

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, AT CHENNAI
Original Application No. 01 of 2025**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the News Item titled "*Effluent in
the Gulf of Mannar is a threat to rare
species*" appeared in the Dinamalar Chennai
edition dated 30.12.2024.

AND

The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Climate change and Forests,
Chennai and others.

....Respondents

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**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

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-Vs-

The Principal Secretary to Govt. Of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Climate change and Forests,
Chennai and others.

...Respondents.

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT- TAMIL
NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, Mrs. K. Nalini, Daughter of Thiru. K. Krishnasamy, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorized to file this Report on behalf of the Third Respondent and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the available office records.
2. It is respectfully submitted that based on a news article that was published in the newspaper in Dinamalar Chennai edition dated 30.12.2024 titled "*Effluent in the Gulf of Mannar is a threat to rare species*", the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, (SZ), Chennai took Suo Motu case. The newspaper article stating that the waste water from the houses in the Ramanathapuram area is directly discharged into the downstream of Gulf of Mannar for many years. The marine industries located around and near the coastal areas of the lower Gulf of Mannar is discharging their sewage directly into the sea affecting marine ecosystem thereby decreasing the population of turtles, fishes and oysters.


JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI-600 032.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the Keelakarai Municipality is second grade municipality in Ramanathapuram District. The total extent of the land mass is 2.459 sq.kms and it consists of 21 wards, having a population of 44,770 Numbers as per census 2011. The Keelakarai Municipality is generating 3.25 MLD of Sewage. The Keelakarai Municipality's Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant has a capacity of 18 KLD and it has obtained Consent to Establishment from the Board on 05.12.2019 and Valid upto 31.03.2024.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the Joint inspection was conducted on 17.2.2025 by the District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Ramanathapuram along with the Municipal Engineer, Keelakarai and found that the Sewage being generated from the Municipal area is discharged into sea at seven locations. The locations of discharge are listed below;

Sl. No	Location	Wards Covered	Sewage Discharge quantity	Latitude & Longitude
1.	Vallal Seethkathi Salai (Near Light House Building)	3 Part, 2, 7, 9-part, 12, 17, 18 Part	0.85	9.226449, 78.784132
2.	18 Valibar Dharga	1 Part, 8 Part, 9 Part, 13 Part, 16	0.50	9.226224 78.781480
3.	Pallakku Dharga	15 Part	0.20	9.226108 78.779925
4.	Sea Shore Church	14 Part, 15 Part	0.30	9.226214 78.780577
5.	Jetty Palam	18 Part, 11 Part, 19 Part, 3 Part	0.20	9.227577 78.78522
6.	Old Customs Office Road	4, 5 Part, 6, 19 Part, 20-part, 21-part, 11 parts	0.85	9.228992 78.787925
7.	Fisherman Society	19-part, 20-part, 21 parts	0.35	9.229462 78.788547

5. It is respectfully submitted that during Joint inspection, the Municipal Engineer, Keelakarai stated that at present the generated sewage is discharged into the sea without any treatment and they have sent proposals for establishment of Sewage Treatment Plant at survey number 208/8 in Kanjirangudi Village and land

acquiring is under process. Samples were collected at VallalSeethkathi Salai, near light house building and the Report of analysis of the samples taken at Sewage outfall at – Vallal seethakkathi salai near light house and near by the Light house, the parameters BOD and COD were exceeding the standards prescribed by the Board. (Enclosed as Annexure -1).

6. It is respectfully submitted that the Commissioner, Keelakarai Municipality has been addressed vide Lr. No. F. No. R77/DEE/TNPCB/RMD/ NGT/2025 Dated: 18.02.2025 to stop the discharge of untreated sewage into Sea and the DEE has recommended that the Board may issue certain direction under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 to the Commissioner, Keelakarai Municipality.

“The Keelakarai Municipality shall take appropriate measures to establish the Sewage Treatment Plant for treating the sewage generated from the house and utilise the same for greening purpose in Keelakarai Municipality instead of disposing into sea.”

7. It is respectfully submitted that based on the DEE’s recommendation, the direction has been issued to the Commissioner, Keelakarai Municipality, Keelakarai Taluk, Ramanathapuram District vide Proceedings No. T3/TNPCB/F.003751/Sewage/2025, dated: 26.02.2025 that “The Keelakarai Municipality shall take appropriate measures to establish the Sewage Treatment Plant for treating the sewage generated from the house and utilise the same for greening purpose in Keelakarai Municipality instead of disposing into sea.
8. It is respectfully submitted that the Commissioner, Keelakarai Municipality, vide Letter No. ROC 525/2023/E1 dated 19.03.2025, has informed that a fund of Rs. 11.34 crores have been allotted for the construction of the Sewage Treatment Plant (5.1 MLD capacity). The construction work will be started after the receipt of land allocation approval from the District Collector, Ramanathapuram.

Therefore, it is humbly prayed that this Hon’ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon’ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

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2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI-600 032.

VERIFICATION

I, Mrs. K. Nalini, Daughter of Thiru. K. Krishnasamy, aged about 59 years having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.


JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI-600 032.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Madurai.

(E Mail: aelmdu@tnpcb.gov.in, Phone No:0452 2489497)

ROA No.289/AEL/TNPCB/MDU/2024-25, Dated:14.03.2025

1.	Name and address of the sender	The District Environmental Engineer Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board Ramanathapuram
2.	Dated and Time of collection	17.02.2025 at 04:10,04:18pm
3.	Date and Time of receipt at Lab.	18.02.2025 at 02:30pm
4.	Condition of Seal, Fastening	Sealed, Fastened
5.	Nature and Number of Samples	2 Number of Sewage & Sea Water Sample

DEE Code No.	Lab code No.	Point of Collection	Whether Untreated/Treated
DEERMD240174	2234	Sewage outfall at – Vallal Seethakkathi Salai near light house	-
DEERMD240175	2235	At Sea near Light house	-

Test Report

Sl. No	PARAMETER	TEST METHOD	Unit	Test Samples Code Nos.	
				Lab:2234	Lab:2235
				DEERMD 240174	DEERMD 240175
1.	Conductivity	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 2510 B	µmhos /cm	3920	38500
2.	pH @ 25° C	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 4500 H ⁺	--	7.37	7.19
3.	Total Suspended Solids @105° C	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 2540 D	mg/L	18	22
4.	BOD for 3 days @ 27° C	IS 3025:(Part 44) 1993	mg/L	155	77
5.	C O D	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No.5220 B	mg/L	2080	5440
6.	Total Nitrogen as N	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 4500- Norg B	mg/L	6.127	6.309
7.	Total Phosphorous as P	APHA 23 rd Edt 2017, Part No. 4500 P-E	mg/L	0.014	0.016

Note: 1. Results relate only to the items tested samples.

2. The reports shall not be reproduced except in fully approval of the laboratory can provide assurance that parts of a reports are not take out of context.

Checked by

[Signature]
Environmental Scientist

Authorized Signatory

[Signature] 14.3.2025
Deputy Chief Scientific Officer (FAC),
AEL, TNPCB, Madurai.

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**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

Date: 14.05.2025

Date of hearing on: . . .2025