

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No.186 of 2023(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ravindranath Shanbhogue,
Karnataka.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India, Through its Secretary,
New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANTATION
CORPORATION OF KERALA LTD., / 7TH RESPONDENT**

<u>SI.NO</u>	<u>DOCUMENTS</u>	<u>PG NO.</u>
1.	Report filed by the Managing Director, Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd.,	1-5

Dated at Chennai on this 12th march, 2026.

for. A. Markos
12/3/26

**M/s. ABRAHAM MARKOS
ADVOCATE
COUNSEL FOR 7TH RESPONDENT**

THE PLANTATION CORPORATION OF KERALA LTD.

(A GOVERNMENT OF KERALA UNDERTAKING)
REGISTERED OFFICE: KOTTAYAM - 686 004, KERALA

AN ISO 9001 : 2015 CERTIFIED COMPANY



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL [SOUTHERN ZONE],
CHENNAI

Original Application No. 186 of 2023

Ravindranath Shanbhogue : Applicant

Vs

Union of India and Others : Respondents

REPORT

filed on behalf of R-7, the Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd.

1] In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 186 of 2023, comprehensive inspections, sampling, monitoring and remedial actions have been undertaken by the competent statutory authorities with respect to the alleged abandoned well and the stored endosulfan stocks at the Estates of the Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd. Pursuant to the Order dated 20.12.2023, the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) inspected the alleged site at Minchipadavu on 21.12.2023. The inspection revealed that the alleged well, located within the plantation area of PCK Ltd., is almost completely filled with soil and exists only as a shallow depression. Soil and water samples collected from the surrounding area did not show detectable levels of Alpha or Beta Endosulfan. Further, KSPCB has been continuously monitoring water and sediment quality in surrounding habitations under the State Water Monitoring Programme for more than 10 years on a monthly



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basis, and all analytical results have consistently shown endosulfan levels below detectable limits.

2] Simultaneously, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in compliance with subsequent NGT directions dated 18.09.2024, carried out spot inspections of stored endosulfan stocks lying at four PCK estates in Kasaragod and Palakkad districts. CPCB coordinated with the Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC), Kerala SPCB, District Administrations and technical experts from Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL). Joint inspections, sampling and laboratory analysis were conducted, which confirmed the presence of outdated endosulfan stock, contaminated waste materials and corroded drums kept in secured godowns in these estates.

3] Based on scientific analysis, CPCB recommended controlled incineration and/or secured landfilling through authorized Common Hazardous Waste Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs), in accordance with the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.

4] Accordingly PCK Ltd. being the responsible occupier undertook safe transfer of all endosulfan liquid stock piles to new drums and complete inventory of the endosulfan liquid and contaminated materials were assessed during the field exercise. All the endosulfan liquid was transferred to new drums (110 L), other contaminated materials were secured in the drums and labelled, marked and kept under safe custody of Kerala SPCB and Revenue Department for the ultimate disposal in accordance with the HOWM Rules, 2016. PCK Ltd. has obtained statutory authorization from Kerala SPCB, invite competitive tenders from authorized TSDF operators, and has borne the entire cost of handling, transportation and




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environmentally sound disposal of the waste, strictly in compliance with applicable environmental laws.

5] PCK Ltd. have examined the Report of CPCB, Kerala SPCB and Karnataka SPCB along with their recommendations. The sum and substance of the said Report is that the analytical results had shown that endosulfan levels are below detectable limits and there is no apparent damage caused by the presence of below detectable levels of endosulfan in soil and water in the vicinity. Further as per the recommendations the remaining unused stock of endosulfan were safely transferred to new drums for ultimate disposal in accordance with applicable rules.

6] As regards empty barrels in respect of used endosulfan stocks, it may be appreciated that the aerial spraying of endosulfan as an effective method to control pests was started in 1983 following statutory sanctions and recommendations, and continued until 2001, i.e such aerial spraying was done over 25 to 43 years ago. The empty barrels generated after use of endosulfan for aerial spraying in those days would have then been disposed of as unserviceable items along with other unserviceable materials from time to time more than 25 years ago. Social resistance to endosulfan emerged around the year 2000 – 01 which had prompted the decision to stop further use of endosulfan for aerial spraying. The unused stock of endosulfan at that point of time were jointly sealed by PCK and Kerala SPCB and stored under the custody of Kasaragod Endosulfan Cell, which stock has now been safely transferred to new drums as submitted earlier. Empty barrels from used endosulfan stock remaining in the last year of aerial spraying namely 2001 are stored in a locked room of Adhur Division of the Plaintiff's Kasaragod Estate, which fact has been noted by CPCB in their Report dated 01.01.2024 at page 14. There is also a stock of 5 empty barrels kept in the store of the Plaintiff's Mannarghat Estate in Palakkad District.



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These 25 empty barrels [20+5] would have been generated from the endosulfan used in the last year of spraying namely 2001.

7] It is respectfully submitted that PCK Ltd. does not possess the specialised technical expertise required for the neutralisation or destruction of endosulfan. The Corporation also faces practical limitations in identifying and coordinating with specialised agencies capable of determining and implementing the most appropriate scientific method for such neutralisation. Therefore, it is prayed that appropriate directions may be issued entrusting the said task to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). PCK Ltd. shall bear the expenses incurred in this regard.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that:

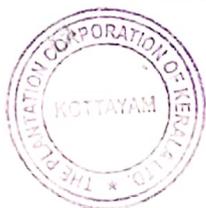
- No detectable endosulfan contamination has been found in soil or water in the surrounding areas;
- All stored endosulfan stocks have been scientifically inventoried and safely secured under the joint custody of KSPCB and Revenue Department ;
- PCK Ltd. has acted diligently, transparently and in full compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal and the statutory authorities.

For The Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd.

[Handwritten Signature]

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Managing Director
Respondent No.7



Kottayam,
24.02.2026

VERIFICATION

The statements made herein are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

For The Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd.



[Handwritten signature]

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