

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

**Original Application No.139 of 2025 (SZ)
[Earlier O.A. No. 324 of 2025(PB)]**

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU**
Based on the News Item in The Hindu
dated: 02.07.2025 titled, "**Explosion at
fireworks unit kills 8 workers in
Tamil Nadu; 2 Critical**".

.....Applicant

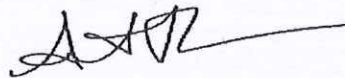
-Vs-

Central Pollution Control Board
and Others.

... Respondents

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

Report submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ by the Second Respondent - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) in Original Application No. 139 of 2025 [Earlier O.A. No. 324 of 2025(PB)] taken as a Suo Motu Based on the News Item in The Hindu dated: 02.07.2025 titled, "Explosion at fireworks unit kills 8 workers in Tamil Nadu; 2 Critical" against Central Pollution Control Board and Others.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi took a Suo Motu that based on a news item published in The Hindu dated 02.07.2025 titled "Explosion at fireworks unit kills 8 workers in Tamil Nadu; 2 critical" in OA No. 324 of 2025 (PB). The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, PB, New Delhi has transferred the OA to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai. The above O.A was renumbered as O.A. No.139 of 2025, SZ by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai. On 11.9.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal impleaded the Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) represented by its Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, Chennai and M/s. Gokules Fireworks, Chinnakmanpatti, Sivakasi-Sattur Road, Virudhunagar District, as additional Respondents No.4 & 5, respectively.

The news item relates to the death of 8 workers and injuries to 5 persons in an explosion at a fireworks manufacturing unit at Chinnakamanpatti, near Sattur, Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu. The news article mentioned that the explosion took place at Gokules Fireworks located on Sivakasi-Sattur road. The article further mentioned that the friction during the process of filling the chemicals used to make fireworks to be the cause of the explosion as per the initial report. The article stated that the seven working sheds were completely destroyed by the explosion.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) has directed the respondents to file their respective replies/reports vide order dated 11.09.2025 and to comply the Hon'ble Order, the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai submits the report on behalf of the 2nd respondent.

A. In Virudhunagar District, Sivakasi is well known for its firecracker industry. Approximately 1,000 fireworks manufacturing units are functioning across various taluks of Virudhunagar District. These industries are predominantly functioning in the Sivakasi and Vembakottai Taluks. At present, 124 fireworks industries have obtained Consent from the Board. These industries do not generate wastewater from their manufacturing activities. Further, no process emissions are released from these units. It is also reported that no hazardous solid waste is generated from the process.

B. The public interest litigation was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against bursting of firecrackers as these causes health hazards. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated: 23.10.2018 directed as follows:

- i. The crackers with reduced emission (improved crackers) and green crackers only would be permitted to be manufactured and sold.
- ii. PESO is directed to review the clinical composition of fireworks, particularly reducing Aluminum content, and shall submit its report in respect thereof within a period of two weeks from today.
- iii. PESO will ensure fireworks with permitted chemicals only to be purchased/possessed/sold/used during Diwali and all other religious festivals, of any religion whatsoever, and other occasions like

marriages, etc. It shall test and check for the presence of banned chemicals like Lithium/ Arsenic/ Antimony/ Lead/ Mercury.

- iv. PESO will ensure suspension of the licenses of manufacturers of such fireworks items and appropriate disposal of such stock.
- v. On Diwali days or on any other festivals like GURPURAB etc., when such fireworks generally take place, it would strictly be from 8.00 PM till 10.00 PM only. On Christmas Eve and New Year Eve, when such fireworks start around midnight 10.00 PM to 12.00 AM and from 11.55 PM till 12.30 AM respectively.
- vi. CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) on the States and Union Territories shall carry out short-term monitoring in their cities for 14 days (commencing from 7 days prior to Diwali and ending 7 days after Diwali) for the parameters namely, Aluminum, Barium, Iron apart from the regulatory parameters against the short-term Ambient Air Quality Criteria Values (AAQCVs) proposed by CPCB with regard to bursting of firecrackers. This will help in generation of data on pollution caused by the bursting of firecrackers and would be helpful for regulation and control quantity of Aluminum, Barium and Iron used in the manufacture of firecrackers.

C. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated: 26.11.2019 directed the fire crackers industries to manufacture Green fire crackers in accordance with the standards prescribed by the new compositions recommended by CSIR-NEERI and prescribed by Petroleum and Explosive Safety Association (PESO). Further, it is submitted that TNPCB had addressed the Fireworks Manufacturers'

Associations vide letters dated 06.07.2020 and 19.11.2020, instructing their member units to apply for consent of the Board only after obtaining the product approval certificate from CSIR–NEERI for the manufacture of green crackers. Subsequently, meetings were conducted on, 13.07.2023 and 11.10.2023 along with Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorges Manufacturers Associations (TANFAMA) and The Indian Fireworks Manufacturers Association (TIFMA) and the fireworks units were insisted to apply for Consent of the Board.

D. That during the meeting, representatives of the Association stated that remittance of five term arrears consent fess will be burden for them, since their activity is tiny in nature. Also they assured and ready to apply for consent of the Board and requested to permit them to remit the consent fees from the financial year 2023-2024 and one of the associations, ie. TANFAMA in its letter dated: 22.02.2024 stated that the fireworks units are not generating any waste water, fireworks industry is not classified in hazardous category and only in lower dangerous explosive category. As these industries are already governed by PESO, Factories Act Department and District Administration, they requested to exempt their unit from the purview of Environmental Acts, since no generation of trade effluent and process emission.

E. The frequent accidents are happening in firecracker industries due to explosion which leads to many casualties. Recently an explosion happened at M/s. Gokulesh Fireworks at Chinnakamanpatti Village, Sattur Taluk and Virudhunagar District on 01.07.2025 which leads to 08 Numbers of casualties and injuries to 5 persons.

F. As per the reporting, the unit of M/s. Gokulesh Fireworks is located in S.F.No. 507, 510/1, 518, 519, 519/2, 520/1, 520/2, 521, 522/1B, 528, 529 & 530/2, Chinnakamanpatti Village, Sattur Taluk and Virudhunagar District. The details of license issued to the unit is tabulated as below.

Details of unit and status of Licenses:

SI No	Particulars	
1	Name & Address of the unit	M/s. Gokulesh Fireworks S.F.No. 507, 510/1, 518, 519, 519/2, 520/1, 520/2, 521, 522/1B, 528, 529 & 530/2 of Chinnakamanpatti village, Sattur taluk Virudhunagar district
2	License Capacity	Fireworks =1402.5 kg
3	Man limit	The persons working in the manufacturing facilities are limited to 126 persons as approved by PESO
4	Explosive magazine capacity	50,000 kgs
5	Details of licenses obtained under ER 2008:	
A	From Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), Nagpur : a. Firework Manufacturing license No.E/HQ/TN/20/1361(E65614) dated: 26.03.2025, presently under suspension due to accident. b. Firework Magazine license No. E/HQ/TN/21/1910(E65617) dated: 26.03.2025 valid upto 31.03.2030, presently under suspension due to accident.	
B.	Licenses granted by the District Administration: a. Arms Act license No (For Sulphur): epK rp2/4783/2016 ehs; 01.03.2016 Valid till 31.12.2027, presently under suspension due to accident	

C.	License granted by the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health Govt. of Tamil Nadu: VNR07703 dated 16.10.2024 for the period upto 31.12.2025, presently under suspension due to accident.																
D.	Green crackers registration certificate obtained from CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur on 04.06.2024 (Registration No. (ORN)-GC/R-0424/243&244) .																
E.	<p>Details of Authorized Persons/Owners/Partners of Factory:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> <th>Position</th> <th>Address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mr.T.Mayakannan, S/o.Thangaraj</td> <td>55</td> <td>Partner</td> <td>Door No: 9C, Police station road, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar district-626123.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr.S.Selvam, S/o.Senthamarai</td> <td>38</td> <td>Partner</td> <td>Door No: 26B, Iyyappan Colony,Kattalaipatti road,Sivakasi- 626123</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr.T.Kamal kumar, S/o Thiyagarajan</td> <td>51</td> <td>Partner</td> <td>Door No: 23/0/D9,Kaliyappan Nagar, Sivakasi-626123</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	Position	Address	Mr.T.Mayakannan, S/o.Thangaraj	55	Partner	Door No: 9C, Police station road, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar district-626123.	Mr.S.Selvam, S/o.Senthamarai	38	Partner	Door No: 26B, Iyyappan Colony,Kattalaipatti road,Sivakasi- 626123	Mr.T.Kamal kumar, S/o Thiyagarajan	51	Partner	Door No: 23/0/D9,Kaliyappan Nagar, Sivakasi-626123
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F.	<p>i. Foreman's certificate was issued to Mr.M.Ravi having certificate No.E/SS/TN/FM/2768 (E134489) as the competent person to supervise and monitor activities in the manufacturing premises. The certificate is valid upto 08.07.2026</p> <p>ii. Foreman's certificate was issued to Mr.P.Nataraj having certificate No.E/SS/TN/FM/2941 (E137061) as the competent person to supervise and monitor activities in the manufacturing premises. The certificate is valid upto 30.11.2026.</p>																

G. The Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), Directorate of

Industrial Safety and Health, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Disaster Management Department are the major licensing authorities for fire crackers manufacturing unit. As per the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Response Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 complement the Manufacturer, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC) and provide much needed statutory backup for Crisis Management setup and organizational support. The Chemical Accidents (EPPR) Rules, 1996 envisage a Four-tier Crisis Management System in the country at the Central, State, District and Local levels. The Central Crisis Group is to be headed by the Secretary, Environment & Forests, the State Crisis Group by the Chief Secretary, the District and Local Crisis Groups by the District Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate respectively, where official of the Department of Industrial Safety and Health is the Member Secretary.

H. The unit of M/s.Gokulesh Fireworks, at S.F.No. 507, 510/1, 518, 519, 519/2, 520/1, 520/2, 521, 522/1B, 528, 529 & 530/2, Chinnakamanpatti Village, Sattur Taluk and Virudhunagar District was inspected by TNPCB officials of O/o DEE, Virudhunagar on 01.08.2025 and reported that the unit was not in operation and the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Sivakasi had issued Show Cause Notice to the Unit on 01.07.2025 based on the fire accident. DEE, TNPCB, Virudhunagar reported that the following licenses issued to the unit are under suspension due to the fire accident,

- i. The licenses granted by the District Administration, Arms Act license (for Sulphur).
- ii. The license issued by the Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) for manufacturing of fireworks (LE1).

- iii. The license granted by the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

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

This report is submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in compliance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal. The TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) will abide by all such directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Dated at Chennai, on this the 13th day of April, 2026.


13/4/2026.
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI - 600 032.

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE SECOND
RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD.**

Date of filing : .04.2026
Date of hearing : 16.04.2026



Thiru.S.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate for 2nd Respondent: TNPCB.

