

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**  
**Original Application No.29 of 2025(SZ)**  
**[Earlier O.A.No.1365 of 2024 [PB]**

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTO** based on the News Item Titled “ 3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai” appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 06.12.2024 and the News item titled ‘Pathogens to watch out for Taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths’ appearing in the Time of India Dated 07.12.2024.

**Vs**

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Rep by its Member Secretary,  
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy ,  
Chennai – 600 032 and 4 others.

....Respondents.

**INDEX**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1.	<b>REPLY FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT - THE TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.</b>	1 - 4



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



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

**Original Application No.29 of 2025(SZ)**

**[Earlier O.A.No.1365 of 2024 [PB]**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTO** based on the News Item Titled “ 3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai” appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 06.12.2024 and the News item titled ‘Pathogens to watch out for Taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths’ appearing in the Time of India Dated 07.12.2024.

**With**

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Rep by its Member Secretary,  
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy ,  
Chennai – 600 032 and 4  
others.

....Respondents.

**REPLY FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT**  
**THE TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, K.Nalini, Daughter of Thiru.K.Krishnasamy, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I respectfully submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorized to file this reply on behalf of the first respondent and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available in our office.

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

2. It is respectfully submitted that on 13.12.2024, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, (PB) registered the O.A No.1365 of 2024 as a Suo Motu based News Item Titled "3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 06.12.2024 and the News item titled 'Pathogens to watch out for Taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths' appearing in the Time of India Dated 07.12.2024.
3. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT, (PB) has passed an order in OA No.1365 of 2024 on 13.12.2024 which are as follows:

*" 2. The matter relates to the death of three people and hospitalization of 20 others in Tambaram near Chennai, Tamil Nadu due to suspected contaminated drinking water. As per the Times of India article, a couple of public taps near a sewage line on narrow Mariamman Koil Street are suspected to be the primary source of water contamination. The article highlights that water samples from five areas in the Pallavaram Cantonment area and from five places in Pallavaram Kamarajar Nagar under the Tambaram corporation have been sent for testing to ensure the cause of death. The article reports that the residents have complained of symptoms like diarrhoea and nausea and alleged that the water had a bad odour. Furthermore, it is also stated that the area has been suffering from contaminated water problems for the last fifteen years. The article also alleges that the water pipeline may have been damaged during Cyclone Fengal, allowing sewage to seep in. Moreover, the article at least 50 households in the area, mostly lower-income families, depend on these taps for water, which is piped by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board) from river Palar and groundwater wells. A Metro water lorry also comes with water once in twodays.*

*3. The above news items attract the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986".*

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

and directed to file the response/reply by the respondents and transferred the OA to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai for appropriate further action.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the areas of Pallavaram such as Mariammankoil street, Muthalamman street, Malamedu street, Ward-13 Kamaraj Nagar, Kannabiran Koil street, Munnusamy street, Ambedkar street, PP Amman Koil street & Pallavaram Cantonment Board located within Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, Chengalpattu District. The said locations was inspected by the O/o. DEE, Maraimalai Nagar, TNPCB officials on 08.12.2024. It was noticed that the above said areas are thickly populated with residential houses and commercial establishments.

4. It is respectfully submitted that as reported by the Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board) they supply about 10.00 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of drinking water to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation (TCMC) through Palar River sources and the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) supplies 23.16 Million Litres per Day (MLD) from Chembarambakkam lake source. In addition to that, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation receives 15.20 Million Litres per Day (MLD) from their own stand alone schemes from Palar River as source and 24.64 Million Litres per Day (MLD) from their local sources (HP/Openwells/PP with HDPE tank). Hence the total water supply to Tambaram City Municipal Corporation from various sources is about 73.00 Million Litres per Day (MLD). Also Water is supplied from Overhead tanks conveyed through pipeline to the said areas and R.O. water supplied through private tanker Lorries to the Public.

5. It is respectfully ~~submit~~ that the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has requested the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to furnish the action taken report on the said incident vide letter dated 30.12.2024. In continuation to the same the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation has furnished the report vide Roc.No.TCMC/Public Health/H1/1145/2024/Dated: 03.01.2025 stating that routine water quality testing and monitoring mechanisms are in force at Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, this Acute diarrheal outbreak is not due to water contamination and the same is also confirmed from the post-mortem microbiological report.

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

Further, stated that, remedial and control measures are made on every possible angle and assured that preventive steps will be closely followed to prevent any further occurrence in future.

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

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

### VERIFICATION

I, K.Nalini, Daughter of Thiru.K.Krishnasamy, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

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

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

**Original Application No.29 of 2025(SZ)  
[Earlier O.A.No.1365 of 2024 [PB]**

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTO** based on the News Item Titled “ 3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai” appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 06.12.2024 and the News item titled ‘Pathogens to watch out for Taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths” appearing in the Time of India Dated 07.12.202

**Vs**

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Rep by its Member Secretary,  
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy ,  
Chennai – 600 032 and 4 others.

....Respondents.

**REPLY FILED ON BEHALF OF THE  
FIRST RESPONDENT-THE TAMIL  
NADU POLLUTION CONTROL  
BOARD.**

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

**Date:07.03.2025.**

**Date of hearing on: 08.04.2025.**

