

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 5 OF 2024

In the matter of:
Tribunal on its own motion
Suo Motu based on the news item in Manorama dt. 09.10.2023
"Fire in Kozhikode waste treatment plant
Opposition alleges corporation's conspiracy"

-VS-

The Chief Secretary,
Government of Kerala,
Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram and Ors.

----Respondent(s)

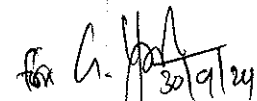
AFFIDAVIT FILED BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR KOZHIKODE/

3RD RESPONDENT

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Dated at Chennai on this the 30th day of September, 2024.


30/9/24

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala - NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

AFFIDAVIT

I Snehil Kumar Singh IAS, aged 31 years, /o son of Shri Pravendra Kumar residing at Civil station ,Kozhikode do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows :-

A fire broke out at the Westhill Plastic Recycling Unit operating under the Kozhikode Corporation in Kozhikode taluk (Kacheri village) at around 9.30 am on 08/10/2023 . 10 units of strong water pumping from various fire stations under the leadership of the District Fire Officer, as a result of 9 hours of hard work, the fire was brought under control without spreading to more areas. The district fire officer has reported that the unscientific use of waste and lack of proper disposal process are likely to cause more fire.

In order to check the circumstances that caused the fire in the above situation and whether there has been a failure in waste management and to investigate and submit a detailed report in this matter in order to prevent such fires in the future, and to inspect all the waste disposal centers within the Kozhikode Corporation area and submit a report an inquiry committee was appointed under Sections 26, 28 and 30 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. the Suchitwa Mission Coordinator as the convener and the Deputy Collector (Disaster Management.) , Local Self-Government Department Joint Director, Kerala Solid Waste Management Project District Coordinator and District Fire Officer as members of the committee.

After site inspection the above committee submitted the detailed report.

As per the report , Westhill plastic recycling unit purpose 900 sq.m in which fire broke out in 3 RRFs under Kozhikode Corporation. It is a building functioning on 40 cents of land owned by the corporation. since April 2023, more than 400 tonnes of waste directly collected from different parts of the city was kept in the industrial estate compound. Hotel is situated near the building and KSEB transformer situated behind this location .Certain unsorted inorganic wastes were piled inside and outside the building.

The contract for the year 2023-24 was kept on KONARIS ADVANCED POLYMERS for the removal of inorganic waste from RRF on August 28, 2003, and the contract stipulates that sweeping waste from RRF will be delivered to KONARIS using corporation employees and vehicles, and the company had taken the contract earlier after taking over the new contract. About 200 tons of waste has been removed from the total of already deposited 400 tonnes . There is no KSEB connection available at the plant. The members of the investigation committee have reported that if more agencies are assigned this task to remove the waste, there will not be such a situation of accumulation of waste . Since there is no gate and boundary in the plant anyone can enter from the road.

On the basis of examining the report of the inquiry committee, an order has been given to Kozhikode Corporation Secretary and District Fire Officer as Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority as per Section 26,30,34,72 of Disaster Management Act 2005 to avoid disaster and to avoid threat to life and health of the people.


Deponent

Kozhikode
25/06/2024

District Collector
Kozhikode

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RESPONDENT**

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