

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, AT CHENNAI
Original Application No. 103 of 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu.

And

The District Environment Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board & Others.

.....Respondents.

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

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**ADDITIONAL REPORT FILED BY THE FIRST RESPONDENT –
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, Mrs.Er.A.Nithyalakshmi,M.Tech.,D/o. Thiru. Asaithambi, aged about 39 years, having office at Siva Tower, Post Box No. 457, No 1/276, Meyyanur Main Road, Salem – 636 004, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I submit that I am working as the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Salem and I am authorized to file this additional report and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available in our office.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the OA was registered as Suo Motu as against the operation of Power looms located in Tharamangalam, Salem District for causing noise pollution.
3. It is respectfully submitted that in compliance of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) order dated 20.04.2023, the Board vide order dated 30.06.2023 allotted the "Pilot Plant Study to identify device / technology to mitigate noise pollution generated from the power loom" to the CES, Anna University, Guindy. The CES, Anna University, vide letter dated 19.11.2024 has submitted the final reports of the said study. The Board has decided to conduct a meeting with the other stakeholders like Power loom associations, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (TANSIDCO) etc., to obtain their view /


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suggestions on the recommendation of said study report and to take necessary action on implementation of the recommendations.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the Director, CES, Anna University presented the summary of the entire study and recommended the following:

- a. The main cause of the noise in conventional shuttle loom is shuttle movement. Upgradation of obsolete shuttle loom into shuttle less loom followed by proper sound proof barrier at doors & windows with transparent materials will reduce the ambient noise level to CPCB standards for residential units at 6 to 7.5 m distance from looms.
- b. Though individual's noise exposure exceeds the exposure standards, the loom owners are not having awareness on its effect due to either adapted to the noise or fear of losing the livelihood if they accept that the loom is noisy. Hence use of affordable PPEs such as ear plugs shall be made mandatory for the operators by awareness programmes and medical camps through their associations.
- c. The State and Centre Governments may formulate new scheme or review existing scheme for modernization of shuttle loom with appropriate subsidy or loans.

5. It is respectfully submitted that the Director, CES, Anna University has explained various queries raised by the members of the different power loom association and the officials from the other Departments. In continuation, the official from the other Departments has suggested the following on the recommendation of said study report:

Thiru. R. Sreedharan, Deputy Director, Department of Handlooms

- a. There are about 5.68 lakh power looms operating in Tamil Nadu, of which 70,288 are operating under the Cooperative Department, while 89,681 power looms are operating in Salem district, and about 19,352 power looms are operating in the specific Tharamangalam area. Most of these are polyester mix varieties, dhotis and towel varieties. Further, power looms operating under the cooperative system are also producing casement varieties and


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Co-Optex production project varieties under the Tamil Nadu Government's powerless dhoti, saree and uniform scheme.

- b. In this situation, it is not possible for the Government to immediately implement the conversion of all traditional power looms to Shuttleless Rapier Powerloom. This will impose a huge financial burden on the government.
 - c. Therefore, it is informed that this matter should be brought to the attention of the government and an appropriate decision should be taken.
 - d. Further, various varieties of products produced by the traditional power loom should be considered for taking decisions in this regard.
 - e. Meantime, to ensure the operation of the traditional power looms without interruption, measures should be taken to reduce noise pollution generated from the power looms, to meet permitted noise levels standards.
6. It is respectfully submitted that Department of TANSIDCO has been carried out the study in a very efficient manner by examining all the issues and factors taking into consideration to solve the difficulties of the entrepreneurs.
- a. This cost of implementing the proposed idea to reduce the noise emitted in the power loom machine can be practically 60% to 70% if the entire amount is met out from 1. Government subsidy, 2. Bank long term loan and 3. Entrepreneurs par contribution.
 - b. As it is the second basic need of human beings, any other method can also be explored and used without affecting the entrepreneurs.
7. It is respectfully submitted that regarding conversion of loom into modern loom (Rapier loom), MSME-DFO, Chennai suggested that suitability of converted loom for product specific should be taken care as the cluster, entrepreneurs and their experiences are confined to particular range of product.

It is opined that one more meeting may be organized as suggested by members of the representative so that there can be a complete representation from industry clusters.


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Upgrading plain looms to repair looms is also uncommon. The main reasons are:

1. High conversion costs (from Rs.1 lakh and above).
2. Few labours are available for repair looms.
3. Limited availability of skilled mechanics and service personnel.
4. Fewer spare parts shops compared to plain looms.
5. Supply chain challenges: Suppliers struggle to provide the large quantities of wrap beams required for repair looms, often at higher rates.
6. Various in products based on fabrics, size etc.,
7. Difficulty in lark in attachment in converted rapier looms than new Looms.
8. Variations in width of looms, power of motors and rpm, single or multicolored fabrics, electronic or mechanical separator, attachments such as dobbie and jacquard in converted machines.

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

A. Nithyalakshmi
DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
SALEM.

VERIFICATION

I, Mrs. Er. A. Nithyalakshmi, M.Tech., D/o. Thiru. Asaithambi, working as the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Salem having office at Siva Tower, Post Box No. 457, No 1/276, Meyyanur Main Road, Salem - 636 004, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

A. Nithyalakshmi
DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
SALEM.

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Date: 14.05.2025

Date of hearing on: . .2025