77-A, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai – 600 058, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

2. That I am presently working as Scientist 'E' & Regional Director, Regional Directorate - Chennai, Central Pollution Control Board (hereafter called as CPCB) have been authorized to file the joint committee compliance report. I am fully conversant with the facts of the case and hence, competent and authorized to depose and swear the present as under:
3. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone Bench, Chennai vide order dated 03.03.2021 has directed the joint committee to submit the compliance status report. The status report of the joint committee is enclosed as Annexure.

DEPONENT  
**H.D. VARALAXMI**, M.Tech  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(MoEF & CC Govt. of India)  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
2nd Floor, 77-A, South Avenue Road,  
Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai - 600 058

**VERIFICATION**

It is verified that the content of this report is based on the observations of the joint committee and nothing has been concealed therein.

Signed and verified on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021 at Chennai



**COUNSEL FOR CPCB**

DEPONENT  
**H.D. VARALAXMI**, M.Tech  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(MoEF & CC Govt. of India)  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
2nd Floor, 77-A, South Avenue Road,  
Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai - 600 058

**Compliance Status Report of the Joint Committee**  
*(As per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai*  
*Order dated 03.03.2021 in OA no. 64/2020)*

## 1. Background

The Honourable National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, in the matter of OA no. 64 of 2020 stated and directed the committee on 03.03.2021 as;

*“...So under such circumstances we feel that direction can be given to the Joint Committee as well as to the official respondents including local bodies to come up with the present status of compliance of directions and recommendations made by the Committee as per report dated 03.11.2020. The Committee is also expected to give their opinion as to how the recommendations made by the Joint Committee by their report dated 02.1.2021 which was received on 02.03.2021 which was extracted in earlier paragraph has to be implemented and whether any effective steps have been taken by any of the department who are responsible to carry out the study as a part of remediation to improve the water quality in that area. If that be the case what is the present status of the same as well*

*So under such circumstances the Committee as well as the official respondents are directed to file further status report of compliance of the 11 recommendations and improvement made on the basis of these recommendations and the present status of implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in Minjur Town Panchayat on or before 13.04.2021...”*

## 2. Compliance Status Report on Joint Committee Recommendations:

Minjur Town panchayat has submitted the compliance to the committee on 01.04.2021 and it is stated that due to COVID 19 situation delay in implementation of the joint committee recommendations. The status of compliance is as follows;

SI No.	Joint Committee Recommendations filed on 03.11.2020	Present Status
1)	EO Town Panchayat, Minjur has submitted the compliance report and	It is informed that alternate land at Ponneri Taluk Kalpakkam Village. S.no 185 extents 0.18.50 Hec, S.no 186 extent

	<p>requested for six months time for shifting of processing facilities.</p>	<p>0.64.00 Hec, S.no 187 extents 0.36.50 Hec was identified and requested the Collector, Tiruvallur for allotment of land vide letter RC No. 1420/2021/A1 Dated: 02.03.2021.</p> <p>At present, approval is in progress for transfer of land to Minjur town panchayat for solid waste management facility.</p> <p><b><i>Yet to comply with the recommendation</i></b></p>
2)	<p>Minjur Town Panchayat shall ensure 100% collection of solid waste being generated within its jurisdiction with proper segregation, door to door collection, processing and disposal by complying with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.</p>	<p>It is informed that the waste being generated within Minjur Town Panchayat is collected with proper plan of route chart for primary waste collection vehicles and proper training were given for the 50 workers who are handling 18 wards in door to door collection.</p> <p>All commercial establishments were asked to develop twin bin system and 25 sanitary workers have been deputed for this work. Bulk waste generators are instructed to handle their own waste and if unauthorized dumping of waste is noticed they will be panelized.</p> <p>Segregated recyclable waste after weighing are given back to the sanitary workers to motivate them.</p> <p><b><i>Regular activity in progress</i></b></p>

3)	Minjur Town Panchayat shall clear the dumped solid waste (legacy wastes) in the processing/ dump site by carrying out Bio mining as per CPCB guidelines within the period of six months.	<b><i>Yet to comply with the recommendation</i></b>
4)	Minjur Town Panchayat shall employ the sanitary staff in the processing/ dump site in question to carry out monitoring to prevent any fire in the legacy waste dumped.	It is informed that preventive/ precautionary measures being taken to avoid fire in legacy waste dumpsite.
5)	The Executive Officer, Minjur Town Panchayat in coordination with District Administration shall identify an alternate land for handling and treatment (Processing & Incineration) of municipal solid waste as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 within six months.	<b><i>Yet to comply with the recommendation</i></b>
6)	The Executive Officer, Minjur Town Panchayat shall monitor and ensure the compliance with the statutory requirements and for the scientific disposal of solid waste that are being generated in the local body, till commencement of the new facility.	<b><i>Regular activity in progress</i></b>
7)	The Public Works Department (PWD), WRD shall issue necessary notice to Minjur Town Panchayat to vacate the facility and ensure no further dumping of Municipal Solid Waste by the Town Panchayat.	Notice has been issued by PWD to Executive Officers, Town Panchayat Minjur Union to vacate the encroached PWD Land.  <b><i>Yet to vacate the facility.</i></b>

8)	PWD shall earmark the boundary of the River & Flood Plain Zone by taking the help of Revenue Department. In case of encroachment notice shall be issued and accordingly action may be taken.	In co-ordination with the Revenue Officials, PWD had demarcated the Boundary of the River & Flood Pain Zone and show cause notice had been already issued to Executive Officer, Minjur Town Panchayat.  <i>With regard to removal of encroachment further action is in progress.</i>
9)	The Minjur TP shall assist the PWD/Revenue Departments in conducting the survey and demarcating the boundary of the river.	<i>Complied with recommendation</i>
10)	PWD shall submit details of sand mining and action taken report on illegal mining for past five Years in upstream and downstream of the river.	It is informed that Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk, Chennai concerned, Jurisdiction limit of Kosasthalaiyar River lies between 4 Km Upstream and 3 Km Downstream of Vallur Anaicut. There is no illegal mining activity been carried out for the past five years. Periodical monitoring will be conducted by PWD, to contain sand mining activities.
11)	The Minjur Town Panchayat shall remit interim Environmental Compensation (EC) of Rs.12 Lakhs for not complying with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, as directed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench) in its order dated 28.02.2020.	Not paid.  It is informed that the wavier of Rs. 12 lacs as EC is pending with Hon'ble NGT for their consideration.  <i>Hence, not complied with recommendation.</i>

### **3. Status provided by State Ground Water Department, PWD on Ground Water Quality**

The Sea water intrusion study in Minjur area has been conducted initially by Ground Water Wing of Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with United Nations Development Project (UNDP). Subsequently, the Sea water – Fresh water interface study was carried out continuously with the water level and water quality monitoring network to decipher the water quality parameters in pre and post monsoon periods by this department.

The earlier studies indicated that due to the over exploitation of groundwater, the sea water-fresh water interface was observed to have moved landwards for a distance of 13 Km from the coast. Now, as per the CGWB reports, Sea water has intruded upto 16 – 16.5 km from the coast in Minjur- area. Further, to monitor the possibility of Seawater intruding in to the aquifers have been undertaken on the Minjur aquifer.

The Sea water intrusion study area monitoring network is bounded by Kattur village on the North, Pattamandiri village on South, Voyalur village on East and Mettuppalayam village on West covering 28 Km coastal length and 10 Km width from coast. The area falls in the Government of India Toposheet No.66C/3,C/4 and C/8 and all the villages selected for this study falls in Minjur Block, Ponneri Taluk of Thiruvallur District. The study area is bounded with geographical coordinates of Latitudes 13015'10" to 13020'50" and Longitudes 80012'40" to 80018"05".

Hydrogeologically the Minjur aquifer is having high groundwater potential. It has multi-layer aquifers at 18 m, 20-36 m and 40-54 m. Due to indiscriminate and continuous pumping of water by various agencies from the bore wells ranging 35 - 40m depth with high horse power pumps, the water level goes down abnormally below MSL and giving easy passage for seawater to intrude land wards. To monitor the phenomenal changes in the characteristics of Minjur aquifer in and around Minjur well fields, the water level and quality are observed at different depths, shallow C-type-20m, Medium-B type- 40m and Deep-A type-60m with monitoring wells listed in the table below.

Sl No.	Well NO.	Name of the Village	Geographical Co-ordinates		Well Type
			Latitude	Longitude	
1	SWNC-01A	Pattamandiri	130 15' 45"	800 16' 20"	Bore well
2	SWNC-9A (Alternative)	Kattur (Thiruvallivoyal)	130 20' 41"	800 16' 41"	Dug well
3	SWNC-10A	Velur	130 19' 45"	800 15' 38"	Bore well
4	SWNC-10B	Velur	130 18' 50"	800 15' 38"	Bore well
5	SWNC-11A	Kaniyampakkam	130 18' 50"	800 15' 10"	Bore well
6	SWNC-11B	Kaniyampakkam	130 18' 48"	800 15' 10"	Bore well
7	SWNC-12A	Merattur	130 18' 48"	800 15' 11"	Bore well
8	SWNC-12B	Merattur	130 18' 48"	800 15' 11"	Bore well
9	SWNC-12C	Merattur	130 19' 15"	800 15' 11"	Bore well
10	SWNC-13B	Kadamancheri	130 17' 31"	800 15' 31"	Bore well
11	SWNC-16B	Mettupalayam	130 24' 53"	800 12' 45"	Bore well
12	SWNC-17D	Pazhaverkadu	130 23' 13"	800 18' 53"	Bore well
13	SWNC-18D	Vangiivakkam	130 22' 42"	800 15' 13"	Dug well
14	SWNC-19D	Thathamanni	130 15' 45"	800 16' 40"	Dug well

In order to delineate the present status of intrusion, new bore wells should be installed below MSL in the distance more than 16.5 km from the coastline for monitoring the sea water intrusion.

#### 4. Conclusion:

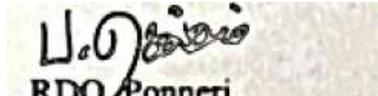
- Minjur Town Panchayat is yet to comply the recommendations given by the joint committee. The Executive Officer, Minjur TP informed that most of the sanitary workers are involved for COVID 19 mitigation measures.
- State Ground Water Department, PWD is involved in the study of sea water intrusion in the coastal regimes and carrying out periodic monitoring of the water level & quality for understanding the extent of sea water intrusion in the area. It is informed that the remedial measures to protect further intrusion of sea water inland may be taken up as per the suggestions / methods provided in the report of CGWB. ***The remediation work for ground water quality improvement shall be carried out by PWD in consultation with State Ground Water Department, WRD/ Central Ground Water Board.***

Hence, it is prayed by the joint committee

- (i) To direct minjur town panchayat to expedite to the comply the recommendations at earliest.
- (ii) To direct minjur town panchayat to remit the environmental compensation to TNPCB.
- (iii) Any other directions as deem fit by this Hon'ble tribunal and render justice.



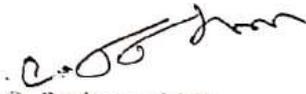
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RDO, Ponneri  
Tiruvallur District  
(Rep. District Collector)



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