

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

**Original Application No. 215 of 2024 (SZ)**

[Earlier Original Application No. 644 of 2024 (PB)]

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Suo Motu matter in respect of news item titled "Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 30.04.2024

**VERSUS**

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)

Through its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors.

**RESPONDENT(S)**

**INDEX**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1.	Reply along with Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 2, i.e., Central Pollution Control Board	<b>1-9</b>
2.	<b>Annexure -1:</b> Copy of the letter dated 19.08.2024 sent to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) requesting to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) and Ambient Air Quality report	<b>10-11</b>
3.	<b>Annexure -2:</b> Copy of the ATR dated 11.11.2024 submitted by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)	<b>12-18</b>
4.	<b>Annexure -3:</b> Copy of the Directions issued under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 vide dated 30.04.2024 by TNPCB for closure and disconnection of power supply pertaining to the unit of M/s. AMS & Company	<b>19-22</b>
5.	<b>Annexure -4:</b> Copy of the Directions issued under section 31A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide dated 16.05.2024 by TNPCB to the Director, Industrial Safety and Health	<b>23-24</b>

**Place: Chennai**

**Date: 21.03.2025**



*H.D. Varalaxmi*  
**H.D.VARALAXMI**  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

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

**Original Application No. 215 of 2024 (SZ)**

[Earlier Original Application No. 644 of 2024 (PB)]

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Suo Motu matter in respect of news item titled "Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 30.04.2024

**VERSUS**

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)

Through its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors.

**RESPONDENT(S)**

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 2:  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**

1. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench (hereinafter referred to as "Hon'ble NGT") vide order dated 31.05.2024 in Original Application No. 644 of 2024 (PB), impleaded Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) as Respondent No. 2 and sought the response in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in this instant Original Application (hereinafter referred as "OA") in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, CPCB is constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.



*H.D. Varalaxmi*  
**H.D.VARALAXMI**  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

3. That, the matter is related to Ammonia gas leak at a defunct chips manufacturing unit in Chenniveerampalayam Village near Karamadai in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu as per the News item published in the Deccan Herald dated 30.04.2024 titled “*Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore*”. The issue brought out in the News item is related to leakage from a cold storage unit for potatoes in the export factory, which was closed four years ago, thereby causing ammonia to dissipate into the air around midnight, leading to some villagers complaining of eye irritation. The article states that due to the incident, the authorities evacuated the families to a safe place as a precaution. The news item discloses that the unit exporting chips and French fries was sold recently and the gas leak could have occurred during renovation.
4. That, it is humbly submitted that the Hon’ble NGT (PB) in its order dated 31.05.2024 directed all the respondents to file their responses before the appropriate bench of the Hon’ble Tribunal and transferred the case to Hon’ble NGT Southern Zone, Chennai, wherein the case was re-numbered as OA No. 215 of 2024 (SZ). The matter was subsequently heard on 01.08.2024 and 14.10.2024 respectively.
5. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB has pursued the said matter with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as TNPCB) vide e-mail and letter dated 19.08.2024 to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) in the said matter. A copy of the letter addressed to TNPCB is annexed as **Annexure -1**. The Action Taken Report submitted by TNPCB vide Letter No. TNPCB/LAW/LA-III/NGT/012859/2024 dated 11.11.2024 is annexed as **Annexure -2**.



*H.D. Varalaxmi*  
**H.D. VARALAXMI**  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

6. That, it is submitted that, as per the Action Taken Report (ATR) received from TNPCB, the following are the key observations and action taken by TNPCB:
- i. TNPCB received the News from the Revenue Authorities on 29.04.2024 at 07:45PM, regarding ammonia gas leakage accident in an industry located at Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District. An immediate inspection was carried out by the District Environmental Engineer, Coimbatore-North along with the Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Coimbatore and Assistant Engineer, Coimbatore-North. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Coimbatore North and Police Inspector, Karamadai were also present during the inspection.
  - ii. The Ammonia gas leakage accident occurred in the unit namely M/s AMS & Company located at S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District.
  - iii. The said unit was previously operated by M/s. Golden fries limited which obtained CTO dated 06.09.2002 and renewed up to 31.03.2008 for manufacturing of frozen French fries (1500 T/M). As per TNPCB record the unit stopped its operation during 2014-15.
  - iv. Further, the unit was taken over by M/s. AMS & Company through Bank auction. The new management received High Tension power supply during April, 2024 and started renovation work of the factory and machineries without obtaining CTE/CTO from TNPCB. However, the unit has not started any production activities.
  - v. During the inspection carried out by TNPCB officials, it was informed by the unit manager that as a part of the renovation, the new management had filled about 300 kgs of Ammonia gas in its cooling circulation system 15 days before for reactivating the refrigeration system. The testing of the refrigeration system was carried out on 29.04.2024 and around 7:30PM, the Ammonia gas started leaking due to breakage in the pipeline and started dispersing into the nearby habitation of Chenniveerampalayam because of which the nearby public suffered with eye irritation.



*H.D. Varalaxmi*  
**H.D. VARALAXMI**  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032



- xi. Meanwhile, TNPCB issued direction for closure and disconnection of power supply pertaining to the unit, under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 vide Proceedings dated 30.04.2024 as the unit has carried out establishment/renovation works without obtaining CTE/CTO from TNPCB and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling Ammonia gas. A copy of the directions issued by TNPCB is attached as **Annexure -3**
- xii. The District Collector, Coimbatore instructed TNPCB, Coimbatore North and the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH), Coimbatore to make joint inspection and to remove the residual ammonia present in the unit's refrigeration system safely before disconnecting power supply to the unit.
- xiii. TNPCB engaged the services of M/s. Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore, who have supplied Ammonia gas to the unit and the experts from M/s Chemplast, Mettur for removal of residual Ammonia present in the system. The ammonia gas was removed from receiver tank, from the refrigeration system & filled safely into cylinder and was completed around 10.30 PM on 30.04.2024.
- xiv. On completion of the removal of residual Ammonia from the system, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) disconnected the power supply of the unit and the Revenue officials sealed the unit at 11.00 PM on 30.04.2024. After that the public dispersed.
- xv. TNPCB, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 has directed the Director, Industrial Safety and Health to ensure the safety of the residual ammonia in the cooling system of the unit, vide Proceedings dated 16.05.2024. A copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure -4**.
- xvi. At present, the unit is under closure and all the residual ammonia in the refrigeration system is removed.



*H.D. Varalaxmi*

**H.D.VARALAXMI**  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate.  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

5. That, in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering Respondent No. 2, i.e. CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant OA.



**Counsel for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent  
M/s.R.THIRUNAVUKARASU**

**M-9444012986**

**H. D. Varalaxmi  
Scientist 'E' & RD Chennai  
Central Pollution Control Board**

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

Original Application No. 215 of 2024 (SZ)

[Earlier Original Application No. 644 of 2024 (PB)]

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Suo Motu matter in respect of news item titled "Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 30.04.2024

**VERSUS**

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)  
Through its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors.

**RESPONDENT(S)**

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, H. D. Varalaxmi, D/o Shri H.S. Devaiah, Hindu, aged about 55 years and having office at the Regional Directorate - Chennai, Central Pollution Control Board, 40-E, 2nd Floor, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate, CIPET Road, Chennai - 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. That the deponent is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.



*H.D. Varalaxmi*  
**H.D. VARALAXMI**  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof of are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



**VERIFICATION**

Verified at Chennai on this the Twenty First day of March 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as mentioned in the day to day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

Verified at Chennai on this the Twenty First day of March 2025.



**DEPONENT**

**H.D. VARALAXMI**

Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

**DEPONENT**

**H.D. VARALAXMI**

Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India  
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,  
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032



केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA

Annexure -1

F. No. Tech/12/Gen(TN)/RDC/2024-25/1144

Date: 19.08.2024

To

The Member Secretary  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board  
No.76, Mount Road, Guindy  
Chennai-600032

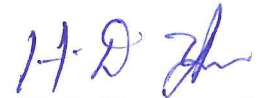
**Sub: Request to provide ATR in case of O.A. No. 215/2024(SZ) [Earlier O.A. No. 644/2024(PB)] regarding Ammonia gas leak in Coimbatore**

Sir,

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi has registered a Suo Motu case Original Application No. 644/2024 based on the News item published in the Deccan Herald dated 30th April 2024, titled "Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore" and CPCB has been impleaded as Respondent No. 2. The news item relates to the Ammonia gas leak at a chips manufacturing unit in Chenniveerampalayam Village near Karamadai in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu. The case has been transferred to the Southern Zone and renumbered as O.A. No. 215/2024(SZ).

In this connection, it is kindly requested to provide action taken report (ATR) to this office, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully

  
(H. D. Varalaxmi)  
Regional Director

क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय (चेन्नई) : द्वितीय तल, 40-ई, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, थिरु-वी-का औद्योगिक एस्टेट, सिपेट रोड, गिंडी, चेन्नई - 600032

दूरभाष: 044-29998683/044-29567019 ईमेल: rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in

Regional Directorate (Chennai): Second Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate, CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

Phone: 044-29998683/044-29567019 Email: rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in

प्रधान कार्यालय : परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली -110 032

Head Office: Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110032

दूरभाष /Telephone: 011-43102030, Fax : 22305793, 22307078, 22307079, 22301932, 22304948

ई-मेल / E-mail: cpcb@nic.in वेबसाइट / Website : www.cpcb.nic.in

फ़ा. नतक :./12/जनरल(त.ना)/क्षे.नि.चे./2024-25/444

दिनांक: 19.08.2024

सेवा में

सदस्य सचिव  
तमिलनाडु राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
नंबर 76, माउंट रोड, गिंडी  
चेन्नई-600032

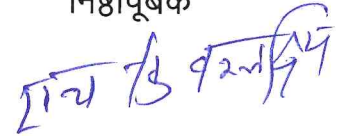
**विषय: कोयंबटूर में अमोनिया गैस रिसाव के संबंध में ओ.ए. संख्या 215/2024(एसजेड) [पूर्व में ओ.ए. संख्या 644/2024(पीबी)] के मामले में एटीआर प्रदान करने का अनुरोध**

महोदय,

माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण, दिल्ली की प्रधान पीठ ने 30 अप्रैल 2024 को डेक्कन हेराल्ड में प्रकाशित समाचार आइटम, जिसका शीर्षक था "अमोनिया गैस रिसाव से कोयंबटूर में दहशत फैल गई" के आधार पर स्वप्रेरणा मामला मूल आवेदन संख्या 644/2024 दर्ज किया है और सीपीसीबी को प्रतिवादी संख्या 2 के रूप में शामिल किया गया है। यह समाचार आइटम तमिलनाडु के कोयंबटूर जिले में करमदई के पास चेन्नीवीरमपलायम गांव में एक चिप्स निर्माण इकाई में अमोनिया गैस रिसाव से संबंधित है। मामले को दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया है और इसे ओ.ए. संख्या 215/2024 (एसजेड) के रूप में पुनः क्रमांकित किया गया है।

इस संबंध में, कृपया अनुरोध है कि टीएनपीसीबी द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट शीघ्रातिशीघ्र इस कार्यालय को उपलब्ध कराई जाए।

निष्ठापूर्वक



(एच. डि. वरलक्ष्मी)  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक

By Speed Post



## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



From  
Er. R. Kannan, M.Tech.,  
Member Secretary,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai – 600 032.

To  
The Regional Director,  
Central Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
40 – E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial  
Estate, CIPET Road, Guindy  
Chennai – 600 032.

**Letter No.TNPCB/LAW/LA-III/NGT/012859/2024, Dated:11.11.2024.**

Madam,

Sub: - TNPC Board – LAW – NGT (SZ), Chennai - O.A No.215 of 2024 [Earlier O.A No.644 of 2024,(PB)] regarding Ammonia gas leak in Coimbatore - report ATR and analysis results, on water quality monitoring conducted - sent herewith - Reg.

Ref: - 1. CPCB - F.No.Tech/12/Gen(TN)/RDC/2024-25/ 444 dated 19.8.2024.  
2. Order of NGT, (PB) in OA No.644 of 2024 - dated 31.5.2024.  
3. Order of NGT, (SZ) in OA No.215 of 2024 - dated 1.8.2024.

I am to invite kind attention to the references cited.

2. In the reference first cited, it is requested to provide Action taken report (ATR) in case of OA No.215 of 2024(SZ), [Earlier OA No.644 of 2024 (PB)] regarding Ammonia Gas leak in Coimbatore.

3. In this regard, it is informed that the News was received from the Revenue Authorities on 29.04.2024 at 07.45 pm, regarding occurrence of Ammonia Gas leakage accident in an industry located at Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District and an immediate inspection was carried out by the District Environmental Engineer, Coimbatore-North along with the Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, AEL, Coimbatore and Assistant

Engineer, Coimbatore-North. The RDO, Coimbatore North and Police Inspector, Karamadai was also present during inspection.

4. The Ammonia Gas leakage accident occurred in the unit, M/s.AMS & Company located at S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District.

5. The said facility was previously operated by the unit, M/s. Golden fries limited, S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District. The unit has obtained CTO vide Proc.No: DEE/TNPCB/CBE/F.4771/O/L/W&A/2002 Dated 06.09.2002 and subsequently renewed up to 31.03.2008 for manufacturing of frozen French fries – 1500 T/M. As per the records, maintained by TNPCB, the said unit has stopped its production during 2014-2015.

6. Later on, the unit, M/s.AMS & Company took control over the facility through Bank auction. The new management has recently received the HT power supply during the month of April 2024 and started the renovation work of the factory and machineries without obtaining the CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board. The unit has not started any production activities.

7. As a part of renovation works, the new management has involved in reactivating the refrigeration system by filling about 300kg of Ammonia Gas in its cooling circulation system. The unit generally uses cooling system to improve the self life period of potato chips manufactured by passing the chips through a temperature zone of up to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , so that the chips can be used for eating up to 18 months. The manager of the unit has reported that they have filled ammonia in the cooling system 15 days back and carried out testing of the refrigeration system on 29.04.2024. On 29.04.2024 around 7.30PM, the Ammonia gas started leaking due to breakage in the pipe line and started dispersing into the nearby habitation of Chenniveerampalayam because of which the nearby public suffered with eye irritation.



## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



8. On hearing the news of Ammonia leakage from the unit, around 250 people in the nearby habitation of Chenniveerampalayam were evacuated to a Marriage Hall located in the nearby village for safety by District Administration in order to avoid major health risk to the public. The unit authorities reported that they have arrested the leakage in the pipeline and the issue settled over around 10.00 pm and no Ammonia gas smell was observed afterwards.

9. As requested by District administration, Ambient Air Quality survey was conducted by Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Coimbatore at two locations (One near to the emission source and one at entrance of the unit) to measure the presence of Ammonia gas in ambient air. The Air sampling was conducted from 1.00 am (30.04.2024) to 2.20am (30.04.2024). The inspection was completed around 4.00 am.

10. The AEL/Coimbatore has analysed the AAQ survey samples conducted during the night and furnished the results and the ROA (Attached as Annexure - I) reveals that the amount of ammonia gas present in the ambient air is  $39.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and  $30.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in the location near the source and entrance of the unit and the concentration levels are within the limit. (As per air quality index – it is Good).

STANDARDS FOR AMMONIA IN AMBIENT AIR ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )		
Concentration Range	AQI	Standard
0 -200	0-50	Good
201 – 400	51-100	Satisfactory
401 – 800	101-200	Moderate
801 - 1200	201-300	Poor
1201 – 1800	301-400	Very Poor
>1801	401-500	Severe

11. On the next day i.e., 30.04.2024 at 10.00am, the evacuated public on arriving at their respective homes have started agitation against the unit along with local Environmentalists and political parties in and around the factory premises.

12. The Additional SP, Coimbatore and the RDO, Coimbatore North have started negotiation with the public and also tried to convince them that there is no further hazard and danger of health risk from the unit and leakage was arrested yesterday itself and the details of AAQ Survey conducted by TNPCB was appraised to them. The affected people had made following demands:

- a. The public has demanded to close down the unit permanently which was operated without any license from the Authorities.
- b. Health Check up to be made to all the affected people.
- c. Before closing down the unit all the residual Ammonia gas present in the unit's refrigeration system should be removed safely so that they will not have any fear in future.

13. Meanwhile, based on the recommendations of the District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Coimbatore North, the Board has issued direction for closure and disconnection of power supply pertaining to the unit, M/s.AMS& Company located at S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District under Section 33A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 & under Section 31A of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 thereon vide Proceedings dated 30.04.2024 as the unit has carried out establishment / renovation works without obtaining CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling ammonia.

14. In addition to the decision of the Board, the District collector, Coimbatore has also instructed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Coimbatore North and the Directorate of Industrial safety and Health, Coimbatore to make joint inspection and to remove the residual ammonia



## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



present in the unit's refrigeration system safely before disconnecting the power supply to the unit.

15. It was reported by the unit's authority that about 300 kg of liquid ammonia was filled in the refrigeration system of the unit 15 days back for testing the system and it was estimated about fifty percent of the gas was leaked during the accident and balance of 125 to 150 kg was present in the system and it was planned to remove the gas safely.

16. The TNPCB has engaged the services of M/s.Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore, who have supplied Ammonia gas to the unit and the experts from M/s. Chemplast, Mettur for removal of residual Ammonia present in the system. The process of complete removal of Ammonia by transferring it to the cylinders from the receiver tank and from the system was completed around 10.30 pm.

17. On completion of the removal of residual Ammonia from the system, the TANGEDCO disconnected the power supply pertaining to the unit, M/s.AMS& Company, S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District and the Revenue officials sealed the unit at 11.00pm. Then the public dispersed.

18. The TNPC Board, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 31A of Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 has directed the Director, Industrial Safety and Health to ensure the safety of the residual Ammonia in the cooling system of the unit, M/s.AMS & Company, S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District vide Proc.No.TNPCB/T1/F.010042/CBN/Directions/Air/2024, dated 16.05.2024.

19. At present, the unit is under closure and all the residual ammonia in the refrigeration system is removed.

20. In this regard, the TNPCB has been filed its report before the NGT(SZ), Chennai on 6.9.2024 and the same is enclosed herewith for necessary action.

This is for your information.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

**For Member Secretary**

*[Handwritten Initials]*  
15/11/24.

Annexures :

1. Detailed action taken report of the accident submitted to the Board.
2. Direction issued to the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH).



**TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Coimbatore – 641 030.

**TEST REPORT**

**ULR-TC123712400000464F**

**Report No.09/AEL – CBE/ AAQS/2024 – 2025, Dated 30.04.2024.**

1. Name of the Industry : M/s. AMS & Company.,
2. Address of the Industry : Senniveerampalayam, Sikkarampalayam (via),  
Karamadai – 641 104, Coimbatore District
3. Date of Survey : 30.04.2024.
4. Duration of Survey : 1 Hour
5. Test Started on : 30.04.2024.
6. Test Completed on : 30.04.2024.
7. Matrix : Ambient Air Quality

**Meteorological Conditions**

Ambient Temperature ( <sup>o</sup> C)	32.9	Relative Humidity ( % )	53.0
Weather Condition	Clear Sky	Rain Fall (mm)	--
Predominant Wind Direction	South West → North East	Mean Wind Speed (km/hr)	--

**Ambient Air Quality Survey Results**

Sl. No	Location	Direction *	Distance ( m ) *	Height Form GL(m)	Pollutants Concentration (microgram / m <sup>3</sup> )
					NH <sub>3</sub>
1	On top of scaffolding near Main gate of the unit adjacent to residential area.	North	105	2.0	30.4
2	On top of scaffolding near Admin office of the unit.	North East	70	2.0	39.6

**Note:-** \* With respect to major emission sources.

The analytical results are restricted to the sampling period of 1 hour.

-- End of Report --

J.E.S.

[Dr. A. MANISEKAR]  
 Authorised Signatory  
 [Deputy Chief Scientific Officer]

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, No.5, Ramasamy Nagar, Kavundampalayam, Coimbatore – 641 030.  
Telephone: 0422 – 2440174, Email: [aelcbe@tnpcb.gov.in](mailto:aelcbe@tnpcb.gov.in).



## TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

**Proceeding No.: TNPCB / T1 / F.010042 / CBN / Closure / Water / 2024, dated:30.04.2024**

**Sub.:** TNPCB – Industries – M/s. AMS & Company located at SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District – Directions for closure and disconnection of power supply under Section 33A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended – Orders issued – Regarding

**Ref.:** DEE's IR No. F.0013 / AMS / OL / DEE / TNPCB / CBN / 2024, Dt: 30.04.2024

\*\*\*\*\*

Whereas, a news was received by the DEE, Coimbatore (North) regarding ammonia gas leakage in the unit M/s. AMS & Company, Chikkarampalayam Village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District and the said site was inspected by the officials of the O/o. DEE, CBN and the O/o. AEL, Coimbatore on 29.04.2024 & 30.04.2024 along with the RDO, Coimbatore and the Inspector, Police Department, Karamadai. During inspection, the following were observed:

- a. The Ammonia Gas leakage accident occurred in the unit M/s. AMS & Company.
- b. The unit was not under operation and not started its production.
- c. The said facility was previously operated by the unit M/s. Golden fries limited. The unit has obtained CTO vide Proc. dated 06.09.2002 and subsequently renewed up to 31.03.2008 for manufacturing frozen French fries - 1500 T/M. As per the records, the unit has stopped its production during 2014-2015.
- d. The unit M/s. AMS & Company took over the facility by Bank auction. The unit has obtained HT power supply during April 2024 and started renovation work of the facility and machineries without getting CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board.
- e. In a part of that renovation works, the new management has been involved in reactivation of refrigeration system by filling about 300kg of Ammonia Gas in its cooling circulation system. The manager reported that they have filled ammonia in the cooling system 15 days back and carried out testing of the system.
- f. Leakage of Ammonia gas took place in the pipe line around 7.30PM (29.04.2024) and started dispersing into nearby habitation and some of the nearby public suffered eye irritation.
- g. Around 250 people in the nearby habitation of Chenniveerampalayam was evacuated to a Kalyana Mandapam located in nearby village so as to avoid health risk to the public.
- h. AAQ survey was conducted during the night and from the ROA the amount of ammonia gas present in the ambient air is 39.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 30.4 µg /m<sup>3</sup> in the location near the source and entrance of the unit and the concentration was within the limit.

Whereas, vide reference cited, the District Environmental Engineer, Coimbatore North has recommended to issue direction for closure and disconnection of power supply connection pertaining to the unit for carrying out establishment / renovation works without obtaining CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling ammonia.

## TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

In the light of the said facts, it is decided to issue directions for closure and disconnection of power supply to the unit under Section 33A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended for carrying out establishment / renovation works without obtaining consent of the Board and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling ammonia, thereby causing ammonia leakage to the atmosphere and eye irritation to the nearby public.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 33A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended, it is hereby directed that the unit M/s. AMS & Company located at SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District shall be closed and the power supply to the unit shall be disconnected with immediate effect.

This order of closure and disconnection of power supply is issued by Chairperson as per the delegation of powers issued by the Board vide B.P.No.9, dated 11.03.1994.

If the unit is aggrieved by this order issued under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended the unit shall prefer an appeal before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, under section 33B of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

Sd/-  
Chairperson

To:  
The Proprietor,  
M/s. AMS & Company,  
SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village,  
Mettupalayam Taluk,  
Coimbatore District

**Copy to:**

1. The District Collector,  
Coimbatore District
2. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,  
4th Floor, No.34, Bharathi park 8th cross street,  
Saibaba colony, Coimbatore- 641011.
3. The District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Coimbatore North  
No.5, Ramasamy Nagar,  
Near Fire Service Station, Kavundampalayam,  
Coimbatore - 641 030.
4. The Superintending Engineer, (Coimbatore North),  
Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Limited (TNEB),  
Tatabad, Coimbatore - 641 012.
5. The Assistant Engineer / West, Karamadai TANGEDCO  
Kundha Colony, Railway Station Road,  
Karamadai, Coimbatore - 641 104.
6. File Copy

*Har*  
30/4/24  
For Chairperson

*B*  
30/4/24



## TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

**Proceeding No.: TNPCB / T1 / F.010042 / CBN / Closure / EB / Water / 2024, dated:  
30.04.2024**

**Sub.:** TNPCB – Industries – M/s. AMS & Company located at SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District – Direction for disconnection of power supply to the unit under Section 33A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended – Orders issued – Regarding.

**Ref.:** 1. Memo No.: SE / Comm. / EE 3 / Assistant Environmental Engineer – 1 / TNPC Board / D 320 / 2002, dated: 04.12.2002 from the Chairman, TNEB to Superintending Engineers of all electricity Distribution Circles, TNEB.  
2. Proceeding No.: TNPCB / T1 / F.010042 / CBN / Closure / Water / 2024, dated: 30.04.2024

\*\*\*\*\*

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board enforces the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended. As per Section 33A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Board is empowered to issue directions for closure, prohibition or regulation of any industry and stoppage of electricity or any other services. Instructions have been issued by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board in this regard vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited.

In this connection, a copy of the Board's proceeding 2<sup>nd</sup> cited is enclosed herewith, wherein directions have been issued under Section 33A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended for closure and disconnection of power supply to the unit M/s. AMS & Company located at SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District in view of the reasons stated therein.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 33A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended, it is hereby directed that the power supply to the said unit shall be disconnected with immediate effect.

The receipt of the proceeding shall be acknowledged and the action taken in this regard shall also be intimated to this office at the earliest.

**Enclosure:** As above.

**Sd/-  
Chairperson**

**To**

1. The Superintending Engineer, (Coimbatore North),  
Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Limited (TNEB),  
Tatabad, Coimbatore - 641 012.  
[secben@tnebnet.org](mailto:secben@tnebnet.org)
2. The Assistant Engineer / West, Karamadai TANGEDCO  
Kundha Colony, Railway Station Road,  
Karamadai, Coimbatore - 641 104.  
[eemtplym@tnebnet.org](mailto:eemtplym@tnebnet.org)

## TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Copy to

1. The District Collector,  
Coimbatore District
2. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,  
4th Floor, No.34, Bharathi park 8th cross street,  
Saibaba colony, Coimbatore- 641011.
3. The District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Coimbatore North  
No.5, Ramasamy Nagar,  
Near Fire Service Station, Kavundampalayam,  
Coimbatore - 641 030.
4. The Proprietor,  
M/s. AMS & Company,  
SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village,  
Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District
5. File Copy

*Lbu*  
30/4/24  
For Chairperson

*28*  
30/4/24

By Speed Post

13



## TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

**Proceeding No.: TNPCB / T1 / F.010042 / CBN / Directions / Air / 2024, dated: 16.05.2024**

**Sub.:** TNPCB – Industries – M/s. AMS & Company located at SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District – Directions under Section 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended – Orders issued – Regarding.

**Ref.:** 1. DEE's IR No. F.0013 / AMS / OL / DEE / TNPCB / CBN / 2024, Dated: 30.04.2024  
2. Board's Proceeding No.: TNPCB / T1 / F.010042 / CBN / Closure / Air / 2024, dated: 30.04.2024

\*\*\*\*\*

Whereas, an information was received by the DEE, TNPCB, CBE(North) regarding Ammonia Gas leakage in an industry located at Chikkarampalayam Village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District. In this regard, the unit M/s. AMS & Company located at the said site was inspected by the officials of the O/o. DEE, CBN and the O/o. AEL, Coimbatore on 29.04.2024 & 30.04.2024 along with the RDO, Coimbatore and the Police Inspector, Karamadai. During inspection, the following were observed:

- a. The Ammonia Gas leakage accident occurred in the unit M/s. AMS & Company.
- b. The unit was not under operation and not even started its production.
- c. The said facility was previously operated by the unit M/s. Golden fries limited. The unit has obtained CTO vide Proc. dated 06.09.2002 and subsequently renewed up to 31.03.2008 for manufacturing frozen French fries — 1500 T/M. As per the records, the unit has stopped its production during 2014-2015.
- d. The unit M/s. AMS & Company took over the facility by Bank auction. The unit has obtained HT power supply during April 2024 and started renovation work of the facility and machineries without getting CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board.
- e. In a part of that renovation works, the new management has involved in reactivation of refrigeration system by filling about 300kg of Ammonia Gas in its cooling circulation system. The manager reported that they have filled ammonia in the cooling system 15 days back and carried out testing of the system.
- f. Leakage of Ammonia gas took place in the pipe line around 7.30PM (29.04.2024) and started dispersing into nearby habitation and some of the nearby public suffered eye irritation.
- g. Around 250 people in the nearby habitation of Chenniveerampalayam was evacuated to a Kalyana Mandapam located in nearby village so as to avoid health risk to the public.

Whereas, vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, the DEE, TNPCB, Coimbatore North has recommended to issue direction for closure and disconnection of power supply to the unit for carrying out establishment / renovation works without obtaining CTE/CTO from the Board and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling ammonia. Further, recommended to issue direction to the to the DISH (Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health) to ensure the safety of the residual ammonia in the cooling system.

Whereas, vide reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited, direction for closure and disconnection of power supply under Section 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended was issued to the unit for the said violations.

In the light of the said facts, it is decided to issue directions under Section 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended to the Director, Industrial Safety and Health, to ensure the safety of the residual ammonia in the cooling system of the unit.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended, the Director, Industrial Safety and Health, is hereby directed to ensure the safety of the residual ammonia in the cooling system of the unit, M/s. AMS & Company located at SF No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

*16/5/11*  
For Chairperson

To:  
The Director,  
Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health,  
TS No. 47/1, SIDCO Industrial Estate,  
Guindy, Chennai – 600 032

#  
1929

Copy to:

1. The Additional Director,  
Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health,  
SF No. 575/2, 575/3, ITI Campus,  
Mettupalayam Road, GN Mills Post,  
Coimbatore – 641 029
2. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Coimbatore Zone
3. The District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Coimbatore South
- ✓ 4. File Copy

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
(SOUTHERN ZONE) CHENNAI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 215 of 2024**

**In the matter of:**

Suo Motu matter in respect of news item titled  
“Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore”  
appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 30.04.2024

**VERSUS**

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)  
Through its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors

.... Respondents

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO 2**  
**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

**M/s.R.Thirunavukarasu**  
**Counsel for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent**  
**M-9444012986**