

**BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE-CHENNAI  
OA.No.40 of 2025 (SZ)  
(Earlier O.A.No.07 of 2025-PB)**

BETWEEN

News item in the Hindu newspaper dated 25.12.2024  
titled "Age old channels have become open drains  
for discharging raw sewage in Tiruchi"  
,

... Applicants

Vs

Commissioner, Tiruchirapalli City Municipal  
corporation & Others

... Respondents

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE  
RESPONDENT NO.4 - (MOEF & CC)**



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**T.RAGHAVAN**

**Counsel for Respondent No.4 (MOEF & CC)**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI  
IN  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 40 of 2025 (SZ)  
[Earlier OA No. 07/2025-PB]

IN THE MATTER OF:

NEWS ITEM IN THE HINDU DT: 25.12.2024 TITLED,  
“AGE-OLD CHANNELS HAVE BECOME OPEN  
DRAINS FOR DISCHARGING RAW SEWAGE IN TIRUCHI” ....APPLICANTS

VERSUS

COMMISSIONER, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY MUNICIPAL  
CORPORATION, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI & ORS .....RESPONDENTS

REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE (RESPONDENT NO. 4)

1. I, Dr. S. Pradeep Kumar, S/o S. Sugumar, aged about 37 Years currently working as Scientist- 'B' in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Chennai, solemnly affirm and declare the following That I, in the capacity of Scientist- 'B' in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, am fully conversant with facts of the case and competent to swear this affidavit on behalf of the answering Respondent No. 4.

Dr.S.Pradeepkumar  
Scientist 'B'  
Government of India  
Regional Office  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,  
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.



**Dr.S.Pradeepkumar**  
Scientist 'B'  
Government of India  
Regional Office  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,  
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.

2. That present matter has been registered as *Suo Moto* on the basis of the news item titled "Age-old Channels have become open drains for Discharging raw sewage in Tiruchi appearing in The Hindu dated 25.12.2025, pertains to discharge of sewage into the open drain of Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu posing significant health and environmental risks.
3. That the answering Respondent is engaged in, *inter alia*, policy formulation for abatement, control and prevention of pollution, prescribing environmental standards, which are implemented through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). The SPCBs/PCCs are required to enforce these standards and monitor the compliance by industries.

Besides, the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) are empowered to take all such measures as are deemed necessary or expedient for the purpose of protection and improving the quality of environment and prevention, controlling and abetting environmental pollution, including the water pollution as in the instant matter.

4. That Central Government has enacted Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, which specifically deals with issues related to control and abatement of pollution in water bodies including rivers. The implementation of the provisions of the Act is with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

Dr.S.Pradeepkumar  
Scientist 'B'  
Government of India  
Regional Office  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,  
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.

  
**Dr.S.Pradeepkumar**  
Scientist 'B'  
Government of India  
Regional Office  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,  
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.

5. That water is a State subject and the major sources of pollution in rivers (Point sources: sewage and industrial pollution; Non-point sources: solid waste, open defecation, agricultural run-off, dumping of dead bodies in rivers, etc.) fall under the civic, health and sanitation responsibilities of the State Government and/or municipalities/local bodies. The respective States/municipalities/local bodies, therefore, are having the primary responsibility in tackling these sources of pollution out of their budget and internal revenue generation. They are also responsible for setting-up proper facilities for collection and treatment of sewage being generated in various towns to ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers, thereby polluting them.

6. That, in view of the foregoing submission, it is most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly pass such order(s) as may be deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.



DEPONENT

**Dr.S.Pradeepkumar**  
Scientist 'B'  
Government of India  
Regional Office  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,  
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.

**VERIFICATION:**

Verified at Chennai on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025 that the contents of this reply affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are correct to my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.

  
DEPONENT

**Dr.S.Pradeepkumar**  
Scientist 'B'  
Government of India  
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