

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
Original Application No.111 of 2020**

**THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu  
based on the news item in Tamil Newspaper  
Dinamalar Chennai Edition dt. 13.07.2020,  
"Frothing of Chemical Foam in the  
River Thenpennai".

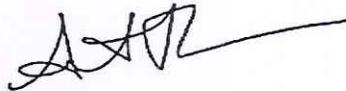
With

The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department, Chennai & Others.

... Respondents.

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Filed by  
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.



**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
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**THE MATTER OF:**

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.... Respondents.

**COMPLIANCE REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIFTH  
RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, 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 fifth respondent and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available at office.
2. It is respectfully submitted that this OA was registered as a Suo Motu by the Hon'ble Tribunal, (SZ) on the basis of the Newspaper report published in Dinamalar, Chennai City Supplement Edition dated, 13.07.2020 under the caption "Frothing of Chemical Foam in the River Thenpennai".The issues alleged are large scale foam in Thenpennai River due to the discharge of untreated chemical effluents and residential sewage from Kelavarapalli Reservoir.
3. It is respectfully submitted that the River Thenpennaiyar is originated in Karnataka and it passes 85 Kms in the state and it enters Tamil Nadu border at Sokkaransanpalli Village, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District

*K.Nalini*  
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through Northern side of Bangalore. The river reaches the Kelavarapalli Dam at an approximate distance of about 8.5 kilometers from the state boundary and it passes through Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore Districts of about 400 Kms and finally joints to Bay of Bengal.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai in its order dated 20.07.2020 constituted a Joint Committee comprising the following officials:

(i) District Collector, Krishnagiri District or the Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector, or Sub-Divisional Magistrate who is in charge of that area nominated by the District Collector

(ii) Superintending Engineer of Public Works Department and Water Resources Organisation, who is in charge of this area

(iii) a Senior Officer from Central pollution Control Board, Regional Officer, Bangalore

(iv) a Senior Officer deputed by the Chairman from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

(v) a Senior Officer deputed by the Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

(vi) District Collector, Bangalore Urban District or any Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or a Sub-Divisional Magistrate deputed by the District Collector, Attibele, Bangalore Urban District

and passed following direction:

i) Directed the committee to ascertain the water quality, and also the sources of pollution and take action against the person who are responsible in accordance with law including imposition of environmental compensation.

ii) The committee is also directed to submit a long term and short-term action plan with shorter time lines to protect the water body against pollution. If there is any contamination caused, the committee is also directed to suggest ways and means to remedy the same.

  
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iii). The Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Bangalore will be the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing all necessary logistics for this purpose.

5. It is respectfully submitted that on 05.10.2020, the Hon'ble Tribunal had considered the interim report submitted by the Joint Committee dated 01.10.2020. Subsequent progress report was filed by the Joint Committee on 20.11.2020 and 02.06.2021 with the following recommendations to TNPCB:

- a. Feasibility study for providing Sewage Treatment options (such as oxidations ponds/ diversion channels or wetlands etc.) by TNPCB followed by implementation by Local authority of the district. Solid Waste Management Plan be devised and executed by concerned Block Development Officer, Hosur taluk to ensure the solid wastes are not disposed on the riverside and managed as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- b. The trend of water quality and its improvement at major confluence points may be monitored on a monthly basis and a report be submitted to CPCB to ensure the quality of water.
- c. Environmental Compensation be calculated and imposed based on the Performance Evaluation of STPs and Random Verification of Grossly Polluting Industries. EC be calculated and imposed based on Random Verification of Grossly Polluting Industries. Calculation of EC by the three-member Committee comprising of CPCB, TNPCB and KSPCB, after submission of Reports by the concerned authorities (BWSSB, KSPCB, TNPCB).
- d. Among the industries those that are Red/Orange category (small, medium and large) with treated effluent discharge option as surface water/sewer drain/others (which includes industries having ZLD) in River basin of Thenpennai be monitored for effluent characteristics by concerned SPCBs, so as to ascertain the quality of treated effluent discharge as per the Consent Conditions of SPCBs.

  
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6. It is respectfully submitted that the 5<sup>th</sup> respondent had filed its report in the month of November,2020 for the compliance of the direction passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 20.7.2020.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the Original Application was disposed of on 28.06.2021 with the following directions:

- “ii) The concerned Departments mentioned in the Joint Committee report are directed to implement the directions issued by the Joint Committee, so as to resolve the issue permanently within a time frame provided by them.*
- iii) Chairman, Karnataka Pollution Control Board and Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board are directed to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the Joint Committee by the respective Departments and also assess the improvement of the water quality in their respective areas and if any, further action is to be taken, they are directed to take further action against those who are not complying with the directions issued by the Joint Committee, which results in further pollution to the Thenpennai River and also the connecting rivers which reaches the Kelavarapalli reservoir from where the water is released to Thenpennai River from State of Karnataka.*
- iv) The Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Bangalore as well as Regional Office Chennai are also directed to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the Joint Committee and if there is any violation or non-implementation of the directions, then they are also directed to issue necessary direction to the defaulting Department to comply with the same and on their failure, take appropriate action against them in accordance with law.*
- v) The Chief Secretary, State of Karnataka is directed to review the action taken by the respective department and if there is any gap found, then issue necessary direction to the concerned departments for implementating the directions within their State*

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*and if any support is required from the Government level then provide both technical as well as financial support in this regard.*

*vi) The Chief Secretary, State of Tamil Nadu is also directed to monitor the directions issued by the Joint Committee as far as State of Tamil Nadu is concerned and also the timeline provided by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board in implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in these areas which also causes some sort of pollution to water quality in Thenpennai River.*

*vii) The Chief Secretary, State of Karnataka, Chief Secretary, State of Tamil Nadu, Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Bangalore and Chennai and respective Chairman of the Pollution Control Boards are directed to file periodical progress report to this Tribunal, once in three months along with the water quality analysis so as ascertain the improvement caused on account of the implementation of the recommendations made by the respective departments and if they found any gap in spite of the implementation of the recommendations, they are also directed to submit their further remedial measures to be taken by the respective department to resolve the issue permanently when they are filing their progress report, once in three months.*

*viii) Respective Chairman of both the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board are directed to file periodical progress report to this Tribunal, once in three months along with the water quality analysis so as ascertain the improvement caused on account of the implementation of the recommendations made by the respective departments and if they found any gap in spite of the implementation of the recommendations, they are also directed to submit their further remedial measures to be taken by the respective department to resolve the issue permanently when they are filing their progress report, once in three months”.*

*L. Srinivasan*  
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8. It is respectfully submitted that the TNPCB has filed its compliance report on 22.3.2022 before the Hon'ble Tribunal. On 13.07.2022, the OA was finally disposed by the Hon'ble Tribunal with the following directions.

*"11. This Tribunal feel that the application can be finally disposed of with following directions:-*

*i) The Central Pollution Control Board, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board are directed to monitor the implementation of the directions issued by this Tribunal while disposing the mater and if there is any violation found, then they are directed to take appropriate action against those stake holders who are committing the violation in accordance with law.*

.....

*v) The Chief Secretary to Government, State of Tamil Nadu, the Additional Chief Secretary to Government for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Additional Chief Secretary for Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Director for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj of State of Tamil Nadu are directed to monitor the implementation of the directions by the respective stake holders to protect the Thenpennai river free from pollution, so as to provide clean water to the people residing by the side of the river.*

*12. With the above observations and directions, the Original Application is finally disposed off".*

9. It is respectfully submitted that as per the Joint Committee recommendations in the matter of O.A.111/2020 and compliance of the above order, the river water samples were collected periodically by the TNPCB at Sokkarasanpalli, Thenpennai River entry point of Tamil Nadu (Inter- State Border) for the year 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 and earlier the dam water was

  
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used for drinking purpose and at present it is used for agricultural purpose and hence the sample water is compared with the CPCB standards for Designated best use water quality criteria for surface waters. **(ROA of the water samples was collected and its trend graph is enclosed in Annexure –I).** The increased values of BOD, dissolved oxygen, total coliform and Fecal coliform reveals that there is a discharge of sewage/waste water in to the Thenpennai River from the Karnataka State.

10. It is respectfully submitted that a news item appeared in Sun News dated 25.10.2024, regarding the heavy chemical foaming in the Kelavarapalli Reservoir, obstructing regular transport in the arterial road. Based on this, CPCB and TNPCB inspected and analysed samples and the results given below.

Sl.No	Parameters	Values	Standards (as per CPCB Designated Best use of Water Quality for surface waters-class C)
1.	BOD	20 to 32mg/l	3 mg/l or less
2.	Dissolved Oxygen	1.3 mg/l to 6.1 mg/l	more than 4mg/l
3.	Total coliform	19,863 MPN/100ml	5000MPN/100ml <u>or</u> less
4.	Fecal coliform	10,462 MPN/100ml	Nil

The increased values of the above monitored parameters reveal that there is a discharge of untreated sewage/waste water into the Thenpennai River. **(Enclosed as Annexure –II).**

11. It is respectfully submitted that based on the news item appeared in Sun News dated 25.10.2024, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, (SZ), Chennai has reopened this OA on 6.11.2024 and passed an Order as follows:

*"...4. There was a news item appeared in Sun News dated 25.10.2024 which states that in the Kelavarapallai Reservoir, there was a heavy frothing (chemical foam) which has blocked*

*h. chinn*  
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*the arterial road disturbing the regular transport. The water also is thoroughly contaminated with the chemicals.*

*5. If only the State Authorities have complied with the directions issued by this Tribunal, recurrence of the incidents would not have occurred.*

*6. Let the Chief Secretary to the Government - State of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka file a report in compliance with the earlier order and also the status regarding the news item which indicates the recurrence of the event.*

*7. Both the Tamil Nadu SPCB and Karnataka SPCB are also directed to enquire into the incident and file their report, tracing the cause for the same and adjourned the OA to 6.1.2025”.*

12. It is respectfully submitted that based on the above order, the TNPCB has collected the monthly water samples at Sokkarasanpalli Village (interstate Border) on 26.12.2024 and The Report of Analysis of the monthly sample collected on 26.12.2024 by TNPCB at Sokkarasanpalli Village (interstate Border) reveals the following

Sl.No	Parameters	Values	Standards (as per CPCB Designated Best use of Water Quality for surface waters-class C)
1	BOD	134 mg/l	3 mg/l or less
2	Total coliform	20,050 MPN/100ml	5000MPN/100ml <u>or</u> less
3	Fecal coliform	16,520 MPN/100 ml	Nil

The above status also reveals discharge of untreated sewage/waste water into Thenpennai River from the Karnataka State, resulting in formation of frothing in the stretch of River Thenpennai.

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13. It is respectfully submitted that on 27.02.2025 again the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) passed an Order as follows:

*"1. Both the Chief Secretaries of State of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are directed to file their reports.*

*2. Let the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board also inspect and submit the appropriate reports".*

14. It is respectfully submitted that huge frothing occurs in the river stretch during the monsoon/heavy rainfall days due to the untreated sewage discharged into the River Thenpennai from the State of Karnataka. To curtail the discharge of sewage/waste water into the Kelavarapalli dam, and in order to improve the water quality of Thenpennai river, a letter was addressed to the Central Pollution Control Board vide letter dated 04.03.2025 for issuance of necessary directions to the stakeholders. **(Copy is Enclosed as Annexure-III)**. The Reply is awaited.

15. It is respectfully submitted that to comply the NGT Order dated 27.02.2025 the TNPCB, has inspected on 14.03.2025 and the following were observed;

- a. The nature of the water at inter-state border is blackish in colour with turbidity.
- b. No grossly polluting (water polluting) industries are located at the River Basin of Thenpennai in Tamil Nadu Stretch. Hence, there is no discharge of sewage/trade effluent from the industries located within Tamil Nadu.
- c. With respect to the local bodies situated around the river at the Tamil Nadu side, many of them are with minimal population. The local bodies have in any event been informed to set up treatment systems to address the issue of sewage. In any event, the parameters being grossly above the norms at the entrance point into the State of Tamil Nadu reflects the core issue as the

  
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addressing of pollution at the upstream side which is the State of Karnataka.

- d. Further, the river having run almost 85 Kms at the State of Karnataka enters with blackish colours and grossly above standards indicating continuous pollution throughout the stretch ruling out even natural dilution.

16. It is respectfully submitted that the Action Taken by TNPCB and Status of implementation of action points is enclosed as **Annexure – IV.**

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.

  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
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#### VERIFICATION

I, 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  
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**Theppennaiyar River Water samples collected at Chokarasanaipalli village at the Inter State Border by the DEE, TNPCB, Hosur from  
Jan 2022 to Dec 2022**

Sl. No.	Parameter	Units	Inland Standards	CPCB Designated best use water quality criteria, Class C	Date of Sample Collection											
					Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
1	pH	Number	5.5-9.0	6.0 - 9.0	7.17	7.08	6.87	6.70	6.57	6.34	6.5	9.96	6.55	6.7	7.1	6.42
2	Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	100		16	14	16.0	8.0	10.0	16.0	42	12	424	42	48	58
3	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	2100		694	730	354	350	324	330	718	1089	976	543	482	524
4	Chloride	mg/l	1000		215	220	205	200	155	210	199	353	125	136	110	250
5	Sulphate	mg/l	1000		125	14	22	72	147	28	27	54	44	120	32	46
6	BOD 3 days at 27°C	mg/l	30	3 or less	9	10	28.0	23.0	6.0	16.0	32	14	15	5	4	12
7	COD	mg/l	250		48	48	80.0	48.0	72.0	32.0	360	160	66	16	32	160
8	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	>4	4 or more	2.36	0.28	0.73	0.92	1.04	1.20	1.1	6.52	4.4	4.4	6.9	7.4
9	Boron	mg/l	2		1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	1.5	-	0.1375	0.046	0.04	0.7	1.1	0.7
10	Total Coliform	MPN / 100 ml		5000 or less	1200	1500	1700	2100	2200	2800	3500	1500	2800	-	-	-
11	Fecal Coliform	MPN / 100 ml		0	----	----	840	----	----	1400	-		1300	-	-	-

MPN -Most Probable Number per 100 Milliliters  
Class C - Drinking Water Source with Conventional Treatment

Therpennaiyar River Water samples collected at Chokarasanapalli village at the inter State Border by the DEE, TNPCB, Hosur on April 2023 to August 2023

Sl. No.	Parameter	Units	Inland Standards	CPCB Designated best use water quality criteria, Class C	Date of Sample Collection				
					08.04.2023	09.04.2023	01.06.2023	03.07.2023	07.08.2023
1	pH	Number	5.5-9.0	6.0 - 9.0	7.1	7.21	6.32	5.75	7.24
2	Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	100		82	60	12	104	254
3	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	2100		1280	815	692	692	898
4	Chloride	mg/l	1000		250	260	200	225	225
5	Sulphate	mg/l	1000		90	93	120.6	190	3
6	BOD 3 days at 27°C	mg/l	30	3 or less	26	22	8	20	8
7	COD	mg/l	250		46	45	162	72	72
8	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	>4	4 or more	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.1
9	Boron	mg/l	2		0.197	0.152	0.003	-	-
10	Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/l	100		61.6	117.6	10.08	-	-
11	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	50		32.4	30.6	8.2	-	-
12	Total Coliform	MPN / 100 ml		5000 or less			-		-
13	Fecal Coliform	MPN / 100 ml		0			-		-

MPN -Most Probable Number per 100 Milli Liters  
Class C - Drinking Water Source with Conventional Treatment

Thenpennaiyar River Water samples collected at Chokarasapanapalli village at the inter State Border by the DEE, TNPCB, Hosur on  
 Jul 2024 to Jan 2025

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Sl. No.	Parameter	Units	Inland Standards	CPCB Designated best use water quality criteria, Class C	Date of Sample Collection					
					10.07.2024	12.08.2024	07.10.2024	08.11.2024	26.12.2024	30.01.2025
1	pH	Number	5.5-9.0	6.0-9.0	6.96	6.7	7.04	7.11	7.46	7.39
2	Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	100		158	186	16	254	48	40
3	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	2100		-	-	-	692	898	-
4	Chloride	mg/l	1000		200	160	-	225	225	-
5	Sulphate	mg/l	1000		78	8	-	190	3	-
6	BOD 3 days at 27°C	mg/l	30	3 or less	12	22	32	48	134	32
7	COD	mg/l	250		64	54	96	156	0.2	130
8	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	>4	4 or more	3.6	4.1	1.8	0.7	4.1	0.8
9	Lead	mg/l	0.1		<MDL	<MDL	0.018	<MDL	<MDL	<MDL
10	Copper	mg/l	3		0.007	0.016	-	-	-	-
11	Nickel	mg/l	3		<MDL	0.131	0.212	0.572	0.358	0.049
12	Zinc	mg/l	1		<MDL	0.314	0.492	<MDL	<MDL	0.765
13	Boron	mg/l	2		-	0.012	-	-	-	-
14	Sulphide	mg/l	2		1.8	0.6	-	-	4	12
15	Dissolved Phosphate	mg/l	5		-	-	0.59	0.8	8.69	2.91
16	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	50		-	-	5.8	8.06	6.1	3.7
17	Chromium	mg/l	2		-	-	<MDL	<MDL	<MDL	<MDL
18	Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/l	100		-	-	11.4	16.04	8.9	12.4
19	Total Coliform	MPN/100ML		5000 or less	2025	2282	1011	11500	20050	12580
20	Fecal Coliform	MPN/100ML		0	1230	1046	722	1640	16520	10110

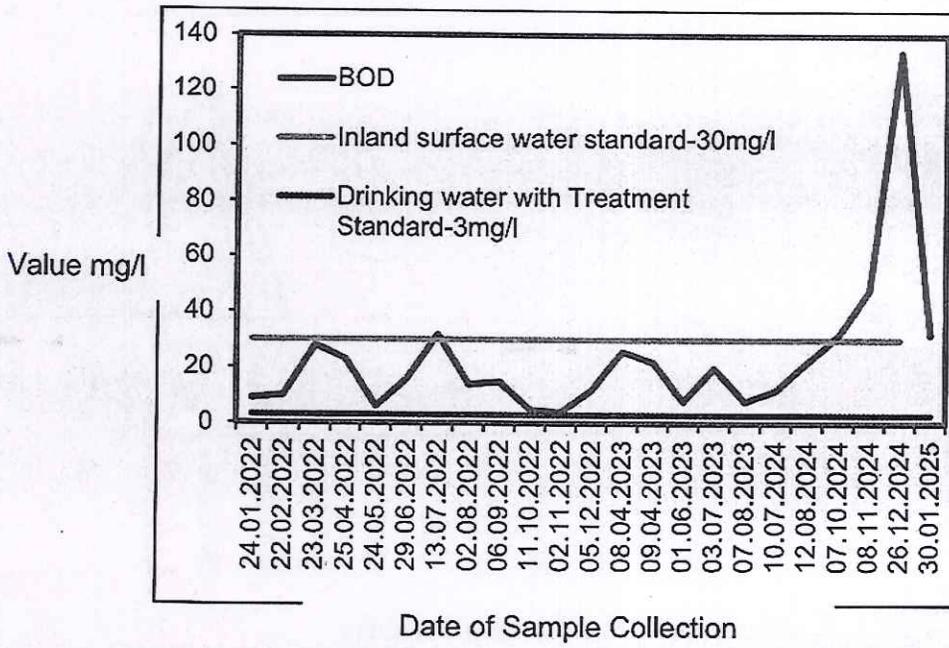
MPN -Most Probable Number per 100 Millil Liters  
 Class C - Drinking Water Source with Conventional Treatment

  
 DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
 LICHIID

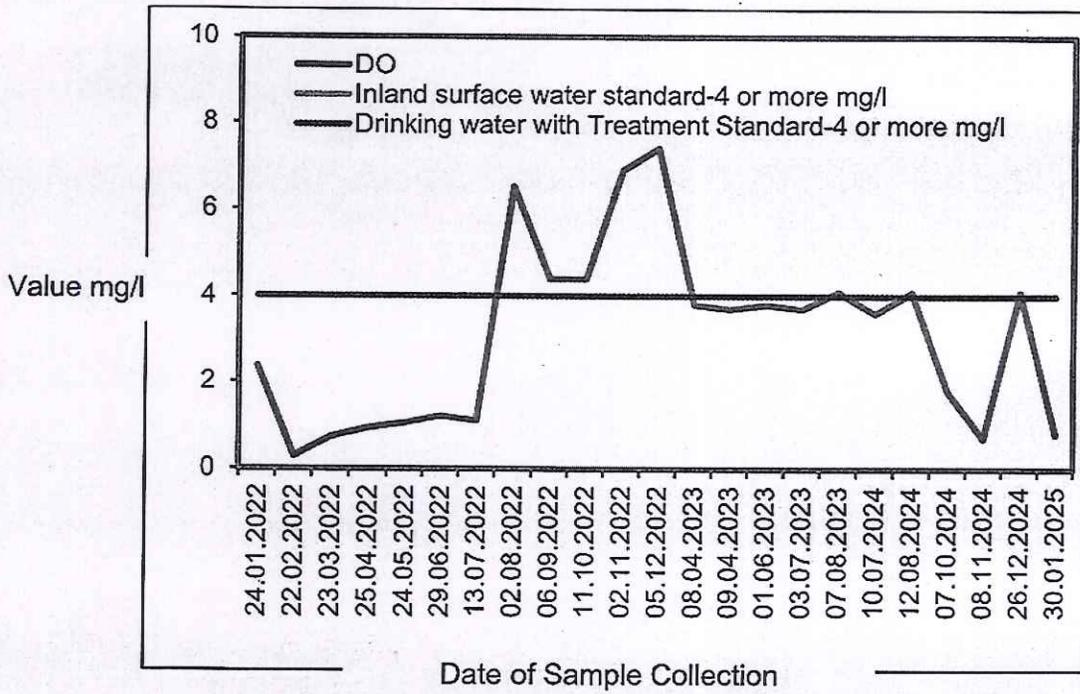


Trend graph showing water quality of Thenpennai River from the year 2022-2025

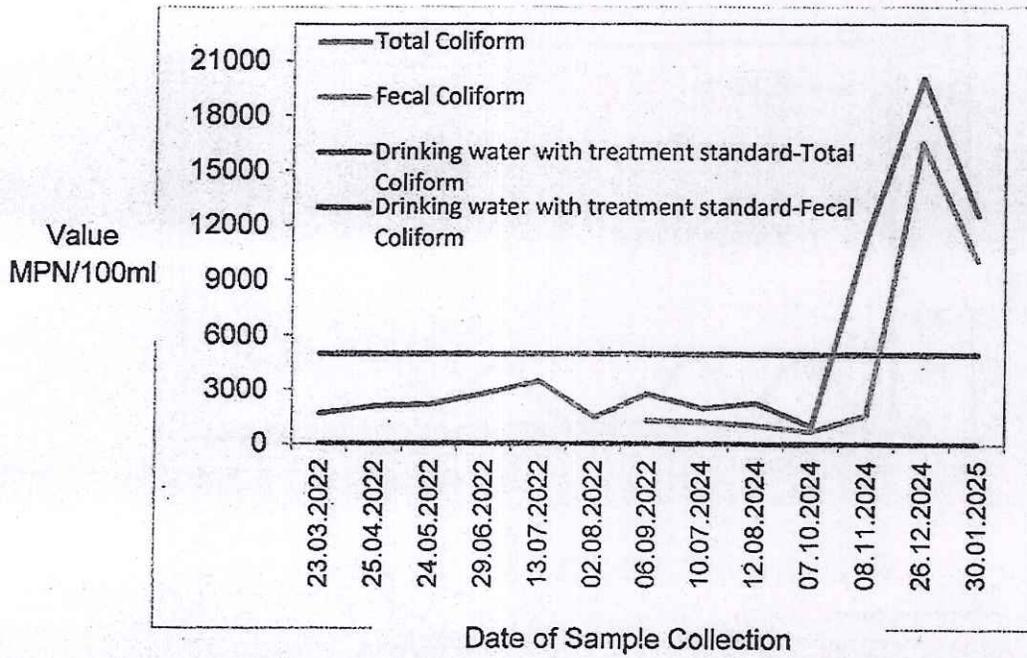
1. Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)



2. Dissolved Oxygen (DO)



### 3. Total and Fecal Coliform



*[Signature]*  
DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
HOSUR



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Name of the Parameter : Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

Sl. No.	Sampling Location	Unit	Date of Sample Collected		
			29.10.2024	30.10.2024	1.11.2024
1	Pennaiyar South ( South Pennaiyar )/ Thenpennai River Chokkarasanapalli- Village ,Entry point in Tamilnadu Border , Hosur-Taluk	mg/l	25	28	32
2	Kodiyalam Village ( Check Dam) Hosur-Taluk	mg/l	30	28	28
3	Bagalur Village ( Upstream Of kelavarapalli Dam ) Hosur-Taluk	mg/l	30	28	32
4	Middle Point Near Shutter NO- 2, Kelavarapalli Dam in Hosur -Taluk	mg/l	31	21	21
5	Downstream of Kelavarapalli Dam near Marasanthiram Village Road, Hosur- Taluk	mg/l	22	24	20

  
 Deputy Chief Scientific Officer  
 District Environmental Laboratory  
 Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board  
 Hosur

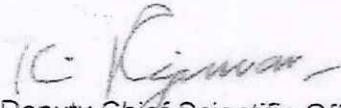
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## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Name of the Parameter : Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

Sl. No.	Sampling Location	Unit	Date of Sample Collected		
			29.10.2024	30.10.2024	1.11.2024
1	Pennaiyar South ( South Pennaiyar ) / Thenpennai River Chokkarasanapalli-Village ,Entry point in Tamilnadu Border , Hosur-Taluk	mg/l	1.3	1.6	1.5
2	Kodiyalam Village ( Check Dam) Hosur-Taluk	mg/l	1.2	1.5	1.8
3	Bagalur Village ( Upstream Of kelavarapalli Dam ) Hosur-Taluk	mg/l	2.6	3.1	3.3
4	Middle Point Near Shutter NO- 2, Kelavarapalli Dam in Hosur -Taluk	mg/l	4.3	4.4	4.2
5	Downstream of Kelavarapalli Dam near Marasanthiram Village Road. Hosur- Taluk	mg/l	6.1	5.7	5.8

  
 Deputy Chief Scientific Officer  
 District Environmental Laboratory  
 Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board  
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## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Name of the Parameter : Total Coliform (TC) & Fecal Coliform (FC)

Sl. No.	Sampling Location	Unit	Date of sample Collected: 4.11.2024		Date of sample Collected: 8.11.2024	
			TC	FC	TC	FC
1	Pennaiyar South ( South Pennaiyar )/ Thenpennai River Chokkarasanapalli-Village ,Entry point in Tamilnadu Border , Hosur-Taluk	MPN /100ml	241960	98040	11500	1640
2	Kodiyalam Village (Check Dam) Hosur-Taluk	MPN/ 100ml	241960	120330	9000	6400
3	Bagalur Village (Upstream Of kelavarapalli Dam ) Hosur-Taluk	MPN/ 100ml	182560	23506	13900	12400
4	Middle Point Near Shutter NO- 2, Kelavarapalli Dam in Hosur -Taluk	MPN/ 100ml	26868	9958	**	**
5	Downstream of Kelavarapalli Dam near Marasanthiram Village Road, Hosur- Taluk	MPN/ 100ml	19863	10462	**	**

TC: Total Coliform; FC: Fecal Coliform

\*\* Sample Not collected due to public complaint

  
 Deputy Chief Scientific Officer  
 District Environmental Laboratory  
 Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board  
 Hosur





## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



**From**  
Thiru. R.Kannan, M.Tech,  
Member secretary  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
76, Anna Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai- 600 032.

**To**  
The Member Secretary,  
Central Pollution Control Board,  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar,  
Delhi – 110 032.  
e-mail: [m PCB.cpcb@nic.in](mailto:m PCB.cpcb@nic.in)

**Lr. No. T5/TNPCB/F.004258/NGT/2025, Dated: 04.03.2025**

**Sub:** TNPCB – Thenpennaiyar – Suo Moto Case by Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi – OA No. 1374 of 2024 – Renumbered as OA No. 14 of 2025 – Hon'ble NGT (SZ) – Action taken report submitted – Request for Directions to be issued under section 24,25 & 26 of Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 – Reg.

**Ref:** 1. Letter from DEE, Hosur, TNPCB No. DEE/TNPCB/OA No.14 of 2025/HSR/2025 Dated: 19.02.2025  
2. Hon'ble NGT(SZ) Chennai Order Dated 10.02.2025 in OA No 14 of 2025  
3. Letter from CPCB F. No. Tech/02/Legal (TN)/RDC/2024-25/933 dated 07.01.2025  
4. Hon'ble NGT(SZ) Chennai Order Dated 06.11.2024 in OA No 111 of 2020.

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Suo Moto case OA No. 1374 of 2024 was registered by the National Green Tribunal (PB) on the basis of the news item titled "Sea of Toxic Foam In Tamil Nadu's Hosur After Dam Discharges Surplus Water" appearing in NDTV.com dated 05.12.2024. The matter relates to a toxic foam crisis that has emerged in a stretch of Thenpennai river near Hosur, Tamil Nadu, as the Kelavarapalli Dam released surplus water following heavy rains. In connection with this, CPCB had requested TNPCB to submit Action Taken Report (ATR), and water sampling and analysis carried out vide reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited.

In this regard, It is submitted that River Thenpennai originates in Karnataka State and passes 85 Km in that state before entering the Tamil Nadu border through the Northern side of Bangalore. The river reaches Bagalur Village, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District at a distance of about 4 Km and it passes through Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore Districts of about 400 km, and finally joins the Bay of Bengal. The River Thenpennai flows and enters into the Tamil Nadu state border located at Sokkaransanpalli Village, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, and the Kelavarapalli Dam, which impounds the River Thenpennai, approximately 8.5 kilometers away from the state boundary.

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.  
Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068  
Email : [tnpcb-chn@gov.in](mailto:tnpcb-chn@gov.in) Web : [tnpcb.gov.in](http://tnpcb.gov.in)

Earlier, a SUO MOTU case i.e. OA.No.111 of 2020 was registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai based on news published in Dinamalar, Chennai City Supplement Edition dated 13.07.2020 under the caption of "Frothing of Chemical Foam in the River Thenpennai", the issues alleged are large scale foam in Thenpennai River due to untreated chemical effluents discharged from Kelavarapalli Reservoir and also the residential sewage is mixed with the water which affects water quality.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai, in its order dated 20.07.2020, has appointed a Joint Committee constituted by CPCB, Regional office, Bangalore, to study the area and submit a detailed report with recommendations including an action plan and remedial measures.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai, vide reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited, has disposed of the case with certain directions to the stakeholders and SPCBs and also directed the Chief Secretary of two states to monitor the implementation of the Joint Committee's recommendation.

As per the Joint Committee report, most of the action plans and remedial measures were suggested to the stakeholders of Karnataka state since the prime sources of pollution are located in Bangalore, Karnataka and the sewage from the Bangalore metro city, both treated and untreated is being discharged into the lakes of Bellandur, Agara and Varthur. The overflow from the lakes flows into the River Thenpennaiyar. Only, the following action points were suggested to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

1. Sewage and Solid Waste Management in the villages adjoining River Thenpennai up to Kelavarapalli.
2. Regular Water Quality Monitoring at important locations.
3. Random Verification of grossly polluting (water polluting) industries located in the River Basin and Assessment of wastewater management and discharge mode

In this regard, TNPCB collected and analysed the water samples from River Thenpennaiyar every month at Chokarasanapalli Village (interstate Border) to monitor the Quality of water, and the action taken by the TNPCB for said action points is submitted vide Annexure I & II.



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## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



Meanwhile, a news item broadcasted in Sun News dated 25.10.2024 states that in the Kelavarapalli Reservoir, there was a heavy frothing (chemical foam) that blocked the arterial road, disturbing the regular transport. In this regard, the officials of the Regional Office, South Zone, CPCB have inspected along with the officials of TNPCB, Hosur in the Thenpennaiyar River Stretch in Tamil Nadu Inter-State Border on 29.10.2024, and the samples were collected by the officials of Regional Office, South Zone, CPCB and sent to the DEL, TNPCB, Hosur for analysis.

The RoA of the samples collected by officials of CPCB and TNPCB on 29.10.2025 at the points of Chokkarasanapalli Entry Point, Kodiyalam Village, Upstream of Kelavarapalli Dam (Bagalur Village), Middle point near shutter No.2 of Kelavarapalli Dam and Down Stream of Kelavarapalli Dam (Near Marasandiram Village Road) in Tamil Nadu Stretch reveals that the DO level fluctuates from 1.3 mg/l to 6.1 mg/l at the Chokkarasanapalli Entry Point to Down Stream of Kelavarapalli Dam. The Total coliform level fluctuates from 241960 MPN/100ml to 19863 MPN/100ml at the Chokkarasanapalli Entry Point to Down Stream of Kelavarapalli Dam, and Fecal coliform level fluctuates from 98040 MPN/100ml to 10462 MPN/100ml at the Chokkarasanapalli Entry Point to Down Stream of Kelavarapalli Dam. From the report, the Total and Fecal coliform at Chokkarasanapalli Entry Point reveals that there is a discharge of sewage/wastewater in the Thenpennai River from the Karnataka State. (The RoA of the samples is hereby submitted vide Annexure III)

Further, the Hon'ble NGT (PB) on its own motion Suo Motu based on the News item in NDTV.com dated 05.12.2024 titled "Sea of Toxic Foam in Tamil Nadu Hosur after Dam discharges surplus water" as mentioned earlier. In this regard, the counter affidavit was filed by the TNPCB. Then, the Hon'ble NGT (PB) vide order dated 18.12.2024 has informed that since the matter relates to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai, therefore OA is transferred to the Southern Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. In continuation of the above, the case was transferred to the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) and renumbered as OA No.14 of 2025.

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No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.  
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The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) vide order dated 10.02.2025 has directed that TNPCB make an inspection and file their report. In this regard, the Kelavarapalli Dam and River Thenpennai were inspected by the officials of TNPCB, Hosur on 19.02.2025 (Photocopy Enclosed vide Annexure IV) and observed that there is no frothing found in the river stream discharged from the Kelavarapalli Dam. However, the frothing occurred in the river stretch during the monsoon/heavy rainfall days due to the presence of high levels of coliform and BOD in the untreated sewage discharged into the River Thenpennai from the State of Karnataka.

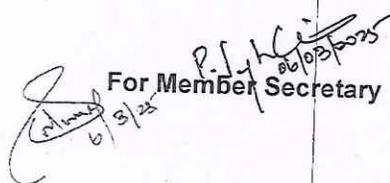
From the analysis of regular water samples collected every month for the years 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 at Chokarasanapalli Village (interstate Border), it was observed that BOD varies from 32 mg/l to 134 mg/l, total coliform varies from 1200 MPN/100 ml to 20050 MPN/100 ml and Fecal Coliform varies from 840 MPN/100 ml to 16520 MPN/100 ml reveals which that there is a discharge of sewage/wastewater in the Thenpennai River from the Karnataka State.

Also, the value of BOD, Total Coliform, and Fecal Coliform was observed as 134 mg/l, 20050 MPN/100 ml, and 16520 MPN/100 ml respectively during the collection of water sample at Chokarasanapalli Village (interstate Border) in 26.12.2024 after the publishing of news in NDTV.com which reveals that there is a discharge of sewage/wastewater in the Thenpennai River from the Karnataka State thereby formation of frothing in the stretch of River Thenpennai.

In this regard, it is requested that the Central Pollution Control Board may kindly issue necessary directions to the stakeholders to curtail the discharge of sewage/wastewater from Bangalore City through the Bellandur and Varthur lake systems and industries located in the state of Karnataka to improve the water quality of the Thenpennai River.

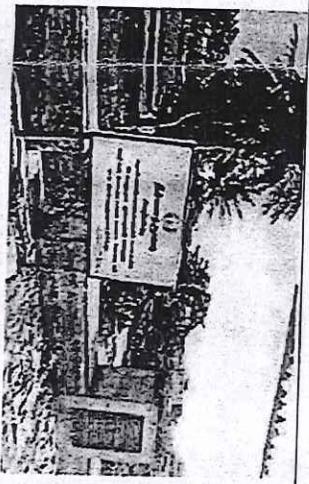
This is submitted for your kind information and necessary action, please.

Encl: As above

  
For Member Secretary

Annexure IV				
Action Points	Present Status	Proposed Action by the Joint Committee	Agency Responsible (Timeline)	Action Taken by TNPCCB and Status of implementation of action points
Sewage and Solid Waste Management in the villages (13) adjoining River Thenpennai up till Kelavarapalli	Among the villages located near River Thenpennai, Bagalur is having population of about 11,000 and the domestic sewage generation is to be estimated about 0.0715 MLD. Further, Solid Waste generation in Bagalur is to be estimated about 1.5 Tons/day.	Feasibility study for Sewage Treatment options (such as oxidations ponds/ diversion channels or wetlands etc.) by TNPCCB followed by implementation by Local authority of the district. Solid Waste Management Plan be devised and executed by concerned Block Development Officer, Hosur taluk to ensure the solid wastes are not disposed on the riverside and managed as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.	Feasibility study by TNPCCB in consultation with local authority for implementation (six months) Concerned Block Development Officer to submit to TNPCCB (six months)	In order to mitigate the Thenpennai River pollution in Tamil Nadu Stretch, the Board has issued certain directions vide Proceeding dated 03.02.2022, 04.02.2022 and 09.02.2022 to the BDO, Hosur Panchayath union and the Executive Engineer, PWD, WRO (River Thenpennai Basin) respectively.  <b>Compliance Status of Executive Engineer, PWD, WRO as stated to this office vide letter dated 17.03.2025</b>  <b>Solid Waste Management:</b> It is informed that solid wastes were removed and a warning board was placed near Bagalur bridge stated that not to dump debris and solid waste near the Bagalur Bridge. Also, necessary instructions were given to BDO, Hosur to collect the solid waste from the public of nearby villages of Pennaiyar River Bank.





**Sewage Management:** It is informed that necessary instruction were given to the local body of Hosur near Pennaiyar River that no domestic sewage is let into the river and also asked to make arrangements of domestic waste treatment.

**Compliance Status of Block Development Officer, Hosur Panchayath union as stated to this office vide letter dated 19.03.2025**

**Sewage Management:**

✓ In Belathur Panchayath, the constructions of 30 Nos of Individual House hold soak pits are completed for the treatment of sewage. Also, the construction of horizontal grey water filter bed and drainage at Kalaignar Nagar and



				<p>Jeewa Nagar in Belathur Panchayath are nearing completion stage for the treatment of sewage generated from part of the Belathur Panchayath.</p> <p>✓ The construction of horizontal grey water filter bed and drainage at Singasadanapalli village in Belathur Panchayath has been completed for the treatment of sewage.</p> <p>✓ The construction of horizontal grey water filter bed and drainage at Durgadevi street and Chandhai street in Bagalur Panchayath has been completed for the treatment of sewage generated from part of the Bagalur Panchayath.</p> <p>✓ The construction of horizontal grey water filter bed and drainage at Sokkarasanapalli in Sevaganapalli Panchayath are nearing completion stage for the treatment of sewage. Also, the construction of horizontal grey water filter bed and drainage at Ambedkar Nagar and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar area in Bagalur Panchayath has been completed for the treatment of sewage.</p>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The construction of horizontal grey water filter bed and drainage at Sevaganapalli SC Colony, Kothapalli, Chichuruganapalli, Kakkannur in Sevaganapalli Panchayath has been completed for the treatment of sewage.</li><li>✓ The construction of horizontal grey water filter bed and drainage at Kelavarapalli, Nallur, Belathur in Kelavarapalli/Nallur/Belathur Panchayath has been completed for the treatment of sewage.</li><li>✓ The construction of horizontal grey water filter beds and drainage at Muthali panchayath, Thorappali Aghragaram Panchayath are nearing completion stage for the treatment of sewage.</li><li>✓ The construction of horizontal grey water filter beds and drainage at Chokarasanapalli village in Sevaganapalli panchayath has been completed for treatment of sewage generated from 184 households and the treated sewage is discharged in to River Thenpennai.</li></ul>
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Regular Water Quality Monitoring at	Water Quality is being monitored by KSPCB by installing	The trend of water quality and its improvement at major confluence points	TNPCB & KSPCB (to monitor on	<p><b>Solid Waste Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The plastic shredding machine is installed at Sevaganapalli and all the segregated plastic wastes is being collected, processed and utilised in road laying works.</li> <li>✓ The solid wastes generated from the Bagalur panchayath, Belathur panchayath, Bagapalli panchayath, Nallur panchayath are collected segregated and processed in micro composting centers (MCC).</li> <li>✓ The solid wastes generated from the households are being collected and brought to the segregation shed and segregated as bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes for further treatment and dispose.</li> <li>✓ Further informed that the Hosur Panchayath is being taken action for not disposal of solid waste and sewage into River Thenpennai so as to protect the river.</li> </ul> <p>As per the joint committee recommendations in the matter of O.A.111/2020, the river water samples were collected periodically</p>
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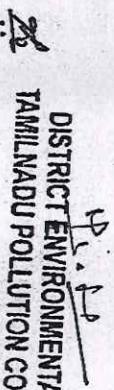
important locations	real time monitoring stations in Bellandur and Varthur. Further, Mugalur bridge and sokkarasanapalli is being monitored under National Water	may be monitored for the year 2021-22 on a monthly basis and a report be submitted to CPCB to ensure the quality of water	yearly basis)	<p>by the TNPCB at Chokkarsanapalli, Thenpennai River Entry point of Tamil Nadu (Inter- State Border) for the year 2022-2023 &amp; 2024. The following observations were made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ BOD varies from 32 mg/l to 134 mg/l, total coliform varies from 1200 MPN/100ml to 20050 MPN/100ml and Fecal Coliform varies from 840 MPN/100 ml to 16520 MPN/100ml reveals which that there is a discharge of sewage/waste water in the Thenpennai River from the Karnataka State.</li> <li>✓ The value of BOD, Total Coliform and Fecal Coliform were observed as 134 mg/l, 20050 MPN/100ml and 16520 MPN/100 ml respectively during collection water sample at Chokarasanapalli Village (interstate Border) on 26.12.2024 after the publishing of new in NDTV.Com which reveals that there is a discharge of sewage/waste water in the Thenpennai River from the Karnataka State thereby formation of frothing in the stretch of River Thenpennai (<b>Consolidated ROA is</b></li> </ul>
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<p>Environmental Compensation be imposed by SPCBs after evaluating performance of STPs and identification of defaulters upon Random Verification</p>	<p>Performance evaluation of STPs by BWSSB and random inspection of industries is required to be carried out by KSPCB/TNPCB with specific reference to River Thenpennai.</p>	<p>EC be calculated and imposed based on the Performance Evaluation of STPs and Random Verification of Grossly Polluting Industries. EC be calculated and imposed based on Random Verification of Grossly Polluting Industries</p>	<p>BWSSB and KSPCB (Six months) TNPCB (Six months) CPCB (Six months on receipt of the Study Report and recommendations/criteria for imposing EC from KSPCB and TNPCB)</p>	<p><b>enclosed in the Annexure - II).</b> No grossly polluting (water polluting) industries are located at the River Basin of Thenpennai in Tamil Nadu Stretch. Hence, there is no discharge of sewage/trade effluent from the industries.</p>
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<p>Random Verification of grossly polluting (water polluting) industries located in the River Basin and Assessment of wastewater management and discharge mode</p>	<p>The information of grossly polluting industries located in the river basin along with the status of effluent management has been compiled by KSPCB.</p>	<p>Among the industries those that are Red/Orange category (small, medium and large) with treated effluent discharge option as surface water/sewer drain/others (which includes industries having ZLD) in River basin of Thenpennai be monitored for effluent characteristics by concerned SPCBs, so as to ascertain the quality of treated effluent discharge as per the Consent Conditions of SPCBs.</p>	<p>TNPCB &amp; KSPCB (six months)</p>	<p>No grossly polluting (water polluting) industries are located at the River Basin of Thenpennai in Tamil Nadu Stretch.</p>
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 DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
 HOSUR



**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL  
GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.**

**Original Application No. 111 of 2020 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu  
Initiated proceedings based on the news  
Item Published in Tamil Newspaper  
Dinamalar, Chennai Edition Dt.13.07.2020  
under the caption "Frothing of Chemical  
Foam in the River Thenpennai"

**Vs**

The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department,  
Chennai & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**COMPLIANCE REPORT FILED ON  
BEHALF OF THE FIFTH  
RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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

**Date:03.04.2025.**

**Date of hearing on:04.04.2025**