

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

**OA No.253 of 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**SRI CHAITANYA SRAVANTHI**

..... Applicant

**Vs**

**SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, PORTS AND WATERWAYS AND OTHERS**

.... Respondents

**REPORT FILED BY THE APPCB 8<sup>th</sup> RESPONDENT**

**DATE- 12.11.2024**



**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY  
ADVOCATE**

**STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

**A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN  
ZONE, CHENNAI IN CONNECTION WITH**

**Original Application No. 253/2024**

**In the matter of:**

**Sri Chaitanya Sravanthi, Andhra Pradesh.**

...Applicant(s)

**With**

**Secretary  
Ministry of shipping, New Delhi and Ors.**

...Respondent(s)

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It is certified that all the documents contained in the above annexure are true copies.

Place: Visakhapatnam  
Date: 11.11.2024

  
**Environmental Engineer**  
**APPCB, Regional Office**  
**Visakhapatnam**  
Environmental Engineer  
A.P. Pollution Control Board  
Regional Office, Visakhapatnam

**Report in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT, Southern Zone, Chennai vide Order dated 12.09.2024 in Original Application No. 253 of 2024(SZ) filed by Sri Chaitanya Sravanthi, in the matters of import of Ammonium Nitrate by M/s. Visakhapatnam Port Authority:**

It is to submit that Sri Chaitanya Sravanthi, D.No.48-8/12, Dwarakanagar, Visakhapatnam has filed an application before the National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, Chennai in O.A.No. 253 of 2024(SZ) in the matters of import of Ammonium Nitrate by M/s. Visakhapatnam Port Authority.

The Hon'ble NGT, Delhi in its order dated 12.09.2024 in Original Application No. 253/2024(SZ), stated that

- “1. Let notice be issued to the respondents through the Tribunal as well as privately.*
- 2. Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy, the learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of Respondents No.6, 7 and 8.*
- 3. Post the matter on 12.11.2024. Meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective replies/reports.”*

Copy of the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi Order dated 12.09.2024 is submitted as **Annexure-I.**

A Notice dated 18.09.2024 issued to respondent(s) seeking an order on injunction restraining the respondents from receiving imports of Ammonium Nitrate (“AN”) through Visakhapatnam Port Authority and thereby strictly implement the office memorandum issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 06.01.2023 and 10.08.2023. The application came up for admission before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone on 12.09.2024. Upon hearing the matter, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to direct issuance of notice to all respondent(s) and directed to be present before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 12.11.2024 either in person or through a counsel, failing which the matter will be heard by the Hon'ble Tribunal in absence of respondent(s).

**In this regard, the following are submitted for kind perusal:**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh(GoAP) vide letter dated 28.01.2021 has decided that “No Ammonium Nitrate shall be allowed to stock in the vicinity of residential areas of the Visakhapatnam city and further Visakhapatnam Port Authority(VPA) shall not be allowed import of Ammonium Nitrate into the

Visakhapatnam city". The copy of the Govt. of AP vide letter dated 28.01.2021 is submitted as **Annexure-II**.

In accordance to the instructions received from EFS&T Dept. GoAP vide letter dated 28.01.2021, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) issued a directions to the VPA, Visakhapatnam vide letter dated 01.06.2022 under the Rule 18 (3(A)) of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989(MSIHC Rules) "**Not to allow import of Ammonium Nitrate into the Visakhapatnam City until further orders**" in the interest of safe guarding public health and Environment. The copy of the APPCB letter dated 01.06.2022 is submitted as **Annexure-III**.

The EFS&T Dept, Govt. of AP vide memo dated 20.07.2022 constituted this committee with the following members to examine the whole issue and to find a Solution pertaining to import of Ammonium Nitrate in Visakhapatnam Port.

1. Chief Environmental Engineer, AP Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada,
2. Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization, Visakhapatnam,
3. Joint Chief Inspector of Factories, Visakhapatnam,
4. Senior Representative of VPT,
5. Representative of Coal India Limited.,
6. Representative of EMWA,
7. Zonal Officer, APPCB, Visakhapatnam (*Convener*).

The copy of the EFS&T Dept, Govt. of AP vide memo dated 20.07.2022 is submitted as **Annexure-IV**.

Further, the EFS&T Dept, Govt. of AP vide memo dated 11.08.2022, the Chairman and the Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada requested to furnish interim report / action taken in the matter to the Government. The copy of the EFS&T Dept, Govt. of AP vide memo dated 11.08.2022 is submitted as **Annexure-V**.

The Committee have made a detailed study and after detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended to allow import of Ammonium Nitrate through VPA for 1 more year along with set of recommendations. After careful examination of the then Committee report, the Government have decided to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port within one year in the interest of safeguarding public health, public safety and environment. In the interim period,

the import of the Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port is allowed temporarily for a period of 3 months, subject to clear understanding that the alternative arrangement will be made by the importers through the other ports at the earliest and subject to compliance with all the conditions proposed by the Committee by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned.

Based on the recommendations from the Committee, the matter was examined by the GoAP and issued instructions from time to time to APPCB vide memos dated. 20.07.2022, 29.09.2022, 24.11.2022 & 06.01.2023 to allow VPA to temporarily import Ammonium Nitrate with specific conditions. Accordingly, the Board vide orders dated.21.07.2022, 21.10.2022, 28.11.2022, 06.01.2023 and 06.05.2023 issued directions to VPA to import Ammonium Nitrate temporarily for specified period along with specific directions to comply by the VPA, Visakhapatnam.

While informing the same, the EFS&T Dept., GoAP addressed the Secretary (Shipping), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways (ports wing), Govt. of India vide letter dated 15.09.2023 to identify other ports, which are located away from the habitations, for import of Ammonium Nitrate. It was also requested that the exercise may be initiated at the earliest so that the import of Ammonium Nitrate is completely phased out through the Visakhapatnam Port within one year in the interest of safeguarding public health, public safety and environment. The copy of the EFS&T Dept, Govt. of AP vide memo dated 15.09.2023 addressed to the Ministry Of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, GOI, New Delhi is submitted as **Annexure-VI**.

The Ministry of Ports, shipping & waterways addressed letter to the Spl. Chief Secretary, EFS&T, GoAP on 10.03.2023, wherein the Ministry of Coal have informed that Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited consume large quantities of Explosives for their daily operations. The decision of Government of Andhra Pradesh to phase out handling of Ammonium Nitrate through VPA will be detrimental to the Coal and Fertilizer industry and will derail the process of Mining as well as fertilizer manufacturing if the supply of cargo is put under uncertainty. Thus, the Ministry of Ports, shipping and waterways requested the Government of Andhra Pradesh to reconsider the decision of phasing out import of Ammonium Nitrate through VPA in light of the request of Ministry

of Coal and VPA. The copy of the Ministry Of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, GOI, New Delhi dated 10.03.2023 is submitted as **Annexure-VII**.

In turn the EFS&T Dept., Govt. of A.P. informed to GoI that the request of Government of India is not feasible and once again requested to identify other ports, which are located away from habitations for import of Ammonium Nitrate and to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port. A letter was also addressed to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, GoI on 24.03.2023 informed that the Govt. of AP is of the view to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port as Visakhapatnam Port is located within the Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation limits and is surrounded by thickly populated habitations. The copy of the EFS&T Dept., Govt. of A.P. vide letter dated 24.03.2023 submitted as **Annexure-VIII**.

The Special Secretary to Government, EFST Dept. on 13.06.2023 addressed letter to Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority requesting to submit action plan for phasing out of import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port as per the recommendation of the committee, and further requested expeditious action vide letter dated: 12.10.2023. After careful consideration of the recommendations of the committee, the GoAP vide letter dated 10.08.2023 issued instructions to APPCB to further extend permission to VPA to import Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port temporarily for the period upto 05.01.2024, and it was specifically instructed that no further extension shall be given in this regard after expiry of the period i.e., 05.01.2024. The copy of the EFST Dept., GoAP letter dated 10.08.2023 is submitted as **Annexure-IX**.

Accordingly, the APPCB vide letter dated 12.08.2023 issued directions to VPA allowing import of Ammonium Nitrate for a period upto 05.01.2024 subject to compliance with all the conditions recommended by the committee and procedures as fully enumerated in the Govt. Memo. Dated 06.01.2023 to be implemented by Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned. The copy of the APPCB letter dt.12.08.2023 is submitted as **Annexure-X**.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, GoI vide letter dated 12.10.2023 & 01.11.2023 once again requested to reconsider the decision and allow Vishakhapatnam Port Authority to continue handling Ammonium Nitrate beyond

05.01.2024 as the imposition of ban or prohibition of handling Ammonium Nitrate through VPA will severely impact the Coal Industry, Major Power Producers and Fertilizer Industry. The copy of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Gol vide letter dated 12.10.2023 & 01.11.2023 is submitted as **Annexure-XI**.

The Special Chief Secretary to GoAP, Infrastructure and Investment (Port) Dept., GoAP vide letter dated 28.11.2023 forwarded the letters received from the CMD, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., and representation of EMWA, and requested to take necessary action and to intimate the action taken to the GoAP.

The Board received representations received from the Chairperson, VPA vide letter dated 29.11.2023 and Compliance status to the recommendations of the committee furnished by the Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA.

While forwarding the above, the EFS&T Dept., GoAP vide letter dated 07.12.2023 requested the APPCB to examine the request of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Gol and representations received from the other stake holders and to offer specific remarks/report to Government as early as possible. The gist of the representations received from various stake holders is as follows:

S. No.	Date of representation	Letter received from	Description
1.	14.11.2023	Chairman & Managing Director, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., Hyderabad	Requested the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Delhi to advise the Government of AP for allowing continuously, imported Ammonium Nitrate to Vizag port reaching through various ships until Paradip port is fully developed.
2.	23.11.2023	President, Indian Ammonium Nitrate Manufacturers Association (IANMA), Mumbai	Risks with import of Ammonium Nitrate through Vizag Port and requested to take necessary steps to restrict / stop import of highly Hazardous Ammonium Nitrate at Vizag port.



3.	28.11.2023	Special Chief Secretary to Government, Infrastructure & Investment (Port) Dept., GoAP	Forwarded the representation dt. 14.11.2023 received from the CMD, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., Hyderabad to advise the Government of AP for allowing continuously, imported Ammonium Nitrate to Vizag port reaching through various ships until Paradip port is fully developed.
4.	29.11.2023	Under Secretary to GoI, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Water ways, GoI, New Delhi	Requested the Government to re-consider the decision and allow VPA to continue handling Ammonium Nitrate beyond 05.01.2024
5.	05.12.2023	President, Indian Ammonium Nitrate Manufacturers Association (IANMA), Mumbai	Stopping of import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port and to restrict the parcel size of the vessels bringing imported Ammonium Nitrate to 5000 tons in a single vessel and other issues.
6.	07.12.2023	Special Secretary to GoAP, EFS&T Dept.,	Forwarded representations received from the M/s. Regenesis Industries Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Solar Industries Ltd., M/s. EMWA, M/s. Ideal Industrial Explosives Ltd., M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., and M/s. IANMA and requested to offer specific remarks to the GoAP.
7.	12.12.2023	Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam	Requested for expeditious action on import of Ammonium Nitrate through VPT for a further period beyond 05.01.2024, to continuously handle the consignments of Ammonium Nitrate at VPA
8.	14.12.2023	President, Indian Ammonium Nitrate Manufacturers Association (IANMA), Mumbai	Safety risks to India's strategic petroleum reserve and HPCL refinery at Visakhapatnam due to import of Ammonium Nitrate through VPT
9.	14.12.2023	President, Indian Ammonium	Safety risks to Vizag Airport at Vizag due to import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port.

10.	21.12.2023	President, Explosives Manufacturers Welfare Association (EMWA), Secunderabad	Requested to Continue import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam port for another 1 year.
11.	22.12.2023	Traffic	Furnished compliance status to the recommendations of the committee and requested that the restrictions imposed by GoAP and APPCB in import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate may be relaxed for an appropriate further period of 1 year or more beyond 05.01.2024.
12.	28.12.2023	Secretary to Government of India, MPS Section, Ministry of Coal, GoI	Requested to continue import of Ammonium Nitrate through VPT which is essential for Coal India Limited to meet its production targets, essential to meet the energy demands of the Nation.

The compliance to the recommendations made by the Committee constituted by EFS&T Dept, Govt. of AP vide memo dated 20.07.2022 is submitted below:

S.No	Recommendations/ Suggestions	Compliance
1	The import of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) through VPT may be allowed temporarily for a period of one year only after compliance of the following:	
	a. Compliance by VPT with all the recommendations made by Safety Audit Team of DGFASLI at para no. 10 (field observations and recommendations) of the safety audit report and certified by Dock Safety Inspectorate.	Complied.  The safety audit report
	b. Strict compliance of Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012 under the supervision of PESO and Dock Safety Inspectorate.	PESO is looking after compliance of Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012.
	c. Compliance by VPT & Importers with modalities and SOPs submitted by VPT to PESO.	The modalities and SOPs submitted by VPA are being verified by PESO.
	d. Conditions stipulated by District Magistrate / Commissioner of Police from time to time.	--

2	The VPT shall be directed to prepare QRA and consequence modelling for handling Ammonium Nitrate at port site to elaborate the scope of safety at work as recommended in the Safety Audit report by DGFASLI, within two months.	The VPA submitted Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) for Ammonium Nitrate handling at VPA prepared by IRCLASS Systems and Solutions Private Limited.
3	QRA and consequence modelling and Onsite emergency plan shall be prepared by CONCOR for storage and transportation AN as AN stuffed in containers is kept at the site of CONCOR for 1-3 days. The staff of CONCOR and railway staff shall also to be trained and apprised of safety aspects.	<p>CONCOR has not submitted QRA and consequence modelling and Onsite emergency plan but submitted a letter dated 28.12.2023 stating that they are strictly ensuring all the safety and security measures towards transportation, handling, stacking of containers at their yard till the entire cargo is moved out to various destinations of importers is completely complied with as per the set norms as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning and arrangement for sufficient containers by CONCOR is made well in advance before the arrival of each and every vessel. CONCOR ensures that ample of containers are available as per the requirement of Importers for stuffing the cargo without any disruption or delays during the discharging of vessel.</li> <li>2. Stuffing of Ammonia Nitrate at port, movement of containers from port to CONCOR yard thereafter from CONCOR MMLP to various destinations is a continuous operation. CONCOR ensures that the containers are continuously moved out as early as possible with minimum holding time at Vizag Port as well as CONCOR yard.</li> <li>3. Mostly containers are immediately loaded onto the rake as soon as they arrive at our yard. In case</li> </ol>

		<p>due to some reason rake is not available, for the time being they are stacked in an isolated area specifically designated for cargoes like Ammonia Nitrate. Containers are not mixed with other cargoes/containers as per the PESO norms.</p> <p>4. CONCOR is well equipped with firefighting and fire extinguisher equipment's. A special team of task force is also formed for taking immediate safety measures in case of any adverse conditions.</p> <p>5. CONCOR always ensure that the containers are moved out from CONCOR yard within a period of 24-48 hours immediately after arrival from port. The allocation of rakes is intimated well in advance to railways for various destinations as indented by Importers in order to avoid any hassles.</p> <p>6. CONCOR ensures that all the rules and regulations for transportation of Ammonia Nitrate are strictly being complied as per the AN rules framed by PESO.</p> <p>7. CONCOR has been conducting the entire operation smoothly and efficiently with a minimum lead time for the last 20 years without a single adverse incident.</p> <p>8. The stuffed and sealed containers are escorted with the guards provided by the Importers till arrival of CONCOR premises.</p>
4	The safety issues of handling of AN in VPT shall be reviewed in the District Crisis Group constituted	The safety issues of handling of AN in VPT are not reviewed in the District Crisis

	under the Chemical Accidents ( <i>Emergency Planning, preparedness and Response</i> ) Rules 1996.	Group constituted under the Chemical Accidents ( <i>Emergency Planning, preparedness and Response</i> ) Rules 1996.
5	PESO may be requested to furnish a report on adequacy of existing safety measures within the port and by the importers for handling the AN as per AN Rules.	<p>PESO has not submitted report on adequacy of existing safety measures within the port and by the importers for handling the AN as per AN Rules. The APPCB addressed a mail to PESO on 28.12.2023 requesting to submit the compliance regarding furnishing of report on adequacy of existing safety measures within the port and by the importers for handling the AN as per AN Rules.</p> <p>The Chief Controller of Explosives, PESO submitted reply on 29.12.2023 stating that the Dy. Chief Controller of Explosives, Visakhapatnam vide his office letter no. AN/Genl/2022 dated 26.10.2022, intimated the matter to the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority. Further, PESO, Nagpur forwarded the Instructions received from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control board vide letter No 724/APPCB/HO/ERM/TF/VS P/2023-866 Dt 17.01.2023 to the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority for strict compliance of the same vide letter of even no dt 08.02.2023.</p>
6	The Ministry of Shipping and Explosives Manufacturers Welfare Association ( <i>EMWA</i> ) shall identify other ports which are located away from habitation for import of AN immediately and shall ensure that the imports will start from other ports within one year	The Ministry of Shipping and Explosives Manufacturers Welfare Association ( <i>EMWA</i> ) not yet identified alternate port.

The Board received mail from the Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA on 02.01.2024, wherein it was informed that the vessel m.v. LADY AYANA carrying 19800 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags on account of M/s. Solar Industries India Ltd., is calling at Visakhapatnam port before the restriction date 05.01.2024 and same shall be handled at compatible berth at Visakhapatnam Port. Copy of the mail received from Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA dated 02.01.2024 is submitted as **Annexure-XII**.

The EE, RO, Visakhapatnam vide letter dt. 11.01.2024 reported that the Board Officials inspected the Port premises and Ammonium Nitrate handling area on 09.01.2024 and observed that there is no handling of Ammonium Nitrate in the port premises. The Traffic Manager, VPA has informed that One vessel i.e., M.V LADY AYANA carrying 19853.373 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags has arrived Visakhapatnam port on 04.01.2024 at 05:00 Hrs to unload Ammonium Nitrate, which was received on account of Solar industries Ltd. The vessel arrived into outer harbour of VPA prior to the cut-off date i.e., 05.01.2024 and same was anchored in the outer harbour. Further informed that the request of the Traffic Manager, VPA to unload the Ammonium Nitrate from the said vessel i.e., M.V LADY AYANA may be permitted stipulating a condition that the VPA should strictly follow the SOPs recommended by the Committee to avoid any untoward incidents while handling Ammonium Nitrate as the vessel has already reached outer harbour before 05.01.2024 and as there are no further instructions from the Government on this matter. Copy of the APPCB report dated 11.01.2024 is submitted as **Annexure-XIII**.

After careful consideration of the representation from the Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA; recommendations of the EE, RO, Visakhapatnam; arrival of the vessel before 05.01.2024 and considering the environment & safety issues concerned for idling of the AN carrying vessels at outer harbor of Visakhapatnam Port, the Board under the powers vested under Rule 18 (3A) of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC Rules) hereby temporarily permits the Visakhapatnam Port Authority for one time berthing of vessel m.v. LADY AYANA carrying 19800 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags on account of M/s. Solar Industries India Ltd., subject to compliance with all the conditions recommended by the committee and procedures as fully enumerated in the Govt. Memo. Dated 06.01.2023 to be implemented by Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned.

APPCB issued a letter dated 11.01.2024 addressed to M/s. Visakhapatnam Port Authority stating that “if any further vessels received after this permission, APPCB cannot accord any permissions. Further it is to note that that no further extension shall be given in this regard for import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port or berthing of the vessels or any other activities associated with handling of AN at Visakhapatnam Port, till further orders received from the Government”. Copy of the APPCB letter dated 11.01.2024 issued to the VPA is submitted as **Annexure-XIV**.

The Committee constituted by the EFS&T Dept, Govt. of AP vide memo dated 20.07.2022 has submitted observations and recommendations vide letter dated 12.02.2024 to the Member Secretary, wherein it was reported that Visakhapatnam Port Authority has not prepared any plan of action for shifting Ammonium Nitrate to other ports; No dedicated berth was allocated for dispatch of Ammonium Nitrate; dense population is existing around Visakhapatnam port and any mishap incident result in extreme impact on human habitation inspite of any number of safety measures taken and further observed that the VPA has not complied with earlier recommendations of the committee besides non-compliance to safety Audit conducted (October, 2022) by Directorate General of Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), GoI. Accordingly, the detailed report of the Committee was furnished by GoAP vide letter dated 04.04.2024 to Ministry of Shipping; Ministry of Coal; Ministry of Environment (MoEF&CC); CPCB and Visakhapatnam Port Authority to take necessary further action. The copy of the EFS&T letter dated 04.04.2024 submitted as **Annexure-XV**.

The CPCB vide letter dated 23.04.2024, while communicating its opinion to Government informed to direct the VPA to invariably comply with the recommendations of the committee at the earliest in order to avoid any chances of a major accident and consequential environmental damage. Further informed to request the Dock Safety Inspectorate Department to submit a report on the adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port. The copy of the CPCB letter dated 23.04.2024 submitted as **Annexure-XVI**.

The GoAP vide letter dt: 14.05.2024, the Board vide letter dt. 25.06.2024 requested the Asst. Director (Safety), Inspectorate Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate

through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion for taking further action in the matter.

The APPCB vide letter dated 19.07.2024 requested the Director General, DGFASLI, Mumbai to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion, for taking further action in the matter. The copy of the APPCB vide letter dated 19.07.2024 is submitted as **Annexure - XVII**.

The Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam vide letter dated 30.07.2024 once again represented to the Board along with remarks on the observations/ recommendations of the committee, for relaxation in restrictions imposed by GoAP and APPCB in import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate for a further period beyond 05.01.2024 to continuously handle the consignments of Ammonium Nitrate at VPA.

The APPCB once again requested the Director General, DGFASLI vide letter dated 14.08.2024 to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion, for taking further action at Government level and APPCB in the matter.

APPCB vide letter dated 14.08.2024, requested the Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam to pursue the matter with the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date for taking further action at Government level and APPCB in the matter. The copy of the APPCB letter dated 14.08.2024 is submitted as **Annexure-XVIII**.

In this regard, it is to inform that the Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai vide letter dated 09.09.2024 forwarded detailed report on status of the safety measures adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam, wherein it was reported that



"Overall, these findings highlight a systemic failure to implement effective safety, security, and emergency response measures for handling Ammonium Nitrate, posing significant risks to both personnel and surrounding community". A copy of the report dt. 09.09.2024 received from the DGFASLI, Mumbai is submitted as **Annexure-XIX**.

The Member Secretary, APPCB vide letter dated 25.09.2024 has communicated the DGFASLI safety report dt: 09.09.2024 to the Chairperson, VPA and requested to take all necessary measures as recommended in the report and get the VPA reinspected by DGFASLI and get compliance certificate from DGFASLI on adequacy of the safety measures adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority for handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam and submit compliance to GoAP and APPCB at an early date to take further action in the matter. The copy of the APPCB letter dated 25.09.2024 is submitted as **Annexure-XX**.

Visakhapatnam Port Authority yet to submit the compliance certificate from DGFASLI on adequacy of the safety measures adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority for handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam to GoAP and APPCB. After receipt of the report from Visakhapatnam Port Authority further action will be submitted to the Hon'ble NGT.

Further it is also submitted that there are no importers of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port Authority in Andhra Pradesh.

This report is submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in due compliance of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Tribunal. The APPCB will abide by all such directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Place: Visakhapatnam  
Date: 11.11.2024

  
Environmental Engineer,  
APPCB, Regional Office,  
Visakhapatnam  
Environmental Engineer  
A.P. Pollution Control Board  
Regional Office, Visakhapatnam

**Item No.3:-****BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

(Through Video Conference)

**Original Application No.253 of 2024 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF

Sri Chaitanya Sravanthi,  
Andhra Pradesh.

...Applicant(s)

*With*Secretary  
Ministry of Shipping,  
New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**Date of hearing: 12.09.2024.**

CORAM:

**HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER****HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER**

**For Applicant(s):** Mr. Satish Parasaran, Sr. Adv. a/w.  
M/s. Madhan Babu, Vishnu Mohan,  
K. Sanjay & Vishnu Manoharan.

**For Respondent(s):** Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R6 to R8.

**ORDER**

1. Let notice be issued to the respondents through the Tribunal as well as privately.
2. Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy, the learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of Respondents No.6, 7 and 8.
3. Post the matter on **12.11.2024**. Meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective replies/reports.

Sd/-

**Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM**

Sd/-

**Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM**

O. A. No.253/2024 (SZ)  
12<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. Mn.

E 4276746

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.I) DEPT.**

Letter.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated.28/01/2021

From  
The Secretary to Government,  
EFS&T Department,  
A.P.Secretariat,  
Velagapudi.



To  
1. The Chairman,  
A.P.Pollution Control Board,  
Vijayawada.

2. The Member Secretary,  
A.P.Pollution Control Board,  
Vijayawada.

Sir,

Sub:-EFS&T Dept. - APPCB - M/s. Sravan Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd., Warehousing Complex, Chukkavanipalem, Visakhapatnam District - Storage and handling facility of Ammonium Nitrate at S.R. 18P, 19P & 21P of Chukkavanipalem Village, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam - Non compliance with EC conditions and Consent conditions of the Board - Risks involved in bulk storage of Ammonium Nitrate - Public Safety and Environment- Information called for - Reg.

Ref:-1.From the Chairman, APPCB, Lr.No.588/APPCB/HO/UH-II/VSP/2020-187, Dt. 17.08.2020.

2. Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I , Dated.09/09/2020.

&&&

I invite your attention to the references cited and to inform you that you are requested to take action against M/s. Sravan Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd., Warehousing Complex, Chukkavanipalem, Visakhapatnam District as per relevant Law, Rules and Guidelines for violation of EC conditions / CFO conditions and furnish action taken report to Government immediately, in the reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited. But, no report has been received so far.

2. Further, I am to inform that the Government have examined the issue and it has been decided that "no Ammonium Nitrate shall be allowed to stock in the vicinity of residential areas of the Visakhapatnam city and further, Vizag port shall not be allowed import of Ammonium Nitrate into the Visakhapatnam city".

3. I, therefore, request you to take further action accordingly and furnish action taken/detailed report to Government, immediately.

4. This may be treated as MOST URGENT.

Yours faithfully,

for Secretary to Government.

*See  
Pl put up  
chronological  
history and  
whether APPCB  
is competent  
to take action*

*AGG  
Pl. P. N. P.  
as per  
Buck  
11/2/2021*



**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

D.No.33-26-14D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pushpa Hotel Center,  
Chalamalavari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada – 520010  
Phone: 0866-2463200, Website: <https://pcb.ap.gov.in>

**Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-**

**01/06/2022**

**To**

**The Chairman,  
Visakhapatnam Port Trust,  
Port Area,  
Visakhapatnam.**

Sir,

**Sub:** APPCB – HO - UH-II – M/s. Visakhapatnam Port Trust - Instructions of the GoAP - No ammonium nitrate shall be allowed to stock in the vicinity of residential areas of Visakhapatnam city and Vizag Port shall not be allowed import of ammonium nitrate into the Visakhapatnam city – Legal hearing held on 06.05.2022 - Directions to stop the import of ammonium nitrate – Reg.

**Ref:** 1. Order No.588/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2020, dated 14.08.2020.  
2. The GoAP instructions through letter dated 28.01.2021.  
3. The ZO, Visakhapatnam vide letter dt 19.05.2021.  
4. External Advisory Committee (Task Force) meeting held on 06.05.2022.

\* \* \*

The APPCB issued directions Dt. 17.08.2020 to M/s. Sravan Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd., a Warehousing Complex located at Sy.R.18/P, 19/P & 21/P of Chukkavanipalem (V), Gajuwaka (M), Visakhapatnam District, the only facility permitted by the Board to handle and store ammonium nitrate of 20000T, to immediately stop further operations of stevedoring activities associated with storage and handling of Ammonium Nitrate until further orders from APPCB..

The APPCB also issued a direction on 14.08.2020 to the VPT not to engage M/s. Sravan Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd., in further operations of stevedoring activities associated with storage and handling of ammonium nitrate until further orders of the Board.

The GoAP through letter dated. 28.01.2021 addressed APPCB that the Government has decided "no Ammonium Nitrate shall be allowed to stock in the vicinity of residential areas of Visakhapatnam city and further Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) shall not be allowed import of Ammonium Nitrate into the Visakhapatnam city".

The Rule 18(3(a)) of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC Rules) which stipulates that "In case the concerned authority of the State is of the opinion that the chemical should not be imported on safety or on environmental considerations, such authority may direct stoppage of such import". As per the provisions of Rule 18 & Sl.No.3 of Schedule-5 of MSIHC Rules, 1989, A.P. Pollution Control Board is the competent authority in the State for verification of safety concerns associated with the imported chemicals covered in MSIHC Rules, 1989 either at intermediate storage or at the destination in the State after the import of the hazardous chemical.

Vide reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited, the Board reviewed the status of Import of ammonium nitrate by VPT during the EAC (TF) meeting held on 06.05.2022. The representatives of the M/s. VPT attended the meeting through VC. During the hearing it was informed to the VPT about the instructions of the Government not to allow import of Ammonium Nitrate into the Visakhapatnam city.

After detailed review, the committee recommended to direct the VPT to stop further import of ammonium nitrate at Visakhapatnam port, Visakhapatnam and opined to address the other stakeholders, not to issue any permissions for the storing of ammonium nitrate in the city.

Accordingly, the APPCB hereby issue directions to the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam under Rule 18(3(a)) of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC Rules) **"not to allow import of ammonium nitrate into the Visakhapatnam city until further orders"**, in the interest of safe guarding public health and environment.

This has the approval of Member Secretary.

Yours faithfully

**Mohan Rajasekhar**  
**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER**

**Copy to:**

1. The Collector and District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
2. The Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
3. The Commissioner, Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
4. The Dy. Chief Controller of Explosives, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
5. The Inspector of factories, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
6. The GMDIC, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
7. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, A.P.Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
8. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, A.P.Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.I) DEPARTMENT**

**Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated:20.07.2022.**  
**Computer No: 1218399**

Sub:-EFS&T Dept. - APPCB - Ammonium Nitrate - Restrictions on storage and import of Ammonium Nitrate into Visakhapatnam Port - Instructions - Reg.

- Ref:-1.From the Chairman, APPCB, Lr.No.588/APPCB/HO/UH-II/VSP/2020-187, Dt. 17.08.2020.  
2. Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated. 28/01/2021.  
3.APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-, dt.01.06.2022.  
4.From the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Lr.No.ITRA/SHP/FMIN, dt.08.06.2022 & 29.06.2022.  
5.From the Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, Coal India Limited, Kolkata, dt.08.06.2022.  
6.Govt. Lr. No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated 13.06.2022.  
7.From the Member Secretary, APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-281, dt.13.07.2022.  
8.Govt. Memo. No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated: 20.07.2022.

&&&

Attention of the Chairman and the Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board is invited to the restrictions imposed by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board vide its letter dated 01.06.2022 in the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited.

2. In the reference 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> cited, representations have been received by the Government informing that the ammonium nitrate is an important ingredient for explosive industry and explosives are very much necessary for Coal industry which is used power generation etc. Hence, any restriction on ammonium nitrate would affect the other industries adversely and requested to kindly re-visit the directions issued vide letter dated 01.06.2022 of APPCB so as to continue import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate in bags in the larger interest of the country.
3. In the reference 7<sup>th</sup> cited, the Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada while forwarding the various representations received in the matter, has requested to examine the issue and pass necessary orders in the matter. In the reference 8<sup>th</sup> cited, certain interim directions have been issued to APPCB.
4. Further to find a solution in the above issue, it is directed that a Committee be constituted with (1) Chief Environmental Engineer, APPCB, (2) Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation, Visakhapatnam Office, (3) Joint / Additional Director of Factories, Visakhapatnam, (4) Senior Representative of Visakhapatnam Port Authority, (5) Representative of Coal India Limited, (6) Representative of EMWA and (7) Zonal Officer, APPCB, Visakhapatnam (Convenor) to examine the whole issue in detail and submit a report to Government within 15 days.
5. The Chairman and the Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada shall ensure that the committee submits its report within the stipulated period with full details.

**NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To  
The Chairman, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.

(PTO)

:: 2 ::

The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.

Copy to:-

The Chief Environmental Engineer, APPCB, Vijayawada.

The Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation, Visakhapatnam.

The Joint / Additional Director of Factories, Visakhapatnam,

The Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam.

The Chairman, Coal India Limited, Kolkata.

The EMWA, Dhansar, Dhanbad.

The Zonal Officer, APPCB, Visakhapatnam.

SF/SC.

// FORWARDED::BY ORDER //

  
SECTION OFFICER

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80 529597



**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.I) DEPARTMENT**  
**Memo.No. EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I**      **Dated:11.08.2022**  
**Computer No.1218399**

Sub:- EFS&T Dept. - APPCB - Ammonium Nitrate - Restrictions on storage and import of Ammonium Nitrate into Visakhapatnam Port - Report called for - Reg.

- Ref:- 1.From the Chairman, APPCB, Lr.No.588/APPCB/HO/UHII/VSP/2020-187, Dt. 17.08.2020.  
2.Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt.28/01/2021.  
3. APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-, dt.01.06.2022.  
4.From the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Lr.No.ITRA/SHP/FMIN, dt.08.06.2022 & 29.06.2022.  
5. From the Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, Coal India Limited, Kolkata, dt.08.06.2022.  
6.Govt. Lr. No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated 13.06.2022.  
7.From the Member Secretary, APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH.II/TF/VSP/2022-281, dt.13.07.2022.  
8. Govt. Memo. No. EFS01-ENVOPEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated:20.07.2022.

\*\*\*\*

The attention of the Chairman and the Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board are invited to the references cited and inform you that in the reference 8<sup>th</sup> cited, the APPCB has been directed to allow the present procedure being followed by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority of unloading of ammonium nitrate cargo from the ship to the wharf and direct loading on to containers or trucks for transportation to the final destination by the railways / lorries **for a period of one month**, subject to condition that the Visakhapatnam Port authorities shall follow all the prescribed safety protocols of PESO, APPCB & Director of Factories and the Visakhapatnam Port Authority shall certify the same with full liability on its part. There shall be no storage of ammonium nitrate in any godown at Visakhapatnam Port or in the Visakhapatnam city.

2. Further, to find a solution in the above issue, it is directed that a Committee be constituted with (1) Chief Environmental Engineer, APPCB, (2) Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization, Visakhapatnam Office, (3) Joint / Additional Director of Factories, Visakhapatnam, (4) Senior Representative of Visakhapatnam Port Authority, (5) Representative of Coal India Limited, (6) Representative of EMWA and (7) Zonal Officer, APPCB, Visakhapatnam (Convener) to examine the whole issue in detail and submit a report to Government within 15 days. But, report in the matter is awaited.

3. The Chairman and the Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada are therefore requested to furnish interim report / action taken in the matter to Government.

4. This may be treated as MOST URGENT.

**Dr P V CHALAPATHI RAO**  
**SPECIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To  
The Chairman, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.  
The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.

// FORWARDED::BY ORDER //

  
**SECTION OFFICER**

REMINDER**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.I) DEPARTMENT****Letter No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated : 15.09.2023**  
**Computer No :1218399**

From  
The Special Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,  
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi.

To  
The Secretary (Shipping),  
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways,  
Government of India,  
Parivahan Bhawan, Parliament Street,  
New Delhi - 110001.

Sir,

Sub :- E.F.S.&T. Dept. - Import of Ammonium Nitrate - Identifying other ports, other than Visakhapatnam Port located away from the habitations for the import of Ammonium Nitrate - Request to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port - Reminder - Reg.

Ref :- 1.Govt.Lr.No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020,dated 30.01.2023.  
2.From the Under Secretary to GoI, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Ports Wing), F.No.PD-19017/7/2022-PDV/III, dated 10.03.2023.  
3.From the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam, Lr.No.ITRA/SHP/FAMN-7232, dated 02.03.2023.  
4.Govt.Lr.No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020,dated 24.03.2023.  
5.From the Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority (MoP,S & W, GoI),Visakhapatnam,No.ITRA/SHP/FAMN, Letter, dated 03.07.2023.  
6.Govt.Memo.No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020, dt : 10.08.2023.  
7.Govt.Lr.No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-1, dt :10.08.2023.

&amp;&amp;&amp;&amp;

Kind attention is invited to the references cited. As you are aware, the Government of Andhra Pradesh after due consideration of all the aspects, have decided to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port within one year in the interest of safeguarding public health, public safety and environment and also requested you to identify other ports, which are located away from habitations for import of Ammonium Nitrate.

2. In this regard, I am to inform that orders have been issued extending permission upto 05.01.2024, (i.e. upto one year) for importing of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, subject to compliance with all the conditions proposed by the Committee and procedures as fully enumerated in the Government Memo, dated 06.01.2023 by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned. It was also informed to the Visakhapatnam Port Authority and the other concerned that no further extension shall be given after expiry of the one year period i.e., 05.01.2024.

(P.T.O)

SECRET  
27/11/23  
ASO(CPI)

:: 2 ::

3. Therefore, you are requested to take immediate further action to identify other ports and take immediate necessary action for import of Ammonium Nitrate from other ports and phase out imports through the Visakhapatnam Port by 05.01.2024.

4. I request for an early reply in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

  
for Special Secretary to Government

Copy to :-

The Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi - 110003.

The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan,  
East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110032.

The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.

The Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam.

The PS to Addl. Secy. to CM.

The PS to M. (Energy, EFS&T, M&G).

The PS to Spl. CS (EFS & T)

SF/SC.

F No. PD-1901777/2022-PD-VIII  
Government of India  
Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways  
(Ports Wing)

Transport Bhawan,  
1 Parliament Street, New Delhi -110001  
Dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

To

The Special Chief Secretary to Government  
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department  
4<sup>th</sup> Block, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room No. 268, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat  
Velagapudi, Amaravati-522503, Andhra Pradesh

Subject: E.F.S. & T. Department – Import of Ammonium Nitrate – request to identify other Ports other than Visakhapatnam Port - Reg

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I dated 30.01.2023 and Chairperson Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) letters No. ITRA/SHP/FMIN dated 23.01.2023 and 10.02.2023 (copies enclosed) on the subject cited above and to say that Ammonium Nitrate imported through VPA is used by major Coal and Power Producers of the country viz. Coal India Ltd., The Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., NTPC, Neyveli Lignite Ltd. etc.

2. Ministry of Coal have informed that Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited consume large quantities of Explosives for their daily operations. The decision of Government of Andhra Pradesh to phase out handling of Ammonium Nitrate through VPA will be detrimental to the Coal and Fertilizer industry and will derail the process of Mining as well as fertilizer manufacturing if the supply of cargo is put under uncertainty.

3. It is to apprise that short supply of Ammonium Nitrate will seriously impact production of coal which in turn affects power generation. The demand of explosives cannot be met through domestic production and the shortage of Ammonium Nitrate may prevail for next several years.

4. You are, therefore, requested that Government of Andhra Pradesh may reconsider their decision of phasing out import of Ammonium Nitrate through VPA in light of the above stated position (as requested by Ministry of Coal and VPA).

(contd. 2)

PD-19017/7/2022-PD-V

1954467/2023/PD-III

-2-

5 This issues with the approval of Joint Secretary (Ports)

Yours faithfully,



(Rameshwar Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel: 23358123

e-mail: rameshwar.k@nic.in

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1 Special Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Vanija Bhawan, Akbar Road, New Delhi, w.r.t. D.O No. P-13033/115/2021-EXPLOSIVE dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022.

2 Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, w.r.t. D.O. No. CPAM 13020/13/2017 -CPAM dated 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 (Kind Attn.: Shri M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary and Nominated Authority)

Copy also to: Chairperson, VPA for information and further follow up with Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.



**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.I) DEPARTMENT**  
Letter No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated : 24.03.2023  
Computer No : 1218399

From  
 The Special Secretary to Government,  
 E.F.S. & T.Department,  
 A.P.Secretariat, Velagapudi.

To  
 The Secretary (Shipping),  
 Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways,  
 Govt. of India, Parivahan Bhavan,  
 Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.

Sir,

Sub :- EFS&T Dept. - Import of Ammonium Nitrate - Identifying other ports, other than Visakhapatnam Port located away from the habitations for the import of Ammonium Nitrate - Request to reconsider the decision of phasing out import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port - Reg.

Ref :- 1. Govt. Lr.No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020, dt:30.01.2023.  
 2. From the Under Secretary to GoI, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Ports Wing), F.No.PD-19017/7/2022-PDV/III, dt :10.03.2023.  
 3.From the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam, Lr.No.ITRA/SHP/FAMN-7232, Dt.02.03.2023.

&&&&

I invite your attention to the communication received from the Under Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water Ways (Ports Wing), Government of India, New Delhi informing that the Ammonium Nitrate imported through Visakhapatnam Port Authority is used by major Coal and Power Producers of the country. The decision of Government of Andhra Pradesh to phase out handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port Authority will be detrimental to the Coal and Fertilizer Industry and will derail the process of mining as well as fertilizer manufacturing, if the supply of cargo is put under uncertainty. Short supply of Ammonium Nitrate will seriously impact production of coal which in turn affects power generation and requested Government of Andhra Pradesh to re-consider the decision of phasing out import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port Authority.

2. In the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited, the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Trust has also requested to revisit the decision of phasing out Ammonium Nitrate handling through Visakhapatnam Port Authority and consider the feasibility for allowing further appropriate dispensation in such handling for a period of one year or more w.e.f.06-04-2023.

3. In this connection, I am to inform that the State Government after due consideration of all the aspects, have decided to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port within one year in the interest of safeguarding public health, public safety and environment. It may not be feasible to consider the request made in the references 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cited, as the Visakhapatnam Port is located within the Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation limits and is surrounded by thickly populated habitations. It is once again requested to identify other ports, which are located away from habitations for import of Ammonium Nitrate to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port within one (1) year as requested vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited.

Yours faithfully,

for Special Secretary to Government

Copy to:-  
 The Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
 3rd Floor, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi - 110003.  
 The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan,  
 East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110032.

(P.T.O)

:: 2 ::

The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.  
The Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam.  
The PS to Addl. Secy. to CM.  
The PS to M. (Energy, EFS&T, M&G).  
The PS to Spl. CS (EFS & T)  
SF/SC.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.I) DEPARTMENT

Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-1  
Computer No: 1218399

Dated : 10.08.2023

- Sub:- E.F.S.&T. Dept. - APPCB - Ammonium Nitrate - Extension of permission upto 05.01.2024 for importing of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port - Instructions - Reg.
- Ref:- 1.From the MS, APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UHII/TF/VSP/2022, dt.10.11.2022.  
2.Govt.Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt:06.01.2023.  
3.Govt.Lr.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I,Dt:30.01.2023.  
4.Govt.Lr.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I,Dt:24.03.2023.  
5.Govt.Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I,Dt:04.05.2023.  
6.From the Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority (MoP,S & W, GoI), Visakhapatnam, No.ITRA/SHP/FAMN, Letter, dated : 03.07.2023 & 24.07.2023  
7.From EWMA, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, Repr. dt.09.07.2023.  
8.From Regenesi Industries Pvt. Ltd., Secunderabad, Telangana, Repr. dt.09.07.2023.  
9.From Special Blasts Ltd., Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Repr. dt.10.07.2023.

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The attention of the Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada is invited to the references cited and after careful examination of the Committee report, the Government have decided to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port within one year in the interest of safeguarding public health, public safety and environment. Further, in the interim period, orders have been issued vide reference 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> cited, allowing importing of the Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port temporarily for a period of 3 months, subject to terms and conditions indicated in reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited.

2. In the references 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> cited, the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port, the Vice-President, EWMA, and the industries have requested to extend the interim import permission for further period.

3. After careful examination of the matter, the Government hereby extend permission upto 05.01.2024 for importing of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, subject to compliance with all the conditions proposed by the Committee and procedures as fully enumerated in the Govt Memo.. dated 06.01.2023 (reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited - copy enclosed) by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board shall monitor and ensure that all conditions are complied fully, as directed in the reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited. No further extension shall be given in this regard after expiry of the period i.e., 05.01.2024.

4. The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada is requested to take further action accordingly.

**Dr.P.V.CHALAPATHI RAO**  
**SPECIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To  
The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.  
Copy to:-  
The Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam.  
The PS to M. (Energy, EFS&T, M&G)  
The PS to Spl. CS (EFS&T)  
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

  
SECTION OFFICER





**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
Dr. YSR Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony Road,  
Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007  
Phone. No.0866-2463200, Website:<https://pcb.ap.gov.in/>



**Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023**

**Date: 12/08/2023**

**To**  
**The Chairman,**  
**Visakhapatnam Port Trust,**  
**Port Area, Visakhapatnam.**

Sir,

Sub.:	APPCB – HO - ECS – Import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port (VPT) and storage – Directions – Issued – Reg.
Ref.:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022, Date. 17.06.2022.</li> <li>2. Memo. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I dated 20.07.2022.</li> <li>3. APPCB Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022- dt. 21.07.2022.</li> <li>4. Memo. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I dated 29.09.2022.</li> <li>5. APPCB Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-534, Date. 21.10.2022.</li> <li>6. APPCB Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022, Date. 10.11.2022.</li> <li>7. Memo. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I dated 24.11.2022.</li> <li>8. Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-730, dt. 28.11.2022.</li> <li>9. Memo. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I dated 06.01.2023.</li> <li>10.Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-842, dt. 06.01.2023.</li> <li>11.Memo. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-1 dated 04.05.2023</li> <li>12.APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023, Dated. 06.05.2023</li> <li>13.Memo. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I Dated.10.08.2023</li> </ol>

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The APPCB vide order dated. 01.06.2022 issued directions to M/s. Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) to stop further import of Ammonium Nitrate at Visakhapatnam port, Visakhapatnam under Rule 18 (3(a)) of the MSIHC Rules, 1989, abiding the instructions of GoAP. As per the instructions of the Government issued from time to time (ref. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>), the Board issued directions to VPT temporarily allowing the import of ammonium nitrate with specific conditions ( ref.3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>) for the specified period.

The EFS&T Dept, GoAP on 20.07.2022 constituted a committee to examine the whole issue of import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate at Visakhapatnam port in detail and to submit a report to Government to find a solution. The committee submitted its report on 03.11.2022. The APPCB submitted proposals along with committee report to the Government vide ref. 6<sup>th</sup> cited.

The Govt. of AP after careful examination of the committee report, issued instructions to APPCB vide ref. 9<sup>th</sup> cited. Accordingly, the Board issued permission temporarily to the VPT for import of Ammonium Nitrate vide letter dt. 06.01.2023 for the period of three months.

Abiding to the Government instructions in the ref. 11<sup>th</sup> cited, the APPCB extended the permission temporarily to VPT vide ref.12<sup>th</sup> cited to import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam port for a period of 3 months w.e.f 06.04.2023 with a condition to ensure compliance with all the recommendations of the Committee and procedures fully enumerated in the Govt. Memo., dated 06.01.2023.

Now, the EFS&T Dept, GoAP vide ref. 13<sup>th</sup> cited extended the permission up to 05.01.2024 for importing of the Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port, subject to compliance with all the conditions recommended by the Committee and procedures as fully enumerated in the Govt. Memo., dated 06.01.2023 by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned. The A.P. Pollution Control Board to monitor the implementation progress of the conditions stipulated therein to achieve compliance by the VPT, as directed. No further extension shall be given in this regard after expiry of the period i.e., 05.01.2024.

In view of the above, you are hereby informed that the permission to import of Ammonium Nitrate at Visakhapatnam port is extended temporarily for a period upto 05.01.2024 with a condition to ensure compliance by VPT with all the recommendations of the Committee and procedures fully enumerated in the Govt. Memo., dated 06.01.2023. It is also to note that no further extension shall be given in this regard after expiry of the period i.e., 05.01.2024 as per the instructions issued by the Government therein.

**B Sreedhar Ias**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

**Copy to:**

1. The District Collector and Magistrate, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
2. The Superintendent of Police, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
3. The CEE, APPCB, Head Office for information and necessary action.
4. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
5. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.

REMINDER

F. No. PD-19017/7/2022-PD-V/III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways  
(Ports Wing)

Transport Bhawan,  
1, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001  
Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject: Import and Handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port-Reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even No. dated 14.09.2023 (copy enclosed) on the subject cited above and to say that Government of Andhra Pradesh vide letters No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I dated 15.09.2023 and 12.10.2023 (copy enclosed) have reiterated their decision to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port by **05.01.2024** and requested to identify other Ports for import of Ammonium Nitrate.

2. The concerned Ministries vide OM referred above have also been requested to suitably take up the matter with Government of Andhra Pradesh, APPCB and Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change for import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port in the interest of industry and relevant stakeholders and simultaneously identify alternate sites for import of Ammonium Nitrate. However, a response to this end is still awaited.

3. Since the deadline set by Government of Andhra Pradesh is fast approaching, it is requested to suitably take up the matter with Government of Andhra Pradesh/ Environment, Forest, Science & Technology Dept./ Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, under intimation to this Ministry.



(I.G. Baines)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel No.: 011-23724653  
E-mail: ig.baines@nic.in

Encl: As above

To,

1. Special Secretary, DPIIT, Vanijya Bhawan, Akbar Road, New Delhi - 110011
2. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110001
2. Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

Copy to: Government of Andhra Pradesh in reference to letters No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I dated 15.09.2023 and 12.10.2023

Email

**Berthing & Working of m.v LADY AYANA carrying 19800MT of Ammonium Nitrate on account of M/s Solar Industries India Ltd- Reg.**

**From :** Sri. B.Ratna Sekher Rao DTM(R-I) <tm.brsr.vpt@gov.in>  
**Subject :** Berthing & Working of m.v LADY AYANA carrying 19800MT of Ammonium Nitrate on account of M/s Solar Industries India Ltd- Reg.  
**To :** Member Secretary APPCB <membersecy@appcb.gov.in>  
**Cc :** Spl CS EFST <splcs\_efst@ap.gov.in>, Chairman APPCB <chairman@appcb.gov.in>, Collector Visakhapatnam <collector\_vspm@ap.gov.in>, collectorpeshivizag <collectorpeshivizag@gmail.com>, cp <cp@vspc.appolice.gov.in>, cpovsp <cpovsp@gmail.com>, Dr. M. Angamuthu, IAS <chairman.vpt@gov.in>, Durgesh Kumar Dubey <dychairman.vpt@gov.in>, Commandant VPT <vpt-vizag@cisf.gov.in>, m hariya <m.hariya@vpt.shipping.gov.in>, yaajirs <yaajirs@gmail.com>, Sridhar Vadada <vadadasridhar@gmail.com>, admn <admn@eshwarshipping.com>

Tue, Jan 02, 2024 11:09 AM

1 attachment

Member Secretary,  
APPCB.

Sir,

Ref 1: APPCB Lr No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023, Dt: 12-08-2023.  
 2: M/s Eshwar Shipping Services Letter No; Nil, Dt: 28-12-2023.

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M/s Eshwar Shipping Services vide letter 2<sup>nd</sup> cited have informed that the vessel m.v LADY AYANA carrying 19800 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags is expected to arrive VPA on or about 04-01-2024 and have accordingly requested for berthing and working of the said vessel in VPA. In this regard, in terms of APPCB permission vide letter 1<sup>st</sup> cited, the vessel will be handled at a compatible berth in VPA. The following is the importer of the cargo carried by the said vessel.

1) M/s Solar Industries India Limited.

In this regard, it is to mention that VPA had already taken up with APPCB for relaxing the restrictions imposed for handling Ammonium Nitrate beyond 05-01-2024 and since the above vessel is calling at Visakhapatnam Port before the restriction date, the same shall be handled at a compatible berth.

However, in respect of vessels arrived to VPA after 05-01-2024, VPA shall not handle such Ammonium Nitrate vessels without relaxation of restrictions for handling Ammonium Nitrate at Visakhapatnam Port by the Govt. of AP and APPCB.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority and for information of APPCB

With Regards,

Traffic Manager  
 Traffic Department,  
 Visakhapatnam Port Authority.

 Eshwar Shipping\_AMN\_Lr\_28-12-2023.pdf  
 427 KB



**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
**REGIONAL OFFICE, VISAKHAPATNAM**  
 D.No.39-33-20/4/1, Madhavadhara Vuda Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530018  
 Phone: 0891 -2755356



**Lr. No.1452/PCB/RO-VSP/VPA/2024**

**Date:11.01.2024**

**To**  
**The Member Secretary,**  
**A.P. Pollution Control Board,**  
**Vijayawada.**

**Sir,**

**Sub:** APPCB, RO, VSP – Ammonium Nitrate – Berthing of vessel M.V LADY AYANA carrying 19800 MT of Ammonium Nitrate on account of M/s. Solar Industries India Ltd., – Report submitted - Reg.

**Ref:** 1. Board Office mail dated 11.01.2024.  
 2. Lr No.EFS01- ENVOPEST (CPRO)/22/2020-Sec-I, dated 28.01.2021  
 3. Lr No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022- dt: 01.06.2022.  
 4. Inspection of the Board Officials on 09.01.2024.

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It is to submit that, Traffic Manager, VPA submitted that M.V LADY AYANA carrying 19853.373 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags on account of Solar industries Ltd. is expected to arrive VPA on or about 04.01.2024 and requested for berthing and working of the said vessel in VPA.

The Board Office vide email dated 11.01.2024 directed the Regional Office to submit remarks on the request made by the Traffic Manager, VPA pertaining to unloading of Ammonium Nitrate from the vessel i.e., M.V LADY AYANA.

The Board Officials inspected the Port premises and Ammonium Nitrate handling area on 09.01.2024 and observed that there is no handling of Ammonium Nitrate in the port premises. The Traffic Manager, VPA has informed that One vessel i.e., M.V LADY AYANA carrying 19853.373 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags has arrived Visakhapatnam port on 04.01.2024 at 05:00 Hrs to unload Ammonium Nitrate which was received on account of Solar industries Ltd. The vessel arrived into outer harbour of VPA prior to the cut-off date i.e., 05.01.2024 and same was anchored in the outer harbour.

Further it was observed that there is no dedicated berth was allotted for handling of Ammonium Nitrate in VPA. The Traffic Manager, VPA has informed that they are handling Ammonium Nitrate at EQ-3, EQ-4 & EQ-6 berths depending up on the availability at the time of berthing duly following SOPs as recommended by the Committee constituted by the Government. During inspection, it is observed that the said berths EQ-3, EQ-4, EQ-6 are at a distance of 950 m from the nearest habitation.

Further, it is to submit that, vide ref. 2<sup>nd</sup> cited the Govt. of AP has decided that “No Ammonium Nitrate shall be allowed to stock in the vicinity of residential areas of the Visakhapatnam city and further Vizag Port shall not be allowed import of Ammonium Nitrate into the Visakhapatnam city”.

Vide reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) issued a direction to the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT), Visakhapatnam under the Rule 18 (3(A)) of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989(MSIHC Rules) **“Not to allow import of Ammonium Nitrate into the Visakhapatnam City until further orders”** in the interest of safe guarding public health and Environment.

The Govt. of A.P on 20.07.2022 passed interim directions to the Board to allow handling of Ammonium Nitrate duly following the procedure being followed by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) for a period of one month. Accordingly, the APPCB vide letter dated 21.07.2022 accorded permission on 21.07.2022 to VPA for handling Ammonium Nitrate by the railways / lorries for a period of one month.

Further, as per the instructions of the Government, the APPCB issued directions to VPT on 21.10.2022, 28.11.2022, 06.01.2023 and 06.05.2023 for a period upto 3 months w.e.f 06.04.2023 allowing the import of Ammonium Nitrate with specific conditions.

The Govt. further mentioned that **no further extension shall be given in this regard after expiry of the period i.e. 05.01.2024**. Accordingly, the Board vide letter dated 12.08.2023 issued directions to VPT allowing import of Ammonium Nitrate for a period upto 05.01.2024.

In this regard, it is submitted that the Committee meeting held on 09.01.2024 at APPCB, Zonal Office, Visakhapatnam to review and to recommend whether to allow handling of Ammonium Nitrate in VPA or not beyond 05.01.2024.

In view of the above, the request of the Traffic Manger, VPA to unload the Ammonium Nitrate from the said vessel i.e., M.V LADY AYANA may be permitted stipulating a condition that the VPA should strictly follow the SOPs recommended by the Committee to avoid any untoward incidents while handling Ammonium Nitrate as the vessel has already reached outer harbour before 05.01.2024 and as there are no further instructions from the Government on this matter.

Submitted.

Yours faithfully,

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER**



**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
 Dr. YSR Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony Road,  
 Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007  
 Phone. No.0866-2463200, Website : <https://pcb.ap.gov.in/>



**Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023-**

**Date:11/01/2024**

**To**  
**The Chairman,**  
**Visakhapatnam Port Trust,**  
**Port Area, Visakhapatnam.**

Sir,

Sub.:APPCB – ECS – Ammonium Nitrate – Import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam – Permission issued to VPA for import of Ammonium Nitrate temporarily for the period upto 05.01.2024 – Representation from the Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA – Vessel m.v LADY AYANA carrying 19,800 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags arrived to VPA - berthing and working of the vessel carrying Ammonium Nitrate at VPA – Reg.

Ref.: 1. Govt. Memo. No. EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020, Dt: 28.01.2021.  
 2. APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022-, dt.01.06.2022.  
 3. Govt.Lr.No.EFS01-ENV0PEST(CRPO)/22/2020-SEC-I,Dt. 10.08.2023  
 4. Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023, Dt.12.08.2023  
 5. Chairperson, VPA letter No. ITRA/SHP/FAMN, Dt. 12.12.2023  
 6. Traffic manager, VPA letter No. ITRA/SHP/FAMN, Dt. 22.12.2023  
 7. Lr. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-1, Dt. 07.12.2023.  
 8. Lr. No. EFS01-ENV0PEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-2, Dt. 07.12.2023.  
 9. Mail dt. 02.01.2024 from the Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA.  
 10.RO, Visakhapatnam Letter dt. 11.01.2024.

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In accordance to the instructions received from the EFS&T Dept., GoAP vide ref. 3<sup>rd</sup> cited, the Board vide letter dated 12.08.2023 (ref. 4<sup>th</sup> cited) issued directions to VPA allowing import of Ammonium Nitrate for a period upto 05.01.2024, subject to compliance with all the conditions recommended by the committee and procedures as fully enumerated in the Govt. Memo. Dated 06.01.2023 to be implemented by Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned. The A.P. Pollution Control Board to monitor the implementation progress of the condition stipulated therein to achieve compliance by the VPT. Further, it was specifically informed that no further extension shall be given in this regard after expiry of the period i.e. 05.01.2024.

The EFS&T Dept., GoAP vide letters dated. 07.12.2023 (ref. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> cited) informed to the APPCB to examine the request of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Gol and representations received from the other stake holders and to offer specific remarks/report to Government on import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port.

The matter was referred to the committee constituted by the EFS&T Dept., Govt. of AP vide letter dated. 20.07.2022 to examine the whole issue and to find a Solution pertaining to import of AN in Visakhapatnam Port. The committee report is yet to be received & due for onward appraisal to the Government to take final view in the matter.

Vide ref. 9<sup>th</sup> cited the Board received mail from the Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA, wherein it was informed that the vessel m.v. LADY AYANA carrying 19800 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags on account of M/s. Solar Industries India Ltd., is calling at Visakhapatnam port before the restriction date 05.01.2024 and same shall be handled at compatible berth at Visakhapatnam Port.

The EE, RO, Visakhapatnam vide letter dt. 11.01.2024 informed that the Board Officials inspected the Port premises and Ammonium Nitrate handling area on 09.01.2024 and observed that there is no handling of Ammonium Nitrate in the port premises. The Traffic Manager, VPA has informed that One vessel i.e., M.V LADY AYANA carrying 19853.373 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags has arrived Visakhapatnam port on 04.01.2024 at 05:00 Hrs to unload Ammonium Nitrate, which was received on account of Solar industries Ltd. The vessel arrived into outer harbour of VPA prior to the cut-off date i.e., 05.01.2024 and same was anchored in the outer harbour. Further informed that the request of the Traffic Manager, VPA to unload the Ammonium Nitrate from the said vessel i.e., M.V LADY AYANA may be permitted stipulating a condition that the VPA should strictly follow the SOPs recommended by the Committee to avoid any untoward incidents while handling Ammonium Nitrate as the vessel has already reached outer harbour before 05.01.2024 and as there are no further instructions from the Government on this matter.

After careful consideration of the representation from the Traffic Manager, Traffic Department, VPA; recommendations of the EE, RO, Visakhapatnam; arrival of the vessel before 05.01.2024 and considering the environment & safety issues concerned for idling of the AN carrying vessels at outer harbor of Visakhapatnam Port, the Board under the powers vested under Rule 18 (3A) of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC Rules) hereby temporarily permits the Visakhapatnam Port Authority for one time berthing of vessel m.v. LADY AYANA carrying 19800 MT of Ammonium Nitrate in bags on account of M/s. Solar Industries India Ltd., subject to compliance with all the conditions recommended by the committee and procedures as fully enumerated in the Govt. Memo. Dated 06.01.2023 to be implemented by Visakhapatnam Port Authority and other concerned.

You may note that if any further vessels received after this permission, APPCB cannot accord any permissions. Further it is to note that that no further extension shall be given in this regard for import of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port or berthing of the vessels or any other activities associated with handling of AN at Visakhapatnam Port, till further orders received from the Government.

Yours faithfully,

**B Sreedhar Ias**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

**Copy to:**

The CEE, APPCB, Head Office, Vijayawada for information.

The JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam for information.

The EE, APPCB, RO, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.



**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.I) DEPARTMENT**

**Lr.No:EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, (1218399), Dated.04.04.2024**

From  
The Special Secretary to Government,  
E.F.S. & T. Department,  
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.

JCEE-E





To  
The Secretary to Government (Shipping),  
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India,  
Parivahan Bhawan, New Delhi (w.e.).

The Secretary to Government,  
Ministry of Coal, Government of India,  
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi (w.e.).

The Secretary to Government,  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi (w.e.).

The Member Secretary,  
Central Pollution Control Board,  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110032 (w.e.).

The Chairperson,  
Visakhapatnam Port Authority,  
Visakhapatnam (w.e.).

Sir/Madam,

Sub:- EFS&T Department – Ban on importing of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port – Communication of Committee Report – Reg.

- Ref:-1.Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST (CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dated 06.01.2023.  
2.From the Under Secretary, MoPS&W (Ports Wing), GoI, O.M.F.No.PD-19017/7/2022-PD-V/III, dated 01.11.2023 & 29.11.2023.  
3. From the Under Secretary to Govt.of India, Ministry of Coal, MPS Section, GoI, New Delhi, File No.MPS-51013/3/2022-MPS(E-351278), dated : 28.12.2023 & 21.02.2024.  
4.From the Director (HSMD), MoEF&CC (HSM Division), GoI, New Delhi, F.No.12/83/2020-HSMD, dated 08.01.2024.  
5.From the Member Secretary, APPCB, Vijayawada, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024-1045, dt: 13.02.2024.  
6.From the Under Secretary to Govt.of India, Ministry of Coal, MPS Section, GoI, New Delhi, File No.MPS-51013/3/2022-MPS(E-351278), Reminder dated : 22.03.2024.

&&&&

In the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, the Government of Andhra Pradesh after detailed examination of the issue and as per recommendations made by the Committee which was constituted for this purpose, have decided to phase out import of Ammonium Nitrate through the Visakhapatnam Port within one year in the interest of safeguarding public health, public safety and environment. Accordingly, necessary communication has been sent to the concerned departments of the Government of India, including Visakhapatnam Port Trust, requesting to make alternative arrangements in this regard. The permission of one year period was expired on 05.01.2024.

(P.T.O.)

::2::

2. In the references 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> cited, several requests have been received to allow some more period for importing of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, to re-consider the decision of the Government of Andhra Pradesh blanket ban on importing of Ammonium Nitrate through Vizag Port as the said decision will impact Coal production in the country which will in turn adversely affect the power generation in India creating multiple issues / problems. The representations / requests were forwarded to the A.P. Pollution Control Board. In turn, the Board referred the representations / requests to the Committee constituted for this purpose for examination and recommendations.

3. The Committee has submitted its report wherein they have stated that the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has not prepared any plan of action for shifting Ammonium Nitrate to other ports; No dedicated berth was allocated for dispatch of Ammonium Nitrate; dense population is existing around Visakhapatnam port and any mishap incident result in extreme impact on human habitation inspite of any number of safety measures taken and further observed that the VPA has not complied with earlier recommendations of the committee besides non-compliance to safety Audit conducted by Directorate General of Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Government of India.

4. I am directed to enclose a copy of the report of the Committee for perusal and necessary further action.

Yours faithfully,

for Special Secretary to Government

Copy to:-

The Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.



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

BY SPEED POST / Email

CP/36/2024-IPC-I-HO-CPCB-HO 1273

To  
The Special Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Forest, Science and Technology Department,  
A.P. Secretariat,  
Velagapudi,  
Amaravathi,  
Andhra Pradesh

Subject: Ban on importing Ammonium Nitrate through the Vishakhapatnam port – Reg.

This has the reference to your letter dated 04.04.2024 which encloses the report of the committee constituted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to investigate the safety and environmental issues regarding the import of Ammonium Nitrate and its handling at Vishakhapatnam Port Authority.

The aforementioned report highlights that the Visakhapatnam port is located within 1 km of densely populated habitation and in the vicinity of a petroleum refinery. It describes the unpredictably explosive nature of Ammonium Nitrate and the unknown reasons for its explosion.

The aforementioned report also mentions many shortcomings on the part of the Visakhapatnam Port Authority, including non-compliance with the earlier recommendations of the aforementioned committee, apart from the non-compliance mentioned in the DGFASLI safety audit report, absence of proper safety measures, and an emergency action plan, etc.

In view of the above, it is requested you to direct the Visakhapatnam Port Authority to invariably comply with the recommendations of the committee at the earliest in order to avoid any chances of a major accident and consequential environmental damage. Furthermore, it is requested you to direct the Dock Safety Inspectorate Department to submit a report on the adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate.

In this regard, you are requested to take necessary action and submit the compliance report to the Central Pollution Control Board.

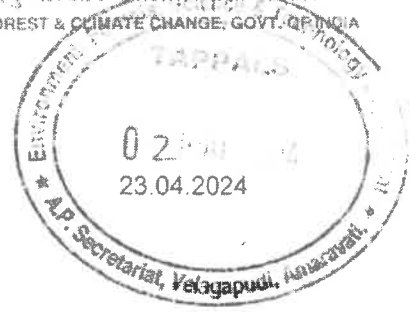
Yours faithfully

(Dinabandhu Gouda)  
Sc - F & DH- IPC-I

‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110032

दूरभाष/Tel: 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट/Website : www.cpcb.nic.in



*Handwritten notes:*  
A.P. Secretariat  
3.5.2024  
Addl. Secy  
Sir  
A.P. Secretariat  
Velagapudi  
Amaravathi  
Andhra Pradesh

*Handwritten initials:*  
D.G.





**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony Road,  
Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007.  
Website: www.pcb.ap.gov.in

**Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024-****Date:19/07/2024.**

**To**  
**Director General,**  
**Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes**  
**(DGFASLI),**  
**Ministry of Labour & Employment, Gol**  
**N. S. Mankikar Marg, Sion,**  
**Mumbai - 400022,**  
**Email: fasli@dgfasli.nic.in**

Sir,

Sub	APPCB - Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) - Restrictions on import of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam - Committee constituted by GoAP for detailed examination of the issue on import & handling of Ammonium Nitrate at Visakhapatnam Port - Committee report submitted to Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Coal and other Departments, Gol; CPCB & VPA by GoAP - Opinion of CPCB vide letter dt. 23.04.2024 - Report on adequacy of safety measures by Visakhapatnam Port Authority at Visakhapatnam port, Visakhapatnam for import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate - Requested - Reg.
Ref:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. APPCB, Lr.No.588/APPCB/HO/UH-II/VSP/2020- 187, Dt. 17.08.2020.</li> <li>2. Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt.28.01.2021.</li> <li>3. APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022 -, dt.01.06.2022.</li> <li>4. Chairman, VPA Lr.No.ITRA/SHP/FMIN, dt. 08.06.2022 &amp; 29.06.2022.</li> <li>5. Report of safety audit on handling and transportation of AN conducted by DGFASLI (October, 2022).</li> <li>6. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt. 30.01.2023.</li> <li>7. Ministry of Ports, Shipping &amp; Waterways, Gol, New Delhi vide letter dt.29.11.2023.</li> <li>8. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-1, Dt. 07.12.2023.</li> <li>9. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-2, Dt. 07.12.2023.</li> <li>10. Ministry of Coal (MPS Section), Gol letters dated. 28.12.2023, 12.01.2024 &amp; 01.02.2024.</li> <li>11. MoEF &amp; CC, Gol letter dt.08.01.2024 addressed to Ministry of Coal, Gol.</li> <li>12. APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023, Dt. 04.01.2024</li> <li>13. Committee report submitted vide letter dated. 12.02.2024</li> <li>14. EFS&amp;T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I (1218399), Dt. 04.04.2024.</li> <li>15. CPCB, New Delhi Letter No. CP/36/2024-1PC-1-HO-CPCB-HO/273, Dt.</li> </ol>

	<p>23.04.2024</p> <p>16.EFS&amp;T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SECI, Dt. 14.05.2024.</p> <p>17.APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&amp;T/2024-173, Dt:25.06.2024 addressed to the Asst. Director (Safety), Inspectorate of Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam.</p>
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\* \* \*

As per the instructions of the EFS&T Dept. GoAP. vide memos dated 20.07.2022, 9.09.2022, 24.11.2022 & 06.01.2023 issued from time to time, the A.P. Pollution Control Board issued directions to M/s. Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), Visakhapatnam allowing the import of Ammonium Nitrate temporarily with specific conditions on 21.07.2022, 21.10.2022, 28.11.2022 & 06.01.2023 respectively for the specified period.

On further instructions of the Government dt. 10.08.2023, the A.P. Pollution Control Board (Board) issued extension of temporary permission to the VPA for import of Ammonium Nitrate for the period **upto 05.01.2024** with a condition to ensure compliance with all the recommendations of the committee and procedures fully enumerated in the Government Memo dt. 06.01.2023. Further, it was informed to VPA that no further extension shall be given in this regard after expiry of the period i.e., 05.01.2024 as per the instructions issued by the Government therein.

The EFS&T Dept., GoAP vide ref. 8th and 9th cited requested the Board to examine the request of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Gol and representations received from the other stake holders to reconsider the decision and allow Visakhapatnam Port Authority to continue handling of Ammonium Nitrate beyond 05.01.2024 and to offer specific remarks/report to Government.

The Board vide letter dt. 04.01.2024 (ref. 12th cited) communicated the letters received from various ministries of Gol; representations received from stakeholders to the Committee constituted by the EFS&T Dept., Govt. of AP vide letter dt. 20.07.2022 for detailed examination of the whole issue of import & handling of Ammonium Nitrate at Visakhapatnam Port and to submit detailed report with specific recommendations **within 2 weeks**, to take further course of action at APPCB and Government level.

The Committee comprising with Chief Environmental Engineer, APPCB, Vijayawada; Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization, Visakhapatnam; Joint Chief Inspector of Factories, Visakhapatnam; Senior Representative of VPT; Representative of Coal India Limited; Representative of EMWA and JCEE, Zonal Office, APPCB, Visakhapatnam (Convener) conducted hybrid meeting on 09.01.2024.

The Committee vide ref. 13th cited submitted observations and recommendations, wherein it was reported that Visakhapatnam Port Authority has not prepared any plan of action for shifting Ammonium Nitrate to other ports; No dedicated berth was allocated for dispatch of Ammonium Nitrate; dense population is existing around Visakhapatnam port and any mishap incident result in extreme impact on human habitation inspite of any number of safety measures taken and further observed that the VPA has not complied with earlier recommendations of the committee besides non-compliance to safety Audit conducted by Directorate General of Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes

(DGFASLI), Gol. (October, 2022).

Accordingly, the detailed report of the Committee was furnished by GoAP to Ministry of Shipping; Ministry of Coal; Ministry of Environment (MoEF&CC); CPCB & Visakhapatnam Port Authority vide letter dt. 04.04.2024 (ref. 14th cited) to take necessary further action.

Vide ref. 15th cited, the CPCB while communicating its opinion, informed to GoAP to request the Dock Safety Inspectorate Department to submit a report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate and to submit compliance report to CPCB (copy enclosed).

Vide ref 17<sup>th</sup> cited, the Board requested the Asst. Director (Safety), Inspectorate Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion for taking further action in the matter (Copy enclosed). However the letter addressed to the Inspectorate Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam was returned back to the Board stating that there is no such person & the office is closed since long time.

In view of the above, it is requested to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report (copy enclosed) and CPCB opinion, to take further action in the matter.

Encl: 1) Committee report dt. 12.02.2024  
2) CPCB letter dt. 23.04.2024.  
3) Copy of letter addressed Inspector of Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam.

**B Sreedhar Ias**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

**Copy to:**

1. Special Secretary to Govt., EFS&T Dept., A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi for information.
2. Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam for information.
3. CEE, APPCB, Head Office, Vijayawada for information.
4. JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam for information. He is requested to pursue the matter with concerned authorities to furnish the report at an early date.





**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
Dr. YSR Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony Road,  
Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007  
Phone. No.0866-2463200, Website : <https://pcb.ap.gov.in/>



**Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024-**

**Date:14/08/2024.**

**To**  
**The Chairperson,**  
**Visakhapatnam Port Trust,**  
**Port Area, Visakhapatnam.**

Sir,

Sub.:APPCB – Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) – Restrictions on import of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam – Report of the Committee constituted by GoAP communicated – CPCB instructions – Requested Inspectorate of Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam to furnish report on adequacy of the safety measures while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam - Representation received from VPA on 03.07.2024 - Reg.

- Ref.:
1. APPCB, Lr.No.588/APPCB/HO/UH-II/VSP/2020- 187, Dt. 17.08.2020.
  2. Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt.28.01.2021.
  3. APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022 -, dt.01.06.2022.
  4. Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Lr.No.ITRA/SHP/FMIN, dt. 08.06.2022 & 29.06.2022.
  5. Report of safety audit on handling and transportation of AN conducted by DGFASLI (October, 2022).
  6. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt. 30.01.2023.
  7. Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, GoI, New Delhi vide letter dt.29.11.2023.
  8. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-1, Dt. 07.12.2023.
  9. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-2, Dt. 07.12.2023.
  - 10.Ministry of Coal (MPS Section), GoI letters dated. 28.12.2023, 12.01.2024 & 01.02.2024.
  - 11.MoEF & CC, GoI letter dt.08.01.2024 addressed to Ministry of Coal, GoI.
  - 12.APCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023, Dt. 04.01.2024
  - 13.Committee report submitted vide letter dated. 12.02.2024
  - 14.EFS&T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I (1218399), Dt. 04.04.2024.
  - 15.CPCB, New Delhi Letter No. CP/36/2024-1PC-1-HO-CPCB-HO/273, Dt. 23.04.2024
  - 16.EFS&T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt. 14.05.2024.
  - 17.Chairperson, VPA letter dt. 12.05.2024.
  - 18.Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024-173, Dt. 25.06.2024 addressed to Inspectorate of Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam.
  - 19.Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024-174, Dt. 25.06.2024, addressed to Chairman, VPA, Visakhapatnam.

- 20.Ministry of Coal (MPS Section), Lr.No. CPAM-43020/29/2023-CPIAM(E-357432), Dt:25.06.2024.
- 21.Chairperson, VPA letter dt. 24.06.2024 & 03.07.2024
- 22.APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024, Dt: 19.07.2024 to the Director General, DGFSLAI, Mumbai
- 23.Chairperson, VPA, Visakhapatnam Lr.No. ITRA/SHP/FAMN, Dt: 30.07.2024
- 24.APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024, Dt: 14/08/2024 to the Director General, DGFSLAI, Mumbai

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The APPCB is in receipt of letters dt. 24.06.2024 & 03.07.2024 from Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), Visakhapatnam, wherein it was reported that VPA had stringently followed and implemented the mandated procedure of APPCB by unloading the imported Ammonium Nitrate in bags from Ship onto the wharf subsequent loading onto container / trucks for onward transportation to final destination through container trains / road ways; identified EQ-3, EQ-4, EQ-6 to EQ-7 for handling of import of Ammonium Nitrate and earmarked for safe discharge cargo from ship as well as quick evacuation of cargo from wharf for subsequent loading onto containers / trucks for onward transportation to the final destination without storing AN in the Port or godowns in and around the Port. Further, requested to relax the restrictions imposed by the GoAP and APPCB in import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate to consider for a further period beyond 05.01.2024.

In this regard, it is to inform that the CPCB (vide letter dt. 23.04.2024) while communicating its opinion to GoAP, informed to direct the VPA to invariably comply with the recommendations of the committee at the earliest in order to avoid any chances of a major accident and consequential environmental damage. Further informed to request the Dock Safety Inspectorate Department to submit a report on the adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate.

Upon receipt of the above communication of CPCB from GoAP vide letter dt: 14.05.2024, the Board vide letter dt. 25.06.2024 (18<sup>th</sup> cited) requested the Asst. Director (Safety), Inspectorate Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion for taking further action in the matter (Copy enclosed). The JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam was informed to pursue the matter with concerned authority to furnish the report at an early date. However, the letter addressed to the Inspectorate Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam was returned back to the Board stating that there is no such person & the office is closed since long time.

Thus, the APPCB vide ref. 22<sup>nd</sup> cited requested the Director General, DGFSLAI, Mumbai to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion, for taking further action in the matter (copy enclosed). The report is awaited.

The Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam vide ref. 23<sup>rd</sup> cited once again represented to the Board along with remarks on the observations/recommendations of the committee, for relaxation in restrictions imposed by GoAP and APPCB in import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate for a further period beyond 05.01.2024 to continuously handle the consignments of Ammonium Nitrate at VPA (copy enclosed).

In view of the above, the APPCB once again requested the Director General, DGFASLI vide ref. 24<sup>th</sup> cited to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion, for taking further action at Government level and APPCB in the matter (copy enclosed).

In this regard, the Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam is requested to pursue the matter with the Director General, Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date for taking further action at Government level and APPCB in the matter.

Encl.: a/a.

Yours sincerely

**B Sreedhar Ias**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

Copy to –

1. CEE, APPCB, Head Office, Vijayawada for information.
2. JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam for information.
3. EE, APPCB, RO, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.



भारत सरकार, श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय  
कारखाना सलाह सेवा और श्रम संस्थान महानिदेशालय  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT.  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FACTORY ADVICE SERVICE & LABOUR INSTITUTES  
“व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य भवन”, एन.एस. मंकीकर मार्ग, शीव, मुंबई - ४०० ०२२, भारत  
“Vyavasayik Suraksha aur Swasthya Bhavan”, N.S. Mankikar Marg, Sion, Mumbai - 400 022, India.

No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQ-Mum

Date: 09.09.2024

To  
Shri B. Sreedhar, IAS  
Member Secretary  
Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board.  
Vijaywada - 520007

**Subject:** Report on adequacy of safety measures by Visakhapatnam Port Authority at Visakhapatnam port, Visakhapatnam for import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate –Reg.

Sir,

This has reference letter no. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024 dated 25.06.2024 received from the Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

In this regard, a committee was constituted by the Chief Inspector of Dock Safety to furnish detailed report on **“Adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam.”**

A detailed report as submitted by the committee is enclosed herewith for your information, please.

(Sumit Roy)  
Chief Inspector of Dock Safety

Encl: As Above



**ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
Dr. YSR Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony Road,  
Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007  
Phone. No.0866-2463200, Website : <https://pcb.ap.gov.in/>



**Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/VPT/2024-**

**Date:25/09/2024.**

**To**  
**The Chairperson,**  
**Visakhapatnam Port Trust,**  
**Port Area, Visakhapatnam.**

Sir,

Sub.:APPCB – Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) – Restrictions on import of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam – Report of the Committee constituted by GoAP - Communicated – CPCB instructions — DGFASLI, Mumbai Safety report dt: 09.09.2024 on safety measures for handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam – Communicated - Reg.

- Ref.:
1. APPCB, Lr.No.588/APPCB/HO/UH-II/VSP/2020- 187, Dt. 17.08.2020.
  2. Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt.28.01.2021.
  3. APPCB, Lr.No.724/APPCB/HO/UH-II/TF/VSP/2022 -, dt.01.06.2022.
  4. Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Lr.No.ITRA/SHP/FMIN, dt. 08.06.2022 & 29.06.2022.
  5. Report of safety audit on handling and transportation of AN conducted by DGFASLI (October, 2022).
  6. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt. 30.01.2023.
  7. Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, GoI, New Delhi vide letter dt.29.11.2023.
  8. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-1, Dt. 07.12.2023.
  9. EFST Dept., GoAP, letter No.EFS01-ENVOPEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I-2, Dt. 07.12.2023.
  - 10.Ministry of Coal (MPS Section), GoI letters dated. 28.12.2023, 12.01.2024 & 01.02.2024.
  - 11.MoEF & CC, GoI letter dt.08.01.2024 addressed to Ministry of Coal, GoI.
  - 12.APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/TF/VSP/2023, Dt. 04.01.2024
  - 13.Committee report submitted vide letter dated. 12.02.2024
  - 14.EFS&T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I (1218399), Dt. 04.04.2024.
  - 15.CPCB, New Delhi Letter No. CP/36/2024-1PC-1-HO-CPCB-HO/273, Dt. 23.04.2024
  - 16.EFS&T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt. 14.05.2024.
  - 17.Chairperson, VPA letter dt. 12.05.2024.
  - 18.Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024-173, Dt. 25.06.2024 addressed to Inspectorate of Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam.
  - 19.Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024-174, Dt. 25.06.2024, addressed to Chairman, VPA, Visakhapatnam.
  - 20.Ministry of Coal (MPS Section), Lr.No. CPAM-43020/29/2023-CPIAM(E-

- 357432), Dt:25.06.2024.
21. Chairperson, VPA letter dt. 24.06.2024 & 03.07.2024
  22. APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024, Dt: 19.07.2024 to the Director General, DGFASLI, Mumbai
  23. Chairperson, VPA, Visakhapatnam Lr.No. ITRA/SHP/FAMN, Dt: 30.07.2024
  24. APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024, Dt: 14.08.2024 to the Director General, DGFASLI, Mumbai
  25. APPCB Lr. No. 724/APPCB/HO/ECS/EFS&T/2024, Dt: 14.08.2024 to the Chairperson, VPA, Visakhapatnam.
  26. EFS&T Dept., GoAP Letter No. EFS01-ENV0PEST(CPRO)/22/2020-SEC-I, Dt. 06.09.2024
  27. Infrastructure & Investment (Port) Dept., GoAP U.O. No. INI01-PORT/77/2020, Dt: 08.09.2024.
  28. Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, DGFASLI, Mumbai, Lr No. DS-Enf/2/2023-HQMum, Dt: 09.09.2024

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The APPCB is in receipt of letters dt. 24.06.2024 & 03.07.2024 from Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), Visakhapatnam, wherein it was reported that VPA had stringently followed and implemented the mandated procedure of APPCB by unloading the imported Ammonium Nitrate in bags from Ship onto the wharf subsequent loading onto container / trucks for onward transportation to final destination through container trains / road ways; identified EQ-3, EQ-4, EQ-6 to EQ-7 for handling of import of Ammonium Nitrate and earmarked for safe discharge cargo from ship as well as quick evacuation of cargo from wharf for subsequent loading onto containers / trucks for onward transportation to the final destination without storing AN in the Port or godowns in and around the Port. Further, requested to relax the restrictions imposed by the GoAP and APPCB in import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate to consider for a further period beyond 05.01.2024.

In this regard, it is to inform that the CPCB (vide letter dt. 23.04.2024) while communicating its opinion to GoAP, informed to direct the VPA to invariably comply with the recommendations of the committee at the earliest in order to avoid any chances of a major accident and consequential environmental damage. Further informed to request the Dock Safety Inspectorate Department to submit a report on the adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate.

Upon receipt of the above communication of CPCB from GoAP vide letter dt: 14.05.2024, the Board vide letter dt. 25.06.2024 (18<sup>th</sup> cited) requested the Asst. Director (Safety), Inspectorate Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion for taking further action in the matter. The JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam was informed to pursue the matter with concerned authority to furnish the report at an early date. However, the letter addressed to the Inspectorate Dock Safety, Visakhapatnam was returned back to the Board stating that there is no such person & the office is closed since long time.

Thus, the APPCB vide ref. 22<sup>nd</sup> cited requested the Director General, DGFASLI, Mumbai to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion, for taking further action in the matter.

The Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam vide ref. 23<sup>rd</sup> cited

once again represented to the Board along with remarks on the observations/recommendations of the committee, for relaxation in restrictions imposed by GoAP and APPCB in import and handling of Ammonium Nitrate for a further period beyond 05.01.2024 to continuously handle the consignments of Ammonium Nitrate at VPA.

In view of the above, the APPCB once again requested the Director General, DGFASLI vide ref. 24<sup>th</sup> cited to arrange to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date in the light of the committee report and CPCB opinion, for taking further action at Government level and APPCB in the matter.

The Board vide ref. 25<sup>th</sup> cited, requested the Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Visakhapatnam to pursue the matter with the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai to furnish detailed report on adequacy of the safety measures being adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam at an early date for taking further action at Government level and APPCB in the matter.

In this regard, it is to inform that the Chief Inspector of Dock Safety, Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai vide ref. 28<sup>th</sup> cited forwarded detailed report on status of the safety measures adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority while handling Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam, wherein it was reported that "*Overall, these findings highlight a systemic failure to implement effective safety, security, and emergency response measures for handling Ammonium Nitrate, posing significant risks to both personnel and surrounding community*". A copy of the above report dt. 09.09.2024 received from the DGFASLI, Mumbai is herewith forwarded for information and necessary action.

In view of the above DGFASLI safety report dt: 09.09.2024, the Chairperson, VPA is requested to take all necessary measures as recommended in the report and get the VPA re-inspected by DGFASLI and get compliance certificate on adequacy of the safety measures adopted by Visakhapatnam Port Authority for handling of Ammonium Nitrate through Visakhapatnam Port, Visakhapatnam from DGFASLI and submit to GoAP and APPCB at an early date to take further action in the matter.

Encl.: a/a.

Yours sincerely

**S Sri Saravanan**  
**MEMBER SECRETARY**

Copy submitted to -

1. The Under Secretary to GoI, Ministry of Coal, MPS Section, GoI, Shashri Bawan, New Delhi for information.
2. The Under Secretary to GoI, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Ports Wing), Transport Bhawan, New Delhi for information.
3. The Director, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Parivesh Bhawan, New Delhi for information.
4. The Director, HSM Division, MoEF & CC, GoI, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi for information.
5. The Special Secretary, DPIIT, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi for information.

6. The Secretary to Government, Infrastructure & Investment (Port) Department, GoAP for information.
7. The Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS & T Dept., GoAP, A.P. Secretariat, Amaravathi for information.
8. The Secretary to Government, Industries & Commerce Dept., GoAP, A.P. Secretariat, Amaravathi for information.
9. CEE, APPCB, Head Office, Vijayawada for information.
10. JCEE, APPCB, ZO, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.
11. EE, APPCB, RO, Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.