

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

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

**In the matter of:**

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

Versus

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

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY 3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT- THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, COIMBATORE.**

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

**DATE:25.06.2025**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL AT  
SOUTHERN ZONE CHENNAI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO 215 of 2024 (SZ)  
IN THE MATTER OF:-

Suo Motto Matter in

In ref : News published in the "Deccan Herald" dated 30.04.2024 titled  
"Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore"

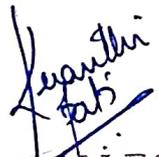
VS

CPCB & Ors

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,  
COIMBATORE DISTRICT

I Kranthi Kumar Patti IAS son of Surendra Patti Hindu aged about 32 years residing at collector's Banglow, Race course Coimbatore to hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am competent to and duly authorised to represent the Coimbatore District administration. I am aware of the facts and circumstances of this case, as revealed from records maintained in my office. The factual submissions made hereunder are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. In these circumstances it is just and necessary that this Honourable Tribunal maybe pleased to accept the accompanying report on file and it is so humbly prayed in the interest of justice.
2. It is respectfully submitted that, the Honourable NGT(PB) has initiated Suo Moto proceedings vide O.A.No:644/2024 regarding the "Ammonia gas leak triggers panic in Coimbatore" incident on 29.04.2024 and that hearing was listed on 14.10.2024.

  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR,  
COIMBATORE.

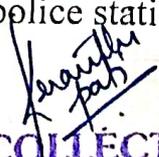
3. It is respectfully submitted that the Ammonia gas leakage accident unexpectedly occurred in the unit of M/s.AMS & Company located at S.F.723&726/1 at Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk in Coimbatore District. As a part of renovation work, the new management M/s.AMS & Company has involved 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 upto  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , so that the chips can be used for consumption upto 18 months. The Manager of the unit has reported that they have filled ammonia in the cooling system 15 days period and carried out testing of the refrigeration system on 29.04.2024 around 7.30pm. At that time the ammonia gas started leaking due to breakage in the pipeline and started dispersing into the nearby area of Chenniveerampalayam, due to this, nearby public were suffered with eye irritation.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the information received from Tahsildar, Mettupalayam on 29.04.2024 around 7.45pm regarding the Ammonia gas leakage accident. I directed the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Coimbatore North to inspect the accident spot immediately by coordinating with the concerned officials of District Environmental Engineer Coimbatore North, Deputy Chief Scientific Officer AEL Coimbatore, Assistant Engineer Coimbatore North and Police and Fire Service department. Simultaneously the revenue officials have evacuated around 250 people in the nearby habitation of Chenniveerampalayam to a marriage hall for safety in order to avoid the major health risk to the people.

  
**DISTRICT COLLECTOR,  
COIMBATORE.**

5. It is respectfully submitted that the District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Coimbatore North has issued direction for closure and disconnection of power supply pertaining to the unit of M/s.AMS & Company under section 33A of the water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended & under section 31A of the Air(P&CP) Act 1981 as amended thereon vide proceedings dated 30.04.2024 as the unit has carried out establishment/ renovation works without obtaining CTE/CTO from the TNPCB and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling ammonia.
6. It is further respectfully submitted that I instructed the TNPCB, Coimbatore North and the Directorate of Industrial safety and Health, Coimbatore to make join inspection and to remove the residual ammonia present in the unit's refrigeration system safely before disconnecting the power supply to the unit. It was reported by the unit's authority that about 300kg of liquid ammonia was filled in the refrigeration system of the unit 15 days period for testing the system and it was estimated about 50% of the gas was leaked during the accident and balance of 125 to 150kg was present in the system and it was planned to remove the gas safely. The TNPCB has engaged the services of M/s.Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore who have supplied ammonia gas to the unit and 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 cylinder from the receiver tank and from the system was completed around 10.30pm in the presence of Revenue and Police department.

  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR,  
COIMBATORE.

7. It is respectfully submitted that I additionally ordered to conduct Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) Survey by Advanced Environment Laboratory, Coimbatore at two locations (one near to the emission source and one at the entrance of the unit) to measure the presence of ammonia gas in ambient air. The air sampling was conducted from 1.00am to 2.20am(30.04.2024).As per the AAQ survey samples conducted during the night and furnished the results and ROA reveals that the amount of ammonia gas present in the ambient air is  $39.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in the location near the source and  $30.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in the entrance of the unit. The concentration levels are good as per the Air Quality Index.
8. I respectfully submitted that subsequently health checkup camp was conducted for all the local people in the nearby leakage affected areas to closely monitor the people's health and also revenue and police officials were deputed to the duty of 24/7 in the entrance of the unit to avoid panic among the people. As well as the Additional Sp, Coimbatore and the RDO, Coimbatore North, had negotiated with the public and convinced them that there is no further hazard and danger of health risk from the unit and leakage was arrested and also the details of AAQ survey was appraised to them. At present the unit is sealed and closed and also all the residual ammonia in the refrigeration system is removed.
9. I respectfully submitted that action taken against 1.Jafar Ali (relation of the company's owner) 2.Bala Krishnan (Electrical manager) 3.Gurusamy (Maintenance manager) 4.Samraj (Engineer) and 5.Sampath Kumar (Electrical Supervisor) and the case was registered (FIR No.193/2024) under section.147, 188, 278, 284 r/w 308 BNSS in Karamadai police station.

  
**DISTRICT COLLECTOR,  
COIMBATORE.**

And I humbly prayed that this Honourable Tribunal may be pleased to accept this report and to pass further orders as this Honourable tribunal may deem fit and proper in the circumstance of this case and render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Coimbatore  
on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025  
and signed his name in my  
presence.

  
**DISTRICT COLLECTOR,  
COIMBATORE.**

Before me.

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT**

**Ammonia Gas leakage accident occurred in the unit of M/s.AMS & Company located at S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District on 29.04.2024 at 07.45PM**

***Team:***

- 1. Dr K.RAVICHANDRAN, DEE/TNPCB/CBN.***
- 2. K.KALAIVENDHAN, AE/TNPCB/CBN***
- 3. Dr.A.MANISEKAR, Dy CSO , AEL/TNPCB/CBE***

## **ACTION TAKEN REPORT**

**Ammonia Gas leakage accident occurred in the unit of M/s.AMS & Company  
located at S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk,  
Coimbatore District on 29.04.2024 at 07.45PM**

### **Day 1: (29.04.2024)**

Based on the news regarding occurrence of 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, AEL, Coimbatore and Assistant Engineer, Coimbatore North on 29.04.2024. The RDO, Coimbatore North and Police Inspector, Karamadai was also present during inspection.

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

The said facility was previously operated by the unit of **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, **the unit has stopped its production during 2014-2015** and the same was mentioned in Inspection report dated 07.04.2015 and Minutes of the personal hearing conducted by the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer(M), TNPCB, Coimbatore with the unit's representatives on 12.07.2016.

Later on, the unit of **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.

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 product through temperature zone of up to -30°C, so that the chips can be used 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.

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 in the nearby village for safety in order to avoid major health risk to the public. The issue settled over around 10.00PM and no Ammonia gas smell was observed afterwards.

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 1.00AM (30.04.2024) to 2.20AM (30.04.2024). The inspection was completed around 4.00 AM.

**Day-2: (30.04.2024)**

The AEL/Coimbatore has analysed the AAQ survey samples conducted during the night and furnished the results and the ROA 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**).

<b>STANDARDS FOR AMMONIA IN AMBIENT AIR (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</b>		
<b>Concentration Range</b>	<b>AQI</b>	<b>Standard</b>
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

In view of the above, the DEE, TNPCB, CBN has submitted recommendations to the Board for issue of direction for closure and disconnection of all the power supplies pertaining to the unit of **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 as amended & under Section 31A of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 as amended thereon for carrying out establishment / renovation works without obtaining CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling ammonia.

Meanwhile on 30.04.2024 at 10.00AM, the evacuated people on arriving at their respective homes started agitating against the unit along with local Environmentalists and political parties in and around the factory premises.

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:

- ❖ The public has demanded to close down the unit permanently which was operated without any license from the Authorities.
- ❖ Health Check up to be made to all the affected people.
- ❖ 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.

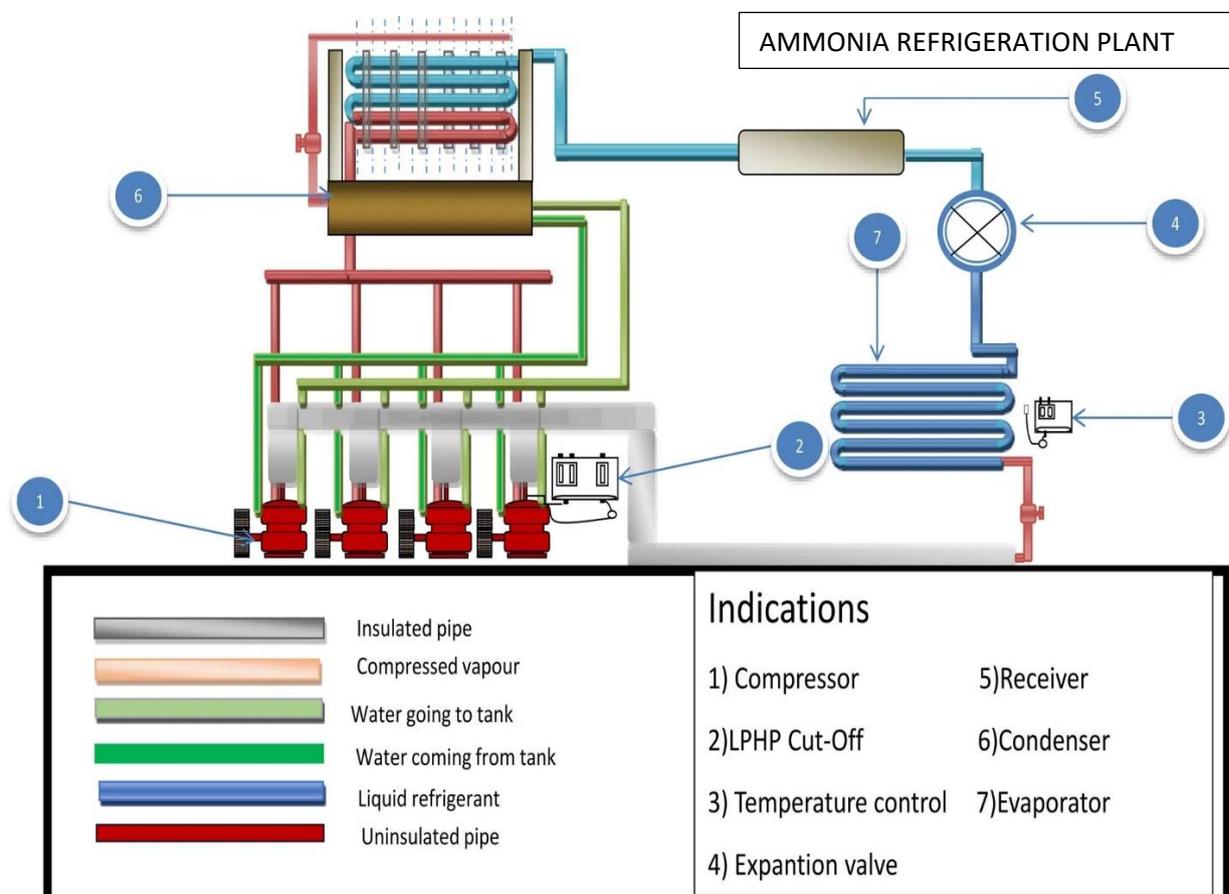
## Closure direction

TNPC Board has issued direction for closure and disconnection of power supply pertaining to the unit of **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 as amended & under Section 31A of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 as amended thereon vide Proceedings dated 30.04.2024.

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

## Removal of Residual Ammonia

### Refrigeration system



- i. Any industrial ammonia refrigeration system comprises of the following components;
  - a. Compressor.
  - b. Condenser
  - c. Receiver tank
  - d. Expansion valve
  - e. Liquid separator
  - f. Evaporator
  - g. Cooling tower and interconnecting pipelines with pumping system.
- ii. It was reported 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.
- iii. The TNPCB has engaged the services of M/s.Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore, the agency which has supplied about 300 kg of liquid ammonia to the unit in 50kg cylinders.
- iv. The staffs of M/s.Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore have arrived at the unit at 02.30PM with their vehicles and empty cylinders.

#### Issues and the process

- i. The ammonia in the refrigeration system is in Liquid –Vapour phase. Generally bottling of ammonia in cylinders in bottling industries will be carried out using high pressure pumps installed in that unit. Hence without such device refilling the residual ammonia from the refrigeration system to empty cylinders is a challenging one.
- ii. As the unit has started trial without any permission and made an accident the proprietor of the unit, Manager and other staffs and technicians of the unit were arrested and remanded by the Police Department. The process of transferring the Ammonia gas turned difficult without the presence of the technician of the unit's refrigeration system, who has a clear knowledge about operational procedure of that refrigeration system.

- iii. Hence, it was requested to the Police Department to release the technician of the unit's refrigeration system. The Police Department has accepted the request and send the technician of the unit's refrigeration system to assist the staffs of M/s.Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore and the process was started around 3.30PM.
- iv. First, the Ammonia liquid-vapour present in the pipelines of the unit's refrigeration system was pumped to the Ammonia Receiver tank by operating the various pumps in the system and the entire ammonia was collected in the receiver tank. Mostly the ammonia was in liquid and partly in vapour stage.
- v. In the absence of High pressure pump to bottle ammonia in cylinders the process of filling was started with the available pressure difference between the receiver tank and empty cylinders. This process has taken lot of time and half-filled cylinders were replaced with new one to speed up the process. Further the receiver tank was cooled externally with pouring water to keep the ammonia in liquid stage and liquid ammonia could only be transferred to cylinders by normal pressure difference flow system. Ammonia vapours could not be filled in cylinders.
- vi. Meanwhile the TNPCB has requested technical support from the unit of M/s.Chemplast, Mettur and the experts have arrived to the site around 04.45PM and worked along with the staffs of M/s.Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore. The transfer process continued till 09.00 PM.
- vii. At one stage the transfer of liquid Ammonia to cylinders took place at a very slow pace and almost reached nil at one stage.
- viii. The expert team from M/s.Chemplast, Mettur have requested to arrange 100 litres of 30% Hydrochloric Acid and 200 litres barrels of ten numbers to scrub out the balance Ammonia in the receiver tank which is in vapour form, which could not be transferred to cylinders. As per their request, TNPCB has arranged required amount of 30% Hydrochloric Acid, Barrels and water with the help of **M/s. United Bleachers Private Limited, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District & M/s. KG Denim Limited, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District.**

- ix. After removal liquid ammonia to cylinders, the balance quantity of ammonia gas in the system was let into water scrubbing system slowly without allowing any escape of gases into atmosphere by the expert team from CHEMPLAST very carefully.
- x. The process of complete removal of Ammonia from the receiver tank and from the system was completed around 10.30 PM.
- xi. The expert teams from M/s.Vijay Corporation, Navakkarai, Coimbatore & M/s.Chemplast has handed over the unit to the authority for verification. The team has recovered around 85 to 100 kg of Ammonia liquid in four cylinders.
- xii. The public representative from the village and Mettupalayam MLA Thiru AK .SELVARAJ and representative from political parties were present during the entire process.
- xiii. On final verification by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Coimbatore North and the Directorate of Industrial safety and Health, Coimbatore, the TANGEDCO disconnected the power supply pertaining to the unit of **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.

### **Recommendations**

- ❖ DEE/DEL offices shall be equipped with handy meters for spot analysis of gases like Ammonia, chlorine, VOC and other toxic gases to handle any such emergency situation and to assist the District Administration.
- ❖ An Emergency Response Centre shall be established at TNPC Board and shall assist the field officials during emergency. The center shall have the inventory of potential hot spots and risk places and shall create a database of expert's agencies and the list of companies capable of supporting to handle different emergency situation shall be maintained.
- ❖ Training program shall be imparted to field staffs to handle emergency.

**Dr K.RAVICHANDRAN**  
**DEE/TNPCB/CBN.**

**Annexures Enclosed**

1. TNPCB Inspection report & Closing IR
2. AAQ Survey report
3. Closer direction of Board
4. Collector's Order
5. EB Disconnection Intimation Letter
6. Photos of Inspection
7. Newspaper Cuttings



**Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board  
Inspection Report**

1	a	Name of the Inspecting Officer	Dr.K.Ravichandran & Er.K.Kalaivendhan			
	b	Designation	DEE & AE			
	c	District office	Coimbatore North			
2		Date of Inspection	29.04.2024 & 30.04.2024			
3	a	Name of the Industry	M/s.AMS & Company			
	b	<b>Factory address:</b> S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District.				
4	a	Category	Classification	Orange	Large	
	b	Type of the industry	2007 - Food and food processing including fruits and vegetable processing			
5		Name of the Occupier of the unit present during inspection.	Thiru. Balakrishnan, Manager, Cell:9894845671			
6	<b>Products manufactured:</b>					
	a	<b>Main Products manufactured:</b>				
		<i>Main Product</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Actual production</i>	
		Frozen French fries	1500	T/M	-	
	b	<b>By/Intermediate products manufactured:</b>				
		<i>By / Intermediate Product</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Actual production</i>	
7	<b>Quantity of effluent in KLD:</b>					
	i)	Sewage			2 KLD	
	ii)	Trade effluent			72 KLD	
	b	Sources of trade effluent: Potato washing, steam peeling, potato cutting.				
8	<b>Performance of Sewage Treatment Plant:</b>					
	<i>Nature of Effluent</i>	<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Components of STP</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Dimensions (in metres)</i>	<i>Status of functioning</i>
	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Sewage	1	Septic Tank	1	-	-
		2	Dispersion trench			
	<b>Trade Effluent - Type of ETP : Individual ETP</b>					
9	<b>Sources of Emission and Air Pollution Control Measures provided:</b>					
	<b>Point Source:</b>					
	<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Source of Emission</i>	<i>APC measures provided</i>	<i>Stack top dimension (in metres)</i>	<i>Stack ht. above ground (in metres)</i>	<i>Status of functioning</i>
	1.	Drying Ovens – 2 Nos	Precipitators with stack	-	-	-
	2.	Frying Ovens – 2 Nos	Mist Eliminators with stack	-	-	-
	3.	Steam peeling	Stack	-	-	-
	4	Prechiller – 2 Nos	Stack			
	5	Softener Degasser	Stack			
	6	DG Set 380 KVA – 3 Nos	Stack			

10	Remarks on the maintenance of Log Books, Records and separate energy meter for Effluent Treatment Plant.
11	Remarks on the Disposal of Solid Wastes / Hazardous Wastes :
12.	Remarks on Waste minimization, Inplant measures and House Keeping.
13	Details of Complaints if any: Please Refer item No.17
14	Violation of conditions stipulated in the Consent Orders / directions issued under Water/Air Act, if any: Please Refer item No.17
15	Violation of conditions stipulated in the authorisation issued under the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 if any: Please Refer item No.17
16	Details of Samples collected, if any and Date/Time of collection and point of collection:
17.	Any other special information if any (May include observations/suggestions made during inspection on the performance of ETP/APC Measures). Based on the news spreaded regarding occurance of Ammonia Gas leakage in an industry located at Chikkarampalayam Village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District, an immediate inspection was carried out by the District Environmental Engineer - Coimbatore North, the Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, Coimbatore North on 29.04.2024 & 30.04.2024 in the unit of M/s.AMS & Company located at <b>S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District</b> and the following were observed. The RDO, Coimbatore North and Inspector, Karamadai was also present during inspection.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Ammonia Gas leakage accident occured in the unit of <b>M/s.AMS &amp; Company</b> located at <b>S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District.</b></li> <li>2. During inspection, the Manager, In-charge for renovation works was present. The Proprietor of the unit was not available during inspection.</li> <li>3. The unit was not under operation and not even started its production.</li> <li>4. The said facility was previously operated by the unit of <b>M/s. Golden fries limited</b>, S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District. The unit has obtained CTO vide Proc.No: DEE/TNPCB/CBE/F.4771/O/LW&amp;A/2002 Dated 06.09.2002 and subsequently renewed up to 31.03.2008 for manufacturing of <b>frozen French fries – 1500 T/M</b>. As per the records, <b>the unit has stopped its production duirng 2014-2015</b> and the same was mentioned in Inspection report dated 07.04.2015 and Minutes of the personal hearing conducted by the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer(M), TNPCB, Coimbatore with the unit's representatives on 12.07.2016.</li> <li>5. Later on the unit of M/s.AMS &amp; Company took over the facility by Bank auction. The unit has just got HT power supply during April 2024 and started renovation work of the</li> </ol>

facility and machineries without getting CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board.

6. The unit is using cooling system to improve the self life period of chips by reducing the temperature upto  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  so the chips can be used upto 18 months.
7. 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. Leakage of Ammonia gas took place in a pipe line around 7.30PM (29.04.2024) and started dispersing into nearby habitation and some of the nearby public suffered with eye irritation.
8. On hearing the news of Ammonia leakage, around 250 people in the nearby habitation of Chenniveerampalayam was evacuated for safety to a Kalyana Mandapam located in nearby village and health risk to the nearby public was avoided.
9. The issue settled over around 10.00PM and no Ammonia gas smell was observed afterwards.
10. As requested by District administration Ambient Air Quality survey was conducted by Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Coimbatore at two locations (One nearer to emission source and one at entrance of the unit) to measure the presence of Ammonia gas in ambient air. The Air sampling was started around 1.00AM (30.04.2024) and completed around 2.20AM(30.04.2024).
11. AAQ survey was conducted during the night and from the ROA 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 is within the limit. (as per air quality index – it is **Good**)

STANDARDS FOR AMMONIA IN THE AMBIENT AIR ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )		
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

In view of the above, it is recommended for issue of direction for closure and direction for disconnection of all power supply connections pertaining to the unit of **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 as amended & under Section 31A of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 as amended thereon for carrying out establishment / renovation works without obtaining CTE/CTO from the TNPC Board and without adopting any precautionary measures for handling ammonia.

Further, the DISH (Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health) may also be directed to ensure the safety of the residual ammonia in the cooling system.

**TANGEDCO SERVICE CONNECTION DETAILS :****Service Nos. HTSC-759**

The Superintending Engineer,  
 (Coimbatore North),  
 Tamilnadu Generation and Distribution Limited (TNEB),  
 Tatabad, Coimbatore – 641 012.  
 (Email id: secben@tnebnet.org)

Executive Engineer / Mettupalayam TANGEDCO,  
 Sirumugai Road,  
 Power House,  
 Mettupalayam-641301  
 eemplym@tnebnet.org

Assistant Executive Engineer / Karamadai TANGEDCO,  
 Kundha Colony,  
 Railway Station Road,  
 Karamadai- 641104

Assistant Engineer / West, Karamadai TANGEDCO,  
 Kundha Colony,  
 Railway Station Road,  
 Karamadai- 641104.

It is recommended for issue of direction for closure and direction for disconnection of all power supply connections pertaining to the unit of **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 as amended & under Section 31A of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 as amended thereon for carrying out activities in the unit without obtaining CTE/CTO from the Board.

Further, the DISH (Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health) may also be directed to ensure the safety of the residual ammonia in the cooling system.

*D. S. S. S. S. S.*  
**District Environmental Engineer**  
**Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board**  
**Coimbatore North**



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

**TEST REPORT**

**ULR-TC12371240000464F**

**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 ( $^{\circ}$ 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



**TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

**Proceeding No.: TNPCB / T1 / F.010042 / CBN / Closure / Air / 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 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended – Orders issued – Regarding

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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.
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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 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 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 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 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 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended the unit shall prefer an appeal before the Hon'ble Appellate Authority, TNPCB.

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. 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

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
30/9/24  
**For Chairperson**



## **TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

**Proceeding No.: TNPCB / T1 / F.010042 / CBN / Closure / EB / Air / 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 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 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 / Air / 2024, dated: 30.04.2024

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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 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 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 31A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 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.  
[eemplym@tnebnet.org](mailto:eemplym@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

*Handwritten signature*  
30/4/24

For Chairperson

*Handwritten initials*  
30/4/24

**TANGEDCO LTD**

FROM:

Assistant Executive Engineer,  
CEDC/North/TANGEDCO  
O & M / Karamadai.

TO:

The Superintending Engineer,  
CEDC/North/TANGEDCO  
Coimbatore.

Lr.No.AEE/O&M/KAY/F.HT SC 759(DC) /D. NO. 243 /2024 Dt:02.05.2024

Sir,

Sub: Elecyc - M/S. AMS & Company, HT Sc. No. 759 in ChikkaramPalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District - Disconnection intimation Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Proceeding No.TNPCB/T1/F.010042/CBN/Closure/EB/Water/ 2024,  
dated:30.04.2024.  
2. Proceeding No.TNPCB/T1/F.010042/CBN/Closure/EB/Air/ 2024,  
dated:30.04.2024.

With reference to the above Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board instruction the M/S.AMS & Company, HT. Sc. No. 759 had been Disconnected on 30.04.2024 at 23.00 hrs in Assistant Engineer / East / Karamadai section of Assistant Executive Engineer / O&M / Karamadai Sub Division.

For kind information and favour of further action please.

Sd/\*\*\*\*02.05.2024  
Assistant Executive Engineer  
O & M / Karamadai.

To:

Copy submitted to The Executive Engineer /O&M/Mettupalayam.

Copy submitted to The Executive Engineer/MRT/CEDC/North/Coimbatore.

Copy submitted to The Assistant Executive Engineer/MRT/CEDC/North/Coimbatore.

Copy submitted to The DFC/CEDC/North/Coimbatore.

Copy submitted to The AAO/HT/CEDC/North/Coimbatore.

Copy submitted to The District Environmental Engineer/TNPCB/Kavundampalayam/Coimbatore.

Copy to The Proprietor, M/S. AMS & Company, Chikkarampalayam, Karamadai.

**Photographs showing the inspections carried out in the unit of M/s.AMS & Company located at S.F.No. 723, Chikkarampalayam village, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District regarding occurrence of Ammonia Gas leakage**



**Primary investigations made with the Industrial representatives**



**Discussions with the police and other officials regarding further safety aspects**



**Inspection of Ammonia gas leakage source**



**AAQ survey conducted by Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Coimbatore**



**AAQ survey conducted by Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Coimbatore**





Chikkarampalayam, Tamil Nadu | Apr 29, 2024, 23:40



Senniveerampalayam, Tamil Nadu | Apr 30, 2024, 16:48







