

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 01 of 2025 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Suo Moto matter in respect of news item appearing in „Dinamalar“, Chennai Edition dated 30.12.2024 titled “Effluent in the Gulf of Mannar is a threat to rare species”.

Versus

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

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 11.08.2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.01 of 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
Based on the news item published in
'Dinamalar, Chennai Edition Dated:
30.12.2024 titled "Effluent in the Gulf of
Mannar is a threat to rare species"

.....Applicant (s)

Verses

1. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests,
Chennai.
2. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Health & Family Welfare,
Chennai.
3. The Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai.
4. The District Collector,
Ramanathapuram.
5. Municipal Commissioner,
Keelakarai, Ramanathapuram District.

.....Respondents

STATUS FILLED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, RAMANATHAPURAM

I, Simranjeet Singh Kahlon, I.A.S., S/o. Bikker Singh Kahlon Sikh aged about 38 years, residing at Collector's Bungalow, Ramanathapuram, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows: -

1. I am the District Collector of Ramanthapuram District, the fourth respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available.
2. It is submitted that the Tribunal has taken a Suo Moto application based on the news item published in Dinamalar, Chennai Edition dated 30.12.2024 under the caption "Effluent in the Gulf of Mannar is a threat to rare species"
3. It is submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its interim order dated 25.07.2025 had directed as follows:
 - "Let the District Collector report shall specifically include details regarding the identification of the land for establishment of STP."
4. It is submitted that the Commissioner of Keelakarai Municipality has reported that there is no Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Keelakarai Municipality, and as a result, all the sewage is being directly discharged into the sea. The Commissioner has also requested the alienation of 3 acres of land for the establishment of a new STP in Survey No. 208B, with a total extent of 4.67.50 hectares, classified as "Government Poramboke - Palayathu Kuttam" (a type of water body), located in Kanjirankudi Village, Keelakarai Taluk, Ramanathapuram District, vide letter Roc. No. 525/2023/E1, dated 27.01.2025.
5. It is submitted that the Tahsildar, Keelakarai has stated that the above-requested land falls under the classification of Water Body Poramboke, vide letter No. Roc.A5/276/2025, dated 05.02.2025. The Honourable

Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed, vide W.P. (MD) Nos. 31214 & 31221 of 2023 *“that the development projects will be conceived and implemented in a manner not to affect the integrity of the Water Bodies in any manner. The water bodies including tank bunds shall be maintained intact and proper distance shall be reserved ”* Hence, the above-requested land could not be processed for land alienation.

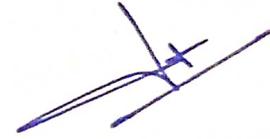
6. Hence, the Tahsildar, Keelakarai, has suggested three additional land parcels for establishing a new STP in Keelakarai Taluk, vide letters No. Roc.A5/276/2025, dated 27.03.2025 and 17.07.2025.

Sl.No	Village	Survey No	Classification of Land	Total Extent (Hec)
1.	Kanjirankudi	321	Government Promboke	5.76.50
2.	Pallamorekulam	87/2	Patta No.1617 Municipal Commissioner, Keelakarai	3.08.50
3.	Pallamorekulam	98/2	Patta No.1617 Municipal Commissioner, Keelakarai	1.73.00

7. It is submitted that field inspections are being carried out on the above-identified lands by Keelakarai Municipal officials to assess the potential feasibility of establishing a new Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Keelakarai Taluk. Once land parcel which is technical feasible for establishment of STP based as gradient to chosen, the process of land alienation will be initiated for the establishment of the new Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Keelakarai Municipality.
8. It is submitted that at Pallamorkulam village, located about 7 kilometers from the Keelakarai Municipal area, on Municipally owned land, a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) with a capacity of 20 KLD has been constructed and completed for treating the faecal sludge generated daily.

At present, the faecal sludge from the municipal areas is being removed using 6,000-litre capacity private vehicles and 6,000-litre capacity municipal suction vehicle, and is being transported to the newly established Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant for treatment. Furthermore, in order to prevent sewage in the town from mixing with the sea, sewage collected in street chambers is removed using the 6,000-litre capacity municipal suction vehicle and taken to the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) for treatment. Therefore, until a site is obtained for establishing a new STP, this sewage is, on a temporary basis, being removed in such a way that it does not mix with the sea, as informed by the Keelakarai Municipal Commissioner (f.a.c) vide letter Roc. 525/2023/E1, Dated:09.08.2025.

9. It is therefore humbly prayed that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai may be pleased to accept the status report and thus render justice.



District Collector,
Ramanathapuram

VERIFICATION

I, Simranjeet Singh Kahlon, I.A.S., S/o. Bikker Singh Kahlon Sikh aged about 38 years, working as District Collector, Ramanathapuram, do verify that the submissions in paragraph 1 to 8 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge as per records and I verify the same at Chennai on this 11th day of August, 2025



District Collector,
Ramanathapuram.