

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.29 OF 2025 (SZ)
[EARLIER ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.1365 OF 2024 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suo Motu matter in respect of news item appearing in The Hindustan Times dated 06.12.2024 titled "3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai" and news item appearing in the Times of India dated 07.12.2024 titled "Pathogens to watch out for Taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths"

Vs

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

.....Respondent(s)

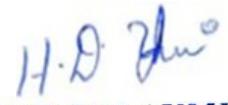
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Place: Chennai

Date: 07.04.2025




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

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 29 OF 2025 (SZ)
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IN THE MATTER OF:

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Vs

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

.....Respondent(s)

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

1. That, Hon'ble NGT (PB) vide order dated 13.12.2024 in case of Original Application No. 1365 of 2024 (PB), impleaded Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as CPCB) as Respondent No. 2 and sought the response in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in this instant Original Application (hereinafter referred to as OA) in succeeding paragraphs.




H.D. VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
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CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

2. That, CPCB is constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

REPLY

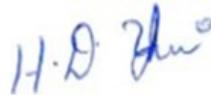
1. That, the matter is related to death of three people and hospitalization of 20 others in Tambaram near Chennai, Tamil Nadu due to suspected contaminated drinking water. As per the Times of India article, a couple of public taps near a sewage line on narrow Mariamman Koil Street are suspected to be 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 states that 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 two days.



H.D. Varalaxmi
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Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
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2. That, it is humbly submitted that Hon'ble NGT (PB) vide its order dated 13.12.2024 transferred the subject case to Hon'ble NGT Southern Zone, Chennai. The case was re-numbered as OA No. 29 of 2025 at NGT (SZ), Chennai. The matter was listed on 10.02.2025 and Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated 10.02.2025 impleaded Commissioner – Tambaram City Municipal Corporation as additional Respondent No.6.
3. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB pursued with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as TNPCB) vide letter dated 20-12-2024 to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) in the said matter. A copy of the letter addressed to TNPCB is attached as **Annexure-1**. The Action Taken Reports submitted by TNPCB vide Letter No. TNPCB/LAW/LA-III/NGT/24200 dated 27.02.2025 is attached as **Annexure-2**. Vide the report (ATR) received from TNPCB, the following are the key observations made and action taken by TNPCB:
 - i. TNPCB has informed that the areas of Pallavaram such as Mariammankoil street, Muthalamman street, Malamedu street, Ward-13 Kamaraj Nagar, Kannabiran Koil street, Munusamy street, Ambedkar street, PP Amman Koil street & Pallavaram Cantonment Board are located within Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, Chengalpattu District.
 - ii. Officials of TNPCB, Maraimalai Nagar inspected the above said locations on 08.12.2024. TNPCB officials noticed that the areas were thickly populated with residential houses and commercial establishments.




H.D.VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
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CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

- iii. TNPCB has informed that the total water supply to Tambaram City Municipal Corporation is from various sources like Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board), Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Tambaram City Municipal Corporation (TCMC), etc. Water is supplied from Overhead tanks through pipeline and R.O. water is supplied through private tanker Lorries.
- iv. TNPCB has stated that the responsibility for distributing drinking water to households and ensuring its potability lies with the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation Commissioner. Tambaram City Municipal Corporation has informed that routine water quality testing and monitoring mechanisms are in force in Tambaram City Municipal Corporation and the acute diarrhoea outbreak was not due to water contamination and the same was also confirmed from the post-mortem microbiological report. However, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation has informed that remedial and control measures were made on every possible angle and assured that preventive steps will be closely followed.

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



H.D. Varalaxmi

H.D. Varalaxmi
Scientist E & Regional Director
CPCB, Chennai

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

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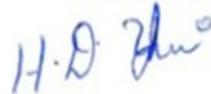
.....Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT

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

1. That I, the deponent herein is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.




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

2. Thattheaccompanyingreplymaybereadaspartandparcelofthepresentaffidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the accompanying replyhas been drafted and filed under myinstructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinarycourse of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



COUNSELFORPCBR-2

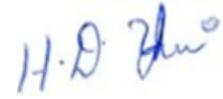


DEPONENT
H.D.VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

VERIFICATION

VerifiedatChennaionthisSeventhdayofApril,2025thatthecontentsoftheabove reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as maintained the day to dayaffairsoftheCPCB.Nothinghasbeensuppressed,concealedtherefromormis-stated.

Verifiedat Chennaionthisthe Seventhdayof April,2025.



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



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

F. No. Tech/02/Legal(TN)/RDC/2024-25/ 874

Date: 20.12.2024

To

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

Sub: Request to provide ATR in case of O.A. No. 1365/2024(PB)

Sir,

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi has registered a Suo Motu case Original Application No. 1365 of 2024 based on the News item published in the Hindustan Times dated 06.12.2024, titled "3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai" and in the Times of India dated 07.12.2024, titled "Pathogens to watch out for Taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths". CPCB has been impleaded as Respondent No. 2 vide Order dated 13.12.2024. 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. The case has been transferred to the Southern Zone and will be listed before 10.02.2025.

In this connection, it is kindly requested to provide action taken report (ATR), water sampling and analysis carried out if any to this office, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully

(H. D. Varalaxmi)
Regional Director

क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय (चेन्नई) : द्वितीय तल , 40-ई, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, थिरु-वी-का औद्योगिक एस्टेट, सिपेट रोड, गिन्डी, चेन्नई – 600032
दूरभाष: 044-29998683/044-29567019 ई-मेल: rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in

Regional Directorate (Chennai): Second Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate, CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600032
Phone: 044-29998683/044-29567019 Email: rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in

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

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

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

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

फ़ा. नतक. :./02/ लीगल (त.ना)/क्षे.नि.चे./2024-25/ 874

दिनांक: 20.12.2024

सेवा में

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

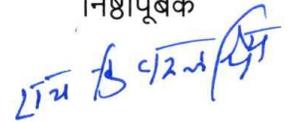
विषय: ओ.ए. संख्या 1365/2024(पीबी) के मामले में एटीआर प्रदान करने का अनुरोध

महोदय,

माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण, प्रधान पीठ, दिल्ली ने हिंदुस्तान टाइम्स में दिनांक 06.12.2024 को प्रकाशित समाचार आइटम, जिसका शीर्षक "चेन्नई के पास दूषित पेयजल के कारण 3 की मौत" और टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया में दिनांक 07.12.2024 को प्रकाशित समाचार, जिसका शीर्षक "चेन्नई में प्रदूषण से हुई मौतों के पीछे सीवेज लाइनों के पास के नल हो सकते हैं" पर आधारित एक स्वप्रेरणा मामला मूल आवेदन संख्या 1365/2024 दर्ज किया है। सीपीसीबी को दिनांक 13.12.2024 के आदेश के तहत प्रतिवादी संख्या 2 के रूप में शामिल किया गया है। यह मामला संदिग्ध दूषित पेयजल के कारण तमिलनाडु के चेन्नई के पास तांबरम में तीन लोगों की मौत और 20 अन्य के अस्पताल में भर्ती होने से संबंधित है। मामले को दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया है और इसे 10.02.2025 से पहले सूचीबद्ध किया जाएगा।

इस संबंध में, कृपया इस कार्यालय को जल्द से जल्द कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट (एटीआर), पानी का नमूना और विश्लेषण यदि कोई हो, उपलब्ध कराने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

निष्ठापूर्वक



(एच. डि. वरलक्ष्मी)
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



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

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

Letter No.TNPCB/LAW/LA – III/NGT/24200, Dated:27.02.2025.

Madam,

Sub: TNPCB - Law - O.A No. 1365 of 2024, (PB), taken as a Suo Motu - 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 – Action taken report sent herewith – reg.

Ref: 1. Letter received from the Regional Director, CPCB, Chennai dated 20.12.2024.

I am to invite kind attention to the references cited. In the reference first cited, it is requested to provide Action taken report (ATR) in the case of OA No.1365 of 2024, (SZ), regarding 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.

In this regard, it is informed 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 are located within Tambaram City Municipal Corporation, Chengalpattu District. The said locations were inspected by the officials of TNPCB, Maraimalai Nagar on

08.12.2024. It was noticed that the above said areas are thickly populated with residential houses and commercial establishments. The total water supply to Tambaram City Municipal Corporation is from various sources like Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board), Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Tambaram City Municipal Corporation (TCMC) etc.,. 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. The responsibility for distributing drinking water to households and ensuring its potability lies with the Municipal Corporation Commissioner.

Hence the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation has been requested to furnish the action taken report on the said incident vide letter dated 30.12.2024. The Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation has informed vide Roc.No.TCMC/Public Health/H1/1145/2024/Dated: 03.01.2025 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. 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.

This is submitted for kind information.

P.S. [Signature]
28/02/2025
For Member Secretary
[Signature]
21/2/25

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No.29 OF 2025

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..... Applicant(s)

Versus

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

Through its Member Secretary and Ors.

.... Respondent(s)

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

Advocate D.S Ekambaram
Counsel for the 2nd Respondent

Mobile:9445158274