

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.185 OF 2024(SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Hindu dt:24.05.2024 titled, "Microplastics found in Ashtamudi Lake".

-VS-

The Principal Secretary to Govt. of kerala
Environment Department and Ors.

----Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR/6th RESPONDENT

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Dated at Chennai on this the 12th day of March,2025.

for. *G. J. J.*
12/3/25

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala - NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

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Report submitted by the District Collector in OA-185/2024-suo moto case registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) has registered a Suo Motu case O.A No. 185 of 2024 based on the news published in 'The Hindu', Chennai Edition dated 24.05.2024 titled "Microplastics found in Ashtamudi Lake". A study conducted by the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries and the University of Kerala found the presence of microplastics in fish, shell fish sediments and water in the Ashtamudi Lake. The study indicated the presence of plastic polymers & hazardous heavy metals in the analysis of samples collected in & around the estuary where the backwater meets the sea.

The Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kollam reported that as part of the National Water Quality Monitoring Program (NWMP) samples are collected every month from 5 different points in Ashtamudi Lake for the analysis of 32 physical and chemical parameters. Water quality is preferable good in rural areas where almost all parameters are within the prescribed limit. However the urban samples and samples taken near estuary always exceed BOD and show low DO content. Based on the water analysis result of previous years, DO, BOD and PH were found to be above the permissible limit. The KSPCB had given direction to the Kollam Corporation to take necessary measures to find out the reason as the parameters in the above sample tests were beyond the permissible limits and to take steps to remove the legacy waste near KSRTC bus stand and Manichithodu on the banks of Ashtamudi Lake.

The Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kollam reported that as per the order of Hon'ble NGT on O.A 185/2024; a letter was issued on 02.07.2024 to the Harbour Engineering Department for providing a report on the



activities of "Suchitwa Sagaram" project. A joint inspection was conducted on 29.07.2024 by Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board, Joint Director Local Self-Government Department and Sanitation Expert, Suchitwa Mission to assess the measures taken by Kollam Corporation and concerned Grama Panchayaths to prevent Ashtamudi Lake pollution.

The Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kollam reported that there is no existing facility for the identification of micro plastics with KSPCB .At present, the Board's laboratories have only facilities for physical, chemical and biological parameters. As testing facilities to find presence of microplastics such as FTIR-ATR, Raman Spectrum and SEM-EDAX are not available in the Board, the Board is approaching the Educational Institutions that have such testing facilities. Since sophisticated testing facilities are not available with KSPCB laboratories, possibilities of outsourcing the micro plastic analysis are being explored by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kollam.

The 17th District Level Monitoring Committee meeting was conducted on 24/07/2024. In this meeting the Environmental Engineer Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kollam explained about current NGT cases associated with the Ashtamudi Lake. The 18th District Level Monitoring Committee meeting for evaluating implementation of Environmental Laws was conducted on 05/12/2024. This suo - motu case no: OA 185/2024 regarding "Microplastics found in Ashtamudi Lake" was included as one of the agenda for the District Level Monitoring Committee meeting held on 05/12/2024.

The above details are submitted for the kind consideration of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai.




District Collector
DISTRICT COLLECTOR
KOLLAM

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