

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
Original Application No. 41 of 2025 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU

based on the News Item in The Daily Hunt dt: 04.01.2025 titled,

“6 killed in firecracker factory explosion at  
Tamil Nadu’s Virudhunagar”

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Member Secretary,

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB),

Chennai and ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE 7<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT -  
DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel of Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

**DATE:21.07.2025**

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Versus

1. Member Secretary,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB),  
Chennai.

2. Member Secretary,  
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

3. Ministry of Environment,  
Forest and Climate Change

4. District Collector,  
Virudhunagar.

5. Sainath Fireworks Industries,  
Virudhunagar.

6. Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department.

7. Director,  
Directorate of Industrial Safety  
and Health (DISH).

8. Joint Chief Controller of Explosives -  
Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO),  
Chennai.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY DIRECTOR, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU, CHENNAI -32**

**REFERENCE:**

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 24.06.2025 in the Original Application No.41 of 2025 (SZ)

**INTRODUCTION**

Sainath Fireworks, situated in survey No.180/1,183/3,4, A.Kallupatty road, Bommiahpuram, Kottur, Virudhunagar district, is a registered factory bearing registration no VNR07158. A fire accident occurred in the above factory on 04.01.2025, at about 9.00 A.M. in which 6 workers died and one worker sustained injury. Deputy Director of Industrial Safety and Health-I, Virudhunagar inspected the accident site on 04.01.2025 and further action was taken for the contraventions noticed during the inspection.

Details of the report on the accident are submitted as follows.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT**

Manufacturing of fountain crackers was carried on in the factory Sainath Fireworks, situated in survey No.180/1,183/3,4, A.Kallupatty road, Bommiahpuram, Kottur, Virudhunagar district. The license under The Factories Act, 1948 has been renewed upto 2026 for employing 100 workers.

In the factory, the ingredient shed (shed no.80) has 4 rooms. The usage of the rooms on 04.01.2025 was as below:

- Room No.1 - Kept empty
- Room No.2 - Used for screening of Potassium nitrate salt (salt petre)
- Room No.3 - Used for storing Magnalium, Titanium
- Room No.4 - Used for storing Cupric oxide, Magnesium and Bismuth

On 04.01.2025 at about 9.00 A.M workers were involved in the manufacturing of crackling star. Raw materials like fuel and oxidizers were used in the manufacturing process. As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) the raw materials shall be weighed separately and taken to the mixing room for mixing process in a separate container/gunny bag for each chemical.

But on 04.01.2025, deviating from the SOP, the raw materials viz. Bismuth, Cupric oxide, Magnalium and Sulphur totally weighing around 40.350 kg were poured in an Aluminum basin together. Two workers Thiru.Thangakoodal and Thiru.Nagaraj were engaged in the above work. Other raw material, Titanium (3.5 kg), was weighed and kept in a separate gunny bag. As the mixing room was not cleaned and kept ready for further process, the workers viz. Thiru.Velmurugan and Thiru.Nagaraj kept the Aluminum basin containing the mixture of raw materials (40.350 kg) and the gunny bag containing Titanium (3.5 kg), in the empty room no.1 of shed no.80 in an unsafe manner.

Then Thiru.Nagaraj went to room no.2 to weigh the salt petre. At that time three workers viz. Thiru.Meenakshisundaram, Thiru.Sivakumar and Thiru.Kamaraj were screening the salt petre therein. After screening process, the salt petre was to be taken to the mixing room. Thiru.Mohamed Sukel was standing in front of room no.2 to take away the salt petre. Thiru.Thangakoodal noticed that the room no.3 was cleaned by Thiru.Kannan and room no.1 was cleaned by Thiru.Velmurugan. In room no.1, 40.350 kg of raw material mixture had been kept already. Then Thiru.Thangakoodal moved away at a distance of 15 feet from the ingredient shed. Suddenly a huge explosion occurred from the room no.1 and the ingredient shed (shed no.80) was completely collapsed.

Thiru.Mohamed Sukel standing in front of the room no.2 received severe burn injury in his left leg and was thrown away. The remaining six workers Thiru.Meenakshisundaram, Thiru.Kamaraj, Thiru.Nagaraj, Thiru.Sivakumar, Thiru.Velmurugan and Thiru.Kannan were trapped under the debris and died on the spot.

The details of the deceased during the accident are as given below

1. Thiru. Meenakshisundaram (Age 46) S/o. Sakthivel
2. Thiru.Velmurugan (Age 54) S/o. Gopal Nayakkar
3. Thiru.Nagaraj (Age 37) S/o. Rajamani
4. Thiru.Kannan (Age 55) S/o.Ramasamy
5. Thiru.Kamraj (Age 55) S/o. Subbu
6. Thiru.Sivakumar (Age 56), S/o. Sivasubramani

### **CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT**

1. The chemicals mainly the fuel and the oxidisers should be stored and handled separately to avoid occurrence of explosions. But the fuel and oxidisers of 40.350 kg were handled in the same Aluminium basin together. There is also a possibility of spillage of chemicals from the gunny bag (containing Titanium) and the Aluminium basin (containing the mixture of chemicals) on the floor, which on cleaning process could have mixed with sand, resulting in the explosion.
2. Workers were allowed to work without proper training in the safety precautions to be followed during the manufacturing process.
3. Workers above the age of 55 years were allowed to handle the explosives
4. Supervisors with qualification B.Sc.Chemistry or Diploma in Chemical Engineering were not employed.

### **DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN**

Based on the inspection, Deputy Director of Industrial Safety and Health-I, Virudhunagar has issued prohibition order under section 40(2) of Factories Act, 1948. A Show Cause Notice was issued and cases have been filed on 01.04.2025 against Mr.Sasibalan, (Age 50), S/o. Kalidas, the Occupier cum Manager of the factory in the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Srivilliputhur for the violations of The Factories Act, 1948 and The Tamil Nadu Factories Rules, 1950.

**COMPENSATION DETAILS**

<b>Details of compensation given to the family of deceased workers</b>					
S.No	Name of deceased workers	Compensation paid by the management	Compensation given from Hon'ble Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund	ESI / Employees' Compensation Act	Total
1	Thiru. Meenakshi sundaram	Rs.15,50,000/-	Rs.4,00,000/-	Covered under ESI Act	Rs.19,50,000/-
2	Thiru. Velmurugan	Rs.15,50,000/-	Rs.4,00,000/-	Covered under ESI Act	Rs.19,50,000/-
3	Thiru. Nagaraj	Rs.15,50,000/-	Rs.4,00,000/-	Covered under ESI Act	Rs.19,50,000/-
4	Thiru. Kannan	Rs.15,50,000/-	Rs.4,00,000/-	Covered under ESI Act	Rs.19,50,000/-
5	Thiru. Kamraj	Rs.15,50,000/-	Rs.4,00,000/-	Covered under ESI Act	Rs.19,50,000/-
6	Thiru. Sivakumar	Rs.15,50,000/-	Rs.4,00,000/-	Covered under ESI Act	Rs.19,50,000/-
<b>Total Compensation paid to the family of deceased workers</b>					<b>1,17,00,000/-</b>

<b>Details of compensation given to the injured worker</b>					
S.No	Name of injured worker	Compensation paid by the management	Compensation given from Hon'ble Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund	ESI / Employees' Compensation Act	Total
1	Thiru. Mohamed Sukel	Rs.17,98,784/- (including salary, medical expenses, other compensation of Rs.12,98,784/- and compensation of Rs.5,00,000/-)	Rs.1,00,000/-	Covered under ESI Act	<b>Rs.18,98,784/-</b>

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at Kooraikundu village had announced that educational assistance upto higher education level and monthly maintenance expenditure for children till the completion of 18 years, will be provided to the children of the workers who died in fireworks accidents. As per the announcement, according to G.O (Ms) No. 13, Labour

Welfare and Skill Development (M1) Department, dated 12.02.2025, monthly maintenance has been provided to 6 children of the deceased workers and it will be continued till they attain 18 years of age.

Details of monthly maintenance given to the children of deceased workers					
S.No	Name of deceased workers	Name of children/ Beneficiaries	Monthly maintenance provide in case of death of either of the parents	Period for which monthly maintenance is given	Total amount paid
1	Thiru. Meenakshi sundaram	M.Karthigai Selvan	Rs.2000/-	5 months	Rs.10,000/-
		M.Sivabalan	Rs.2000/-	5 months	Rs.10,000/-
2	Thiru.Kamraj	K.Varsha	Rs.2000/-	5 months	Rs.10,000/-
		K.Kanesh	Rs.2000/-	5 months	Rs.10,000/-
3	Thiru.Sivakumar	S.Sivaragavi	Rs.2000/-	4 months	Rs.8,000/-
		S.Sivatharshana	Rs.2000/-	5 months	Rs.10,000/-
4	Thiru.Kannan	Children not eligible for the assistance (above 18 years of age)			
5	Thiru.Velmurugan	Children not eligible for the assistance (above 18 years of age)			
6	Thiru.Nagaraj	Children not eligible for the assistance (above 18 years of age)			

DATE 18.07.2025

*K. Srinivasan*  
18/7/25  
for Director,  
Industrial Safety and Health,  
Chennai