

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.119 of 2025 (SZ)

In the matter of:

R. Latha and Ors

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Central Pollution Control Board
and ors.

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE:04.12.2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No. 119 of 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

R. Latha and Ors.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

1 Central Pollution Control Board

Represented by its Member Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi – 110032.
E-mail: mscb.cpcb@nic.in | Ph: 011-43102030

2 Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board

Represented by its Chairman,
No76. Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai District – 600 032
E-mail: tnpqb-chn@gov.in | Ph: 044-2235 3136

3 The Collector of Chengalpattu District

District Collector Office,
Grand Southern Trunk Road, Chengalpattu, Venbakkam,
Tamil Nadu – 603111.
E-mail: coilr-cpt@nic.in | Ph: 044-27427412

... Respondent(s)

DISTRICT COLLECTOR (1/5)
CHENGALPATTU

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,**CHENGALPATTU,**

I, D. Sneha, I.A.S, Daughter of Mr K.M.Divakaran, aged about 33 years, presently serving as District Collector, Chengalpattu, having office at District Collector's Campus, Chengalpattu, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows :-

1. I humbly submit that I am the 3rd Respondent herein as such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case based on the available records.
2. It is submitted that, the Original Application No. 208 of 2025 was Suo motu registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, on the basis of the letter dated 18.06.2024 submitted by the petitioners alleging unauthorized operation of a tar production unit at Edayarpalayam area of Kumizhi Panchayat, Kattankulathur Union, resulting in adverse environmental and health impacts. Upon examination, the Hon'ble Tribunal found that the allegations raised substantial environmental questions under Schedule-I enactments of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, and accordingly impleaded the Central Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, and the District Collector, Chengalpattu as respondents for filing responses.
3. It is submitted that pursuant to public complaints regarding the illegal operation of M/s. Srinivasan Hot Mix Plant (Tar Unit), an inspection had been conducted by the TNPCB on 06.06.2024, resulted in the issuance of a show cause notice under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide Proc. No. F.MMN/NA/DEE/TNPCB/W&A/2024 dated 18.06.2024. As no reply was furnished by the said unit, subsequent inspections were carried out on 18.07.2024 and 16.08.2024. The TNPCB thereafter issued


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CHENGALPATTU

directions for sealing of the unit and the DG set, vide Proc. No. TNPCB/T1/F.017176/Sealing of unit & DG set/Water/204 dated 05.09.2024.

4. The Hon'ble Tribunal further constituted a Joint Committee consisting of officers authorized by CPCB, TNPCB, and the District Collector, Chengalpattu, with TNPCB designated as the nodal agency, to inspect the site, ascertain the factual status, associate stakeholders including petitioners and the project proponent, and recommend remedial action.

5. Thereafter, considering the territorial jurisdiction concerning the place of cause of action, the Hon'ble Principal Bench directed transfer of the matter to the Southern Zone Bench of the NGT at Chennai for further hearing, and directed listing of the case before the Southern Zone Bench on 08.07.2025.

6. It is respectfully submitted that upon transfer of the matter, the case was renumbered as Original Application No. 119 of 2025 before the Southern Zone Bench, Chennai and ordered as

*"...1. The entire original records pertaining to Original Application No.208 of 2025 (PB), which has been renumbered as Original Application No. 119 of 2025 (SZ), are awaited from the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi.
2. In view of the above, list the matter on 25.07.2025..."*

7. It is respectfully submitted that the above matter came up for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 25.07.2025 the Hon'ble Tribunal ordered as :

"...1. The above case has been Suo Motu registered by the Principal Bench, of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.208 of 2025 (PB), based on the letter petition received from one R. Latha, which has been transferred to


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CHENGALPATTU

this Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.119 of 2025 (SZ).

2. Today, there is no representation for the applicant. Let notice be issued to the applicant as well as the respondents through the Tribunal.

3. The learned counsel Mrs. Revathi Manivannan accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.1, Mr. S. Sai Sathya Jith accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.2 and Dr. D.Shamuganathan accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.3.

4. Post the matter on 08.09.2025. In the meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective replies/reports..."

8. Pursuant to the directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal, it is respectfully submitted that the Assistant Director (Panchayat) and the District Environmental Engineer (TNPCB) have been instructed, vide this office letter R.C. No. 7910/2025/L1 dated 01.08.2025, to conduct a joint field inspection along with the officials nominated by the Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board.

9. It is respectfully submitted that the above matter came up for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 08.09.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal has ordered that

"...1. None of the respondents had filed their respective reports/replies.

2. For completion of pleadings, post the matter on 05.12.2025..."

10. It is respectfully submitted that a copy of the Joint Committee Inspection Report has been forwarded by the Assistant Director (Panchayat) vide his letter Na.Ka.No.2105/2025/A8 dated 06.11.2025. In the said letter, it has been stated that, pursuant to the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal, the Joint Committee inspected the site of the


**DISTRICT COLLECTOR (4/5)
CHENGALPATTU**

unit located at Edaiyarpalaiyam, Kumizhi Panchayat, Kattankulathur, on 12.08.2025, in the presence of one of the complainants, Tmt. Suguna. During the inspection, it was observed that the unit had removed all its machinery and vacated the premises, and that there were no signs of any ongoing industrial activity. The complainant further informed that the tar unit, which was earlier operating on leased land, had been converted by the original landowner into a cricket ground, which was duly verified by the Committee during the inspection.

11. It is further submitted that, the residents of Edaiyarpalaiyam village, vide letter dated 13.08.2025, informed this office that the tar plant had vacated the premises and the site had now been converted into a cricket playground, by confirming the observations made during the Joint Committee inspection.

In view of the foregoing submissions, I respectfully pray that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept the facts set out herein and pass such further orders as may be deemed fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

Solemnly affirmed at Chengalpattu
on this the 03rd day of December 2025
and signed in my presence.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR (5/5)
CHENGALPATTU

**JOINT COMMITTEE INSPECTION REPORT AS PER THE HON'BLE
NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (PB), NEW DELHI ORDER DATED
28.05.2025 IN O.A.NO.208 of 2025.**

**Submitted to
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ)
Chennai
in OA NO.119 of 2025**

August 2025

1. Background

The Hon'ble NGT (PB) registered a Suo Moto Case based on the letter petition dt.18.06.2024 sent by Smt. R. Lalitha & Others, as OA No. 208 of 2025 regarding illegal operation of the Tar Plant in the agricultural land of Edaiyarpalaiyam Village, Kumizhi Panchayat, Kattankolathur Union causing health problems, dust & air pollution.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) vide its order dt.28.05.2025 directed as follows:

“3. Prima facie the averments made in the application raise substantial questions relating to environment arising out of the implementation of the enactments specified in Schedule-I to the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

4. In view of the averments in the application, we consider it appropriate to have response of (1) Central Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary, (2) Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary and (3) District Collector, Chengalpattu; who are impleaded as respondents no. 1 to 3. The Registry is directed to prepare and attach memo of parties to the application and issue notices to respondents No. 1 to 3 requiring them to file their reply/response within two months.

8. Report of the Joint Committee may be filed by TNPCB and replies/ responses may be filed by respondents no. 1 to 3 before the Southern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Chennai within two months.”

The case was disposed at Hon'ble NGT (PB) by transferring to Hon'ble NGT (SZ) Chennai and it was registered and re-numbered as OA No. 119 of 2025 (SZ).

2. Composition of The Committee

Based on the nomination received from CPCB & District Collectorate, Chengalpattu the following members were nominated as members of the Joint Committee.

- a. Smt. Poornima B.M
Scientist 'D'
Central Pollution Control Board
Regional Directorate - Chennai
- b. Thiru. C. Vignesh
Assistant Director (Panchayat)
Chengalpattu District
- c. Er. G. Kesavamoorthy
District Environmental Engineer
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
Chengalpattu District

3. Scope of the Committee as Per Order Dated 28.05.2025

- i. To undertake visits to the site.
- ii. Look into the grievances of the applicant
- iii. Associate the applicant and representative of the concerned project proponent.
- iv. Verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action

4. Joint Inspection of the Committee:

The Joint Committee inspected the site of the unit located at Edaiyarpalaiyam, Kumizhi Panchayat, Kattankolathur on 12.08.2025 along with one of the complainant, Tmt. Suguna. During this inspection, the committee observed the following:

- i. The unit had removed their machineries and vacated the premises, there was no sign of operation of the industry.

- ii. It was informed by the complainant that the Tar industry was operating in the leased land and the original land owner had converted it into cricket ground. The same was verified during inspection.
- iii. Based on the complaints of publics residing at Edaiyarpalaiyam, Kumizhi Panchayat, against the illegal operation of M/s. Srinivasan Hot Mix Plant (Tar Unit), TNPCB inspected the unit on 06.06.2024 and a show cause notice was issued to the unit under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987 vide Proc. No. F.MMN/NA/DEE/TNPCB/W&A/2024 dated 18.06.2024. The copy of the inspection report is enclosed as Annexure I.
- iv. The unit had not furnished any reply to the show cause notice issued by TNPCB. Hence, the unit M/s. Srinivasan Hot Mix Plant was again inspected on 18.07.2024 and 16.08.2024 based on the violations, TNPC Board issued Direction for sealing of the unit and DG set vide Proc. No. TNPCB/T1/F.017176/Sealing of unit & DG set/ Water/204 dated 05.09.2024.

5. Letter from the residents of Edaiyarpalaiyam village

The residents of Edaiyarpalaiyam village had addressed a letter to District Collector, Chengalpattu on 13.08.2025, as follows:

“Earlier, a petition has been made to Panchayat President regarding the pollution caused due to the functioning of Tar plant located at Edaiyarpalaiyam village, Kumizhi Panchayat, Katankolathur. Now, the Tar plant has vacated the premises, and the site has been converted into a cricket playground”. The copy of the letter dated 13.08.2025 is enclosed as Annexure-II.

Photographs taken during time of inspection



Photographs showing the land converted into cricket ground after vacating of unit

Poornima

C. Vignesh

Kesavamoorthy

<p>Poornima B.M Scientist 'D' CPCB, RD-Chennai</p>	<p>C. Vignesh, Assistant Director (Panchayat) Chengalpattu District</p>	<p>Kesavamoorthy, G District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Chengalpattu</p>
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