

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

Original Application No.250 of 2024(SZ)

[Earlier OA No.821 of 2024(PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu News item appearing in The Hindu dated 18.06.2024 titled "**Fish kill near Adyar eco-park highlights persisting sewage contamination**"

And

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Through its Member Secretary.
Chennai and Others.

....Respondents

INDEX

S.No	Description	Page No.
1.	REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.	1 - 5



**Advocate
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

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REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT
THE TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

I, S.Palanisamy, Son of S.Santhappan, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I respectfully submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorized to file this report on behalf of the first respondent and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available in our office.
2. It is respectfully submitted that on 15.07.2024, Suo Motu was registered by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.821 of 2024(PB) based on the news item published in 'The Hindu' dated 18.06.2024 titled "Fish kill near Adyar ecopark highlights persisting sewage


JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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CHENNAI-600 032.

contamination” which has been transferred to National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the matter relates to the increasing water contamination in the Adyar Eco Park in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. As per the article, dead fish were seen floating near the eco-park and Sewage outfalls were also spotted at several places near Kotturpuram. The article highlights that an obstruction at the river mouth or sewage overload could be the primary reasons for the fish kill since contamination can cause oxygen levels to go down. The news item report states that among a string of orders pertaining to river pollution passed by the National Green Tribunal over the last few years, in November 2022, the Southern Bench had directed the State government to clean up rivers in Chennai, including the Adyar. However, sewage from multiple drains continues to contaminate the river. The news item further highlights that a little up north of the Adyar, a feeder channel flowing through the Kotturpuram urban forest on River View Road was filled with sewage. It states that regular complaints over the last couple of years have not yielded any permanent solutions. At the southern end of Lock Street, a constant stream of sewage was found flowing into the Adyar from a channel on the banks of the river. It is also alleged that commercial establishments close to the river illegally released sewage into the waterway.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) has renumbered as Original Application No.821 of 2024, (PB) as OA No.250 of 2024, (SZ), Chennai. On 13.09.2024, the Hon'ble Tribunal has taken the OA and directed the respondents to file their reports.
5. It is respectfully submitted that as per the Order passed on 13.9.2024, the first respondents submit the report herein.


JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI-600 032.

6. It is respectfully submitted that the said area of Lock Street, Pondicherry Road, Varadapuram, Kotturpuram, Adyar River creek where the fish death occurred was inspected on 21.06.2024. During inspection dissolved oxygen level was analysed on the spot and observed that dissolved oxygen level was very low in the water i.e. less than 2ppm std. It is ascertained that the fish death may be due to the low dissolved oxygen level.
7. It is respectfully submitted that on inquiring about this to the nearby residents of the area, it was informed that on 16.06.2024 (Sunday) fish death was observed in the above said location. Also, they added that the domestic sewage from the residences mixed into the said river may be the reason for fish death.
8. It is respectfully submitted that in this regard a request was sent to the Zonal officer XIII, Greater Chennai Corporation vide Lr.No.DEE/TNPCB/CHS/Hon'ble NGT 250 of 2024 (SZ), dated: 21.06.2024 to take appropriate action to prevent the sewage discharge into the Adyar River from the nearby residential areas so as to avoid the water contamination and to save the eco life. Also it is requested the Zonal Officer shall explore the possibilities of providing sewage treatment plant in the said location to treat the sewage before discharging into the river water after satisfying the Board's prescribed standards.
9. It is respectfully submitted that said area of Lock Street, Pondicherry Road, Varadapuram, Kotturpuram, Adyar River was again inspected on 17.10.2024. During inspection it was found that the sewage from nearby residences were confluence into the adyar river. Again a letter was addressed to Zonal Officer, Zone 13, Greater Chennai Corporation Dated: 17.10.2024 vide Lr.No.DEE/TNPCB/CHS/Hon'ble NGT 250 of 2024(SZ) to take necessary action to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into the river. Also, during inspection one number of samples was collected which is turbid in nature and sent to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board laboratory for analysing.


JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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10. It is respectfully submitted that further the water sample has been collected on 22.06.2024 & 17.10.2024 and sent to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board laboratory for analysing other parameters to identify the reasons for fish death. The ROA (Report of Analysis) of the water sample collected reveals that the parameters BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand), COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand), Faecal coliform, Total Nitrogen and total suspended solids were exceeded the standards prescribed by the Board. The exceedance of the parameters reveals that the said water was septic in nature which may be the reason for fish death.

Consolidated ROA of the sample collected from Lock Street

S.No	Parameters	Units	Standards	ROA of Adyar river water sample collected on 22.06.2024	ROA of Adyar river water sample collected on 17.10.2024
1.	pH	-	6.5-8.5	6.57	7.46
2.	TSS @ 105°C	mg/l	20	124	24
3.	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	4.0	BDL (DL 1)	NIL
4.	BOD (3 days @ 27°C)	mg/l	3	133	30
5.	COD	mg/l	-	280	136
6.	Total Nitrogen	mg/l	-	23.697	57.74
7.	Ammonical Nitrogen	mg/l	-	8.4	12.88
8.	Total Coliform	MPN/100 ml	-	1011.2	7500
9.	Faecal Coliform	MPN/100 ml	100/100ml	241.1	1026

11. It is respectfully submitted that it was also ascertained that no industries were located surrounding the said location along Adyar River.


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

S D 2/1/25
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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VERIFICATION

I, S.Palanisamy, Son of S.Santhappan, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

S D 2/1/25
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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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THE FIRST RESPONDENT THE
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD**

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

Date:02.01.2025

Date of Hearing on:08.01.2025

