

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI.
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 57 of 2026(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Dhondiba Vithal Kharavat & Anr

....Applicant(s)

Versus

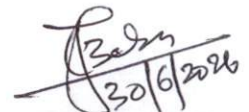
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

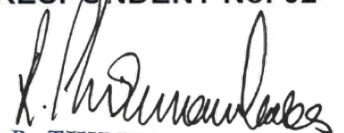
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Dated on this 30th day of June, 2026.


DEPONENT

COUNSEL FOR
RESPONDENT No. 02


R. THIRUNAVUKARASU
ADVOCATE
Flat C, 2nd Floor,
No.9, Thandavarayan Street,
Purasawalkam, Chennai-600 007.
Mobile:94440 12986



J. Chandra Babu
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN.OF ENV,FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9868278903

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REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 02 i.e. CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)

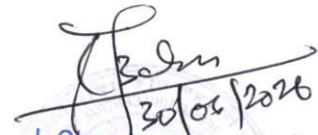
1. That it is humbly submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai (hereinafter referred to as "NGT(SZ)") vide its orders dated 15.04.2026 in Original Application No. 32 of 2026(SZ) directed all the respondents including Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB") to file its reply. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That the CPCB is constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the "Water Act, 1974"). It performs the functions under the Water Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as the "Air Act, 1981") and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as "E (P) Act, 1986").




J. Chandra Babu
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
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 BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9868278903

3. That the State Pollution Control Boards (hereinafter referred to as "SPCBs") and Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred to as "PCCs") have been constituted in States/Union Territories under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 and are empowered to implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of their Territorial Jurisdictions.
4. That in the instant Original Application, the applicant has alleged that the Hatchery unit i.e. M/s. Kwaliti Animal Feeds Pvt. Ltd. at Kaulapura Wada Village, Belagavi, Karnataka, is establishment in violation of CPCB siting guidelines and CTE conditions.
5. That to address the environmental issues associated with Poultry Farms, CPCB prepared "Guidelines for Poultry Farms" in 2015 and circulated to all the SPCBs/PCCs vide letter dated 20.10.2015 for its implementation. As per the para 6 of the said guidelines, *"the hatcheries of any size which are performing this exclusive operation, feed mills of any capacity and the commercial poultry farms which are handling more than 5000 birds at a given time on any single location need to be got registered with local bodies and the poultry farms which are handling 1,00,000 or more birds at a given time in single location need to approach State Pollution Control Board to obtain necessary Consent to Operate"*. The Siting Criteria for New Poultry Farms is also stipulated in said guidelines. A copy of the above-mentioned guidelines is annexed as **Annexure-I**



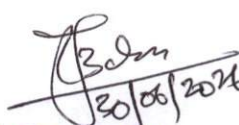

 J. Chandra Babu
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
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6. That the Hon'ble NGT (PB) vide its order dated 16.09.2020 in O.A. No. 681 of 2017, passed the following directions:

" 17. Accordingly, we allow this application and direct CPCB to revisit the guidelines for categorizing the poultry farms as Green category and exempting their regulation under Air, Water & EP Act. CPCB may issue fresh appropriate orders within three months and in if no further order is issued, all the State PCBs/PCCs will require enforcement of consent mechanism under the above acts after 01.01.2021 for all Poultry Farms above 5000 birds in the same manner as is being done for farms having more than one lac birds. Till then, even without such consent mechanism, the state PCBs/PCCs may strictly enforce the environmental norms and take appropriate remedial action against the any violation of water, air and soil standards statutorily laid down."

In compliance of the above directions passed by the Hon'ble NGT, CPCB constituted an Expert Committee comprising members from Department of Animal Husbandry, ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research, Shri N.K. Verma, Ex. Additional Director, CPCB, Haryana SPCB, Tamil Nadu SPCB and CPCB. Based on the in-depth studies and in consultation with the Expert Committee, the "Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms" were revised by CPCB in August 2021 and circulated to all the SPCBs/PCCs vide letter dated 17.08.2021 for its implementation. As per the revised guidelines, Poultry Farms handling birds above 25,000 at single location will have to obtain CTE and CTO under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 from SPCB/PCC. The said guidelines also stipulate the Siting Criteria for New Poultry Farms. A copy of the revised guidelines is annexed as **Annexure-II**




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7. That the Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 10.12.2021 disposed of the OA No. 320 of 2021 and passed the following directions:

*"5. Accordingly, we direct that while the impugned guidelines be immediately enforced, **all poultry farms above 5000 birds will also be covered by the said guidelines latest from 1.1.2023. The siting criteria should apply to all consents/renewals hereafter for the above size of the poultry farms. CPCB may issue revised guidelines to all the State PCBs/PCCs in terms of the above order within one month.**"*

Accordingly, in compliance of the above directions passed by the Hon'ble NGT, CPCB issued the revised guidelines in January, 2022 and circulated to all the SPCBs/PCCs vide letter dated 10.01.2022 for its implementation. As per the said guidelines, Poultry Farms handling above 5,000 birds at single location shall also obtain CTE and CTO under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 from SPCB/PCC w.e.f 01.01.2023. The said guidelines also stipulate the Siting Criteria for New Poultry Farms. A copy of the above-mentioned guidelines is annexed as **Annexure-III**

8. That it is further submitted that the Point No. 8 of the "Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms" issued by CPCB in January-2022, regarding requirement of obtaining CTE and CTO from SPCBs/PCCs for poultry farms handling above 5,000 birds, has been stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 28.04.2023 in Civil Appeal No. 2480 of 2023. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 26.11.2024 has continued the stay until final disposal of the appeal, however, the other requirement of the Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms issued by CPCB in January-2022 are applicable to all poultry farms irrespective of capacity/ number of birds. The Matter is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. A copy of the said orders is enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.



J. Chandra Babu
20/06/2026
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9. That as per siting criteria stipulated in the aforementioned guidelines, New Poultry Farms (Set up after issuance of Guidelines) should preferably be established as follows:

- 500 m from residential zone in order to avoid nuisance caused due to odour & flies.
- 100 m from major water course like River, Lakes, canals and drinking water source like wells, summer storage tanks, in order to avoid contamination due to leakages/spillages, if any.
- 100 m from national Highway (NH) and 50 m from State Highway (SH) in order to avoid nuisance caused due to odour & flies.
- 10-15 m from rural roads/internal roads/village pagdandis.
- The Poultry sheds should not be located within 10 m from farm boundary for cross ventilation and odour dispersion.

8. That it is respectfully submitted that as per para no 2.0 of the Environmental guidelines for Poultry Farms issued by CPCB in January 2022, "Poultry farms refer to breeding, hatcheries, layer and broiler farms". Hence, hatcheries are also covered under "Poultry Farm guidelines" and therefore, CPCB guidelines are also applicable to hatcheries.

9. That it is also further humbly submitted that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 27A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Central Govt. has notified the "Control of Water Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Guidelines, 2025" vide G.S.R. 85(E) dated 30/1/2025. Para 9 of the said Guidelines, as amended vide G.S.R. 63(E) dated 23/1/2026, stipulate provisions about "Procedure for selection of location" as below:



[Handwritten Signature]
20/06/2026

J. Chandra Babu
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"9. Procedure for selection of location – Specific and /or General conditions related to establishing a new industrial unit at a location along with the appropriate environment safeguards and/ or mitigation measures, in view of site condition on the ground shall be imposed, in the case of an industrial unit requiring Environment Clearance (EC), by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) at the Central /State level, and in other cases, by the concerned State Board."

Similar provisions have also been laid down vide the Control of Air Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Guidelines, 2025 notified vide G.S.R. 84(E) dated 29/1/2025 and as amended vide G.S.R. 62(E) dated 23/1/2026 issued by the Central Govt. in exercise of the powers conferred by section 21A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the same is also reproduced as below:

"9. Procedure for selection of location – Specific and /or General conditions related to establishing a new industrial unit at a location along with the appropriate environment safeguards and/ or mitigation measures, in view of site condition on the ground shall be imposed, in the case of an industrial unit requiring Environment Clearance (EC), by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) at the Central /State level, and in other cases, by the concerned State Board."



J. Chandra Babu
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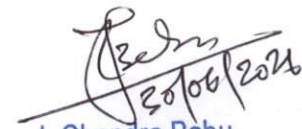
...Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO.02

I, J Chandra Babu, son of late Shri. J Balaramaiah, aged 58 years, having office at the Regional Directorate (Bengaluru), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 1st& 2nd Floors, Nisarga Bhavan A- Block, Thimmaiah Main Road, 7th D Cross, Shivanagar, Bengaluru – 560 079, Karnataka, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under: -

1. I submit that, the deponent herein is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am 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 and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. I submit that, the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.




J. Chandra Babu
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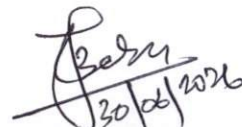
10. That, the answering Respondent (CPCB) craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional replies if required in future.
11. That in light of the facts stated above, the Answering Respondent (CPCB) respectfully submits that it shall abide by any further order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant OA.

Dated on this 30th day of June, 2026



**COUNSEL FOR
RESPONDENT No. 02**


R. THIRUNAVUKARASU
 ADVOCATE
 Flat C, 2nd Floor,
 No.9, Thandavarayan Street,
 Purasawalkam, Chennai-600 007.
 Mobile:94440 12986


DEPONENT

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3. I submit that, the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course 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.



[Signature]
30/06/2026
DEPONENT

J. Chandra Babu
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
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VERIFICATION

I, Jathikartha Chandra Babu, working as Scientist 'F' and presently posted as Regional Director (Bengaluru), CPCB, Regional Directorate, Bengaluru, the respondent herein do hereby Verified at Bengaluru on this day of 30th June, 2026 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as mentioned in the day to day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

Dated on this 30th day of June, 2026



[Signature]
30/06/2026
DEPONENT

**COUNSEL FOR
RESPONDENT NO. 02**

[Signature]
R. THIRUNAVUKARASU
ADVOCATE
Flat C, 2nd Floor,
No.9, Thandavarayan Street,
Purasawalkam, Chennai-600 007.
Mobile:94440 12986

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Annexure I

Registered AD

B-4032/PCI-SSI/poultry/2015

October 20, 2015

To,

The Member Secretary
All SPCBS & PCCs (list enclosed)

Sub: CPCB Guidelines on Poultry Farms regarding

Sir,

Central Pollution Control Board has done a study on 'Development of Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms'.

CPCB approved guidelines for poultry farms is enclosed herewith to address the environmental problems from Poultry Farms.

Yours faithfully

Encl: as above

(Abhey Singh Soni)
Sc 'D' & I/c PCI-SSI Division

Copy to:

All Zonal Officer s

(East, West, North, South, North-East & Central)

(Copy of Guidelines enclosed for reference & records)

अभेय प्रदीप सिन्हा
26/10/15

(No. B-4032/PCI-SSI/Poultry/2015 dated 20.10.2015)

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR POULTRY FARM

1.0

1.1 Fencing and Green Belt Development

1. The poultry farm should raise green belt all around the farm with minimum of two rows spaced apart of not more than 3 m.
2. The poultry farm should be fenced with barbed wire / linked mesh upto a height of 1.5 m with appropriately secured entrance and outlet.

2.0 Air Emission (Includes gaseous emission, Odour and Dust)

2.1 Minimization of odour / gaseous pollution problem

- Ensure proper ventilation and free flow of air over manure collection points to keep it dry
- Protect manure from unwanted pests/insects
- Protect manure from run off water and cover it to avoid dust and odours in storage pits
- Design, construct, operate and maintain waste storage facilities to contain all manure, litter and washings
- Collect carcasses promptly on regular basis and dispose them appropriately without damaging the environment.

2.2 Feed Mills

1. The feed mill and godown should be located on a well elevated ground-preferably near the entrance to the farm and isolated from other poultry sheds.
2. It should have a separate entrance and exit without crisscrossing the internal poultry farm roads.
3. Provision for vehicle tyre dip should be made available at the entrance control gate
4. Floor of the feed mill and godown should be concrete, damp proof, rodent/vermin proof and raised above the ground level by a minimum of 2 feet.

5. Should have adequate fire and other accident safety provisions.
6. All feed ingredients should be stored on pallets or platforms to facilitate easy detection of leakage and to prevent absorption of moisture from the ground.
7. Dust collector system should be installed in the feed mill .
8. All the workers working in the feed mill should be provided with dust masks.
9. Avoid pest infestation of stored feed ingredients by frequent inspection and following prompt interventions.
10. Never store pesticides and other poisonous materials in feed plants or feed making premises.
11. Provide exclusive storage facility within feed plant for feed additives like vitamins, minerals etc.,
12. Always store finished feed in covered containers and try to deliver to sheds for distribution to birds in specially made closed delivery trucks avoiding baggage and its reuse.
13. Never store finished feed in sheds for more than the current days requirement.
14. Prevent interaction of feeds with wild birds, rodents, pests, flies etc; as a measure of food safety and prevention of spread of diseases.
15. Avoid spillages to limit wastage and discourage habitation for pests and rodents
16. Observe sanitation and cleanliness as a routine to ensure quality and safety of feed grains

3. Management of solid wastes (Solid Waste contains Dead Birds, Manure and Hatchery Debris)

General:

- Place primary importance to minimize waste generation in regular farm management schedule.
- Properly collect, sort, treat, transport and utilize the solid wastes
- Always balance land application of manure to the nutritional requirements of soil and crop

- Keep manure dry and avoid wet spots/patches
- Store manure properly by following appropriate storage technologies like composting
- Reduce mortalities on farm by proper animal care and disease prevention program
- The products from the rendering plant can be used a pet food.
- No open burning or indiscriminate dumping of any dead birds / feathers / offal's, unused materials like litter / empty gunnies / containers etc. should be adopted within or outside the farm premises
- Use reliable options for collection, storage, transport and disposal of dead birds

A

Dead Birds Disposal

a) Burial

1. The dead birds arising from day to day farm activity should be separated from other live birds promptly and should be stored in closed containers \ disposed off within 24 hours by following any of the appropriate disposal methods.
2. The dead bird burial pit should be of 3 to 4 m in depth and 0.8 to 1.2 m diameter and located above minimum of 3 m from the ground water table.
3. The dead bird burial pit should be provided with a vermin/fly proof cover made up of wooden / metal / concrete having a central operable lid of proper size for day to day dropping of carcasses.
4. When the pit is full, a compacted soil cover of 0.5 m should be provided with the top of the covered soil well above the ground level.
5. The distance between any two burial pits should not be less than 1 m.

b) Composting.

1. The composting facility should not be located within 300 m from the nearest dwelling and 100 m from any well or water course.
2. The capacity of the composting facility must be sufficient to handle the average mortalities on the farm.
3. The roof of the composting facility should be permanent with bottom concreted.
4. The composting facility should be secured with link mesh all around raised to a height of 1.5 m above the ground level to avoid the predation by straw dogs etc.
5. A proper mixture of smaller and larger particle sizes to obtain an optimum air exchange within the mixture and buildup of temperature.
6. Moisture content of the composting pile should be approximately 60%. More than this may result in odor
7. problems and less than this will reduce the efficiency of the composting process.
8. Carbon and nitrogen are vital nutrients for the growth and reproduction of bacteria and fungi. The carbon-to-nitrogen ratio must be in the range of 20:1 and 25:1 for proper composting. This is obtained by carefully balancing the dead bird and carbon sources.
9. The optimum temperature for composting is 54 to 66°C which pasteurizes the compost. If temperature falls below 49°C after a week or so, the material should be moved to the secondary stage unit. To facilitate the easy transfer of the first stage material to the secondary stage, the proper designing of the primary stage (first stage) facility is desirable as illustrated in figure 5.5. Failure to do so will result into poor compost. The temperature in the secondary stage unit will begin to raise as beneficial bacterial activity begins and will peak in 5 to 10 days.

c) Incineration

1. The incinerator should be located in down wind direction to the poultry houses and populated areas.

2. The incinerator capacity should be of sufficient size such that no un-burnt carcasses are left in a day's operation.
3. The guide lines and standards prescribed under Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 should be followed for erection and operation of the Incinerator.

B

Manure Storage and Management Storage

1. The litter / manure storage dumps should be minimum 2 m above the water table and of sufficient size based on the type and number of birds handled. It's base should be constructed with stone slabs or concrete or impermeable compacted clay.
2. The litter / manure storage dumps should have a 25 m buffer strip all around to keep out of wet areas/drainage discharges.
3. Keep manure dry and avoid wet spots/patches
4. The dry manure dump should be covered with permanent roof or with plastic / similar material to prevent air emissions and the precipitation falling on it.
5. Store manure properly by following appropriate storage technologies like composting.

Composting of Manure:

The composting process of poultry manure consists:

- Properly mixing the waste with a carbon rich material (e.g., paddy straw / husk, wood shavings) in pits or in windrows. Carbon to nitrogen ratios of 20-25:1 are usually recommended. Pure manure can also be composted if all factors are carefully monitored.
- Addition of air by periodic stirring
- Proper balancing of moisture levels (35 to 50% moisture).
- Temperature monitoring to determine if composting conditions have occurred.

6. Efforts may be made to Utilize Manure for Biogas Generation

C Hatchery Waste Management:

- Efforts may be made in converting the shells to animal feed to supply as a source of calcium, especially for poultry feeds.
- Extrusion with soybean meal can be used to make a shell / hatchery meal.
- Un-hatched eggs should be disposed of by composting or by rendering at a byproduct plant. It can also be processed by extrusion with soybean meal to be used as hatchery meal in pet food manufacturing.

4. Waste water Discharge

The waste water generated from the cleaning operations (after each batch removal) should be collected in appropriate holding tank and put to use in the green belt.

➤ Process for treatment and disposal of effluent

- Proper drainage / outlet for collection and discharge should be provided for storm runoff / discharges from the farm.
- Improve drainage, reduce standing water and water ditches to control mosquitoes and flies
- Reduce water use and spills from drinking devices by preventing overflow or leakages and using calibrated, well-maintained self-watering devices;
- Installation of vegetative filters (reed filters) and surface water diversions to direct clean run offs around areas containing wastes will help in decreasing spread of pollutants
- Use of pressure pumps, hot water or steam in cleaning activities instead of cold water and plain water scrubs can tremendously improve sanitation and reduce the quantities of wash water effluents considerably

- No obstruction should be created for any water course within the farm or outside the farm boundary.
- Implement buffer zones to surface water bodies, as appropriate to local conditions and requirements, and avoid land spreading of manure within these areas.

5. Good House Keeping Practices in Poultry Farms

The following good Management Practices should be practiced in Poultry Farms

- a) Control of Flies in Poultry Farms:** An integrated approach that ensures the proper treatment and disposal of manure, correct ventilation of sheds, control of temperature, good sanitation, swift repairs of leaks, avoidance of feed spills, prompt removal of broken eggs and dead birds will all help control of flies in the poultry farms.
- b) Control of Rodents:** Monitoring should be undertaken on regular basis after recognizing the rodent problem. The methods for the control of rodents may include : i) Exclusion ii) Trapping iii) Glue boards iv) Slow killing toxic baits v) Rapid killing toxic baits and vi) Tracking powder

- The loading and unloading operations can be limited to day time
- Should have adequate fire and other accident safety provisions.

c) Efficient Feed Management Practices

- Avoid exposure of feed and feed ingredients to rain, moisture, flies and pests
- Ensure proper storage of feed and its transport
- Avoid reuse of used feed bags
- Keep feeder equipment always clean and tidy
- Dispose properly the waste feed with due consideration to bio-security and environment
- Properly balance the feed for meeting the precise nutritional requirements

- Avoid overages/excess nutrients. Never store finished feed in sheds for more than the current days requirement
- Match feed formulation to the specific nutritional requirements of birds like growth, production, breeding etc.
- Balance properly the energy: protein, calcium: phosphorous, Lysine: Methionine, Manganese: Zinc: Selenium ratios in the diet
- Use enzymes, amino acids and gut modifiers etc. for enhancing feed utilization and nutrient adsorption
- Ensure proper balancing and mixing of trace elements like vitamins, trace minerals, amino acids and other feed additives
- Accurate weighing and proper distribution of feed to avoid wastage
- Always use quality, uncontaminated feed material
- Implement a comprehensive nutrient management plan for the entire farm
- Maintain records for feed issues and consumption of water and feed on daily basis
- Provide good quality drinking water
- Deliver safe water to birds without exposure to contaminants – nipple system is best compared to open dispenses.
- Avoid spillage or leakage of water on the farm
- Prevent interaction of feeds with wild birds, rodents, pests, flies etc; as a measure of food safety and prevention of spread of diseases.
- Observe sanitation and cleanliness as a routine to ensure quality and safety of feed grains.

d) Good Pest Management Practices

- Design and construct all poultry structures to keep out pests
- Implement integrated pest control and management to control pests and limit pesticide use on farm

- Use predators to control pests
- If pesticides are used follow the correct doses, methods of application and proper disposal of used containers
- Consider rotating the generic contents of pesticide to avoid build up of resistance in the target pest
- Avoid use of pesticides that fall under Hazardous class
- Always follow label guidelines for dose application and safety precautions while mixing, transfer and application of pesticides should be undertaken by trained persons in well ventilated and well lit areas.
- Never store pesticides and other poisonous materials in feed plants or feed making premises.
- Avoid contamination of feed, water and other food material including their equipment with pesticides.
- Store pesticides always in their original container at exclusively dedicated place and kept under lock and key
- Properly evaluate the effectiveness of pesticide and its potential environmental impacts before application
- Never use pesticide containers for any other use and should be properly disposed to an engineered land fill facility
- Avoid pest infestation of stored feed ingredients by frequent inspection and following prompt interventions.

6. Administrative mechanism

In the absence of any specific registration procedure in the country to enumerate the poultry farms, their size and nature of operations, the following are recommended:

- The hatcheries of any size which are performing this exclusive operation, feed mills of any capacity and the commercial poultry farms which are handling more than 5,000 birds at a given time on any single location need to be got registered with local bodies.

- The poultry farms which are handling 1,00,000 or more birds at a given time in single location need to approach State Pollution Control Board to obtain necessary Consent for Operation under Water Act, 1976.

Siting Criteria (For New Poultry Farms)

1. The poultry farm should not be located within
 - 500 m from residential zone
 - 200 m from major water course like River, Lake and Canals
 - 500 m from any major drinking water reservoir on catchment side.
 - 100 m from any drinking water source like wells, summer storage tanks, other tanks
 - 500 m from nearby poultry, dairy or another livestock enterprises or industry
 - 150-200 m from National Highway (NH)
 - 100 m from State Highway (SH)
 - 10-15 m from rural roads/internal roads/village pagdandis
2. The poultry sheds should not be located within
 - 10 m from farm boundary
3. The poultry sheds should be positioned
 - on East to West direction
 - at least 2 m above the water table
 - at least 0.5 m above ground level



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

CPCB/IPC-V/NGT_ OA-681/Poultry/2021 4924-4968

August 17, 2021

To

Annexure II

The Member Secretary
 All SPCBs/ PCCs
 (list enclosed)

Sub: Implementation of "Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms" as per order passed by Hon'ble NGT on 16.09.2020 in the matter of O.A. No. 681 of 2017 – reg.

Sir,

With reference to Hon'ble NGT order dated 16.09.2020 in the matter of O.A. No. 681 of 2017 :Gauri Maulekhi Vs. Union of India & Ors., I am directed to forward a copy of the revised "Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms" for implementation.

These Guidelines are also available on CPCB website at the following link:
<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=TGF0ZXN0RmlsZS8zMzFfMTYyOTA5OTQwMF9tZWRRpYXBob3RvMjg2MjcucGRm>.

Yours faithfully

(S.K. Gupta)

AD & Div. Head IPC-V

Encl.: as above

Copy to:

- 1 PS to CCB : for information to CCB, please.
- 2 PS to MS : for information to MS, please.
- 3 The Regional Directorates : for information & follow-up, please.
 Central Pollution Control Board
 (list enclosed)

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
 निर्दिष्ट... N Singh
 दिनांक... 18/08/2021
 o/c

(S.K. Gupta)

Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms



**Central Pollution Control Board
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar
Delhi-110032**

(August 2021)

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1.0 Background

Guidelines for Poultry farms were developed in the year 2015, which was applicable to poultry farms handling above 1.0 lac birds. As per CPCB classification of industrial sectors, 'Poultry, Hatchery and Piggery' are categorized into 'Green'.

In the matter of O.A. No. 681 of 2017, Hon'ble NGT, passed the following order on 16th September, 2020:

'...Accordingly we allow this application and direct CPCB to revisit the guidelines for categorizing the poultry farms as Green category and exempting their regulation under Air, Water & EP Act. CPCB may issue fresh appropriate orders within three months and in if no further order is issued, all the State PCBs/PCCs will require enforcement of consent mechanism under the above acts after 01.01.2021 for all Poultry Farms above 5000 birds in the same manner as is being done for farms having more than one lac birds. Till then, even without such consent mechanism, the state PCBs/PCCs may strictly enforce the environmental norms and take appropriate remedial action against the any violation of water, air and soil standards statutorily laid down.'

To comply with the Hon'ble NGT, CPCB has constituted an Expert Committee comprising members from Department of Animal Husbandry. ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research, Shri N.K. Verma, Ex. AD, CPCB, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board & Central Pollution Control Board.

2.0 Poultry farming

Poultry farms refers to breeding, hatcheries, layer and broiler farms. Poultry farming is the rearing of domesticated birds such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, goose etc. for the purpose of farming meat or eggs for food. Chickens raised for eggs are usually called laying hens or layers while chickens raised for meat are often called broilers. Chicken are most numerous and popular domesticated poultry species, while other species, e.g. duck, goose form a very small proportion of activities in comparison. Poultry farming in India has witnessed a spectacular growth and transformed itself into a vibrant agri- industry. The leading states having poultry farms are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam, Haryana, Kerala and Odisha.

As per the 20th livestock census carried out by Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, the state-wise number of poultries (birds) are given below:

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Nos of Poultries (birds) in millions
1	Andhra Pradesh	107.863
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.599

3	Assam	46.712
4	Bihar State	16.525
5	Chhattisgarh	18.711
6	Goa State	0.349
7	Gujarat	21.773
8	Haryana State	46.24
9	Himachal Pradesh	1.341
10	Jammu & Kashmir	7.366
11	Jharkhand	24.832
12	Karnataka State	59.494
13	Kerala State	29.771
14	Madhya Pradesh	16.659
15	Maharashtra	74.297
16	Manipur	5.897
17	Meghalaya	5.379
18	Mizoram	2.047
19	Nagaland	2.838
20	Odisha	27.439
21	Punjab	17.649
22	Rajasthan	14.622
23	Sikkim State	0.580
24	Tamil Nadu	120.781
25	Telangana State	79.999
26	Tripura	4.168
27	Uttar Pradesh	12.515
28	Uttarakhand	5.018
29	West Bengal	77.322
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.289
31	Chandigarh	0.048
32	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.089
33	Daman & Diu	0.018
34	Delhi	0.043
35	Lakshadweep	0.226
36	Pondicherry	0.236
Total		851.809

3.0 Poultry Farming Process

The poultry farming consist of the following unit operations.

- Breeder Farms (Breeding)
- Hatchery Farm (Hatching)
- Layer farm &
- Broilers

3.1 Breeder Farms(Breeding)

Breeder farms specialize in the production of fertilized eggs for either broiler or egg production. Specific ratios of male/female breeders are used to ensure the fertility of hatching eggs. In India both layer and broiler breeders are predominantly housed in cages and the fertile eggs are obtained by artificial insemination. The eggs are collected daily, assessed for quality and stored in plastic / pulp trays in a controlled environment before being transferred to the hatchery for the production of commercial chicks. At the end of their productive phase, breeders are removed and sold for meat processing or byproducts.

3.2 Hatchery farms (Hatching)

The eggs collected from Breeder farms are hatched at special hatcheries. These are centralized facilities and receive fertilized eggs from its own or several other breeder farms. The eggs are stored for a period of 4 to 10 days before being placed in incubators that control temperature and humidity to stimulate embryonic development. Hatching typically takes 21 days. The chicks are vaccinated, graded for uniform quality and dispatched to destinations for further rearing. The day-old broiler chicks are delivered to broiler farms straight run (un-sexed). Chicks from egg laying stock are gender sorted and the female chicks alone are delivered for egg production while male chicks are killed and disposed-off.

3.3 Layer (Egg production)

In the layer farms, egg laying hens are reared for egg production. Typical egg laying cycle starts around 18 weeks age of the bird and continues upto 72–75 weeks of age and thereafter diminished gradually to become uneconomical. Birds less than six months of age are termed as pullets and are raised either on floor or on the cages little away from adult farms located in the same or at different premises. The birds are kept and raised in three different houses based on its age i.e. a) Chick house: 0 to 45 days, b) Grower House: 45 days to 18 weeks and c) Layer House: 18 weeks to 72 to 75 weeks. The birds start laying eggs from 18 weeks onwards.

There are two phases of growing period i.e. brooding and growing phase. The brooding phase extends from day one to three to four weeks depending upon the season of rearing. During this period, the birds are provided extra warmth in an enclosed quarter by means of gas brooders, electric hovers, infra-red bulbs or coal brooders. After this initial period, the birds are moved to growing establishments which are typically open houses. The brooding and growing houses may be deep litter type or cage type. After the completion of the growing phase, the birds are moved to laying cages where they remain there till the end of their laying cycle (72 to 75 weeks of age).

3.4 Broiler (Meat Production)

Broiler birds are raised especially for meat production for 40 to 45 days or up to weight gain of 2.5 to 3.0 Kg. Most of broiler birds gain slaughter weight (2.5 kg to 3.0 kg) within 40 to 45 days. Broilers are most commonly reared in deep litter shed, where feed and water is given by hanging feeder and watering. After cleaning of the deep litter shed, rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings, and dried leaves bed of 3" thickness is prepared by scratching. Chicks are moved in the shed freely. Depending on the weight of the bird, the birds are sold for slaughtering from 40th to 45th days.

The rearing of birds is of two types:

3.4.1 Deep Litter System

Birds are kept on litter floor which is covered with different kinds of agro materials like rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings and dried leaves etc. depending on their availability. Initially, the depth of the agro material is approx 5 to 6 cm and then topped up by another 5 to 6 cm as the birds grow in size. The birds may remain on this system upto six weeks in case of broilers from where they go for slaughtering. In case of layer, they remain upto 18 weeks of age or may be shifted to cages. The majority of broilers are housed in deep litter sheds. Feed and water are provided manually in small farms and with automatic equipment in large farms.

3.4.2 Cage System

This is widely practiced system for housing commercial layers, breeder layers and of late even broiler breeders. The birds are generally housed in cages erected on raised platforms in open sheds. These cages are arranged in rows. Three or four birds are accommodated in each cage with provision of drinking water and feeding. The water is provided through a nipple fitted to a closed pipe running at head height of the bird. Feed is placed in a trough attached to the front of the cage and distributed often manually or by automation. The droppings of birds slip through perforations instantaneously and are collected on the floor.

4.0 Classification of Poultry Farms

Backyard poultry is typically owned by small and marginal farmer and comprises of few birds, largely for self-consumption and very small quantities get commercially sold. The poultry farming practiced by the rural and tribal farmers under free range or backyard or semi-intensive systems is usually referred to as rural poultry farming.

Based on the number of handling of birds, Poultry farms may be classified into three categories.

- Small (5,000-25,000 bird)
- Medium (above 25,000-1,00,000 birds).
- Large (above 1,00,000 birds)

The poultry farms under small category are in un-organized sector run by economically weaker farmers and are of rural background.

5.0 Environmental issues & Current practices to address the environmental issues in Poultry Farms

Environmental nuisance arising from poultry farms is due to the generation of NH_3 & H_2S gases causing odor, dust from feed mill, storage & management of Solid Waste (Manure, Dead Birds and Hatchery Waste) also causing odour & water from cleaning operations. Breeding of flies and rodents etc. are the other issues in poultry farms.

(i) Gaseous emission (NH_3 & H_2S) and Feed Mill Dust

- The gaseous emission viz Ammonia (NH_3) and Hydrogen Sulphide (H_2S) are emanated from the excreta generated from the birds causes odour. The odour is produced due to anaerobic conditions in the litter occurs due to its storage at one place for longer period. The general practice followed by poultry farms to control odour is by maintaining good ventilation and free flow of air.
- Dust is generated from the feed mill operation during mixing and grinding of various ingredients of feed. The feed mill operations are typically located inside the mill buildings. Dust extraction systems are generally used to collect the dust and to improve the shop floor environment.

(ii) Solid Waste

Sources of solid waste are (i) Poultry droppings/Manure/Litter (ii) Dead Birds & (iii) Hatchery Waste.

- In case of cage system, excreta are collected just below the bird cages directly on ground, made of stone slabs or concrete or impermeable compacted clay. Litter is collected and kept dry by maintaining good ventilation and free air flow to undergo aerobic composting. The manure is removed once in four to six months & sold to the farmers. In deep litter system, excreta are collected in bed made up of agro residue (rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings, and dried leaves) itself. Once in a day or two days the bed is scratched for mixing of litter. Once the chicken is sold for meat, the bed (rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings, and dried leaves) is removed once the cycle of 42 to 45 days gets over along with the excreta and sold as

manure. The shed is washed and lime is applied as disinfectant and allows the area for quarantine period.

- Death of the birds in poultry farms is a common phenomenon and their disposal is an issue. Dead birds cause nuisance, odour and aesthetic problems like disease, insect, rodent and predator problems if the birds are not disposed immediately. Dead birds are either burned at relatively high temperatures using different fuels which causing atmospheric pollution and also odour nuisance or buried in the burial pit in the premises.
- During hatching operation, large quantity of solid waste comprising of egg shells, unhatched eggs, dead embryos and chickens and a viscous liquid from eggs etc is generated. This waste is disposed through open burning or through rendering plant.

(iii) Waste water generation from cleaning operation

- Water in poultry farms is used for drinking of birds, sprinkling during the summer and for cleaning sheds and equipment in between batch replacement.
- As such there is no process waste water generation from the poultry farming. However, wastewater is generated during cleaning operations. The waste water is collected in holding tank and utilized in gardening in the premises.

(iv) Other issues:

- Breeding of flies and rodents, etc. are the other issues in poultry farms

6.0 Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms farms:

Following are the revised guidelines addressing environmental issues of Poultry Farms.

6.1 Gaseous emission (NH₃ & H₂S) and Feed Mill Dust

(i) Minimization of odour/gaseous pollution

- Proper ventilation and free flow of air over manure collection points to keep it dry shall be ensured.
- Manure should be protected from Run-off water and from unwanted pests/insects.
- Well-designed storage facilities should be provided to contain manure /litter.
- Carcasses of dead birds shall be promptly collected on regular basis and disposed appropriately without damaging the environment as per the prescribed methods under section 7.2.3 of the guidelines.

(ii) Dust from Feed Mills

- Feed mill and Go-down should be located on a well elevated ground preferably near the entrance of the farm and isolated from other poultry sheds.
- Dust collector system should be installed to control emissions from mixing and grinding section of the feed mill.
- Workers in the feed mill shall be provided with dust masks to protect them from dust.
- Provision for vehicle tyre dip shall be made at the entrance to remove impurities/dust carried by vehicle tyres;
- Floor of the feed mill and Go-down shall be concrete and raised above the ground level by a minimum of 2 feet.

6.2 Management of solid wastes (Solid Wastes contains Manure/litter, Hatchery Debris and Dead Birds)

(i) Manure handling and disposal

- Proper ventilation and free flow of air over manure collection points to keep it dry (by blowing dry air over it or by conveying ventilation air through the manure pit) shall be ensured to prevent obnoxious odour in the area.
- Poultry housing shall be ventilated allowing sufficient supply of fresh air to remove humidity, dissipate heat and prevent build-up of gases such as methane, carbon dioxide, ammonia, etc.
- Excreta shall be scratched at least once in two days as needed for mixing of litter and to keep bedding material (rice husk, saw dust, wood shavings etc.) dry in case of deep litter houses the waste material. This waste shall be utilised for composting after completion of the cycle.
- Manure collected under cages on high raised platforms shall be stored for further processing and utilized by using following options:

Sl. No.	Poultry Farms	Methods for Disposal/Utilization of manure
1.	Small Poultry Farms	• Composting
2.	Medium & Large Poultry Farms	• Composting or Biogas production for disposal/utilization of manure/litter • Combination of any of the methods for disposal/utilization of manure/litter
3.	Poultry Farms in Cluster	• Common facilities for Biogas production or Composting or their combination

- Land application of manure to the nutritional requirements of soil and crop shall be balanced.
- The litter / manure storage facilities shall be minimum 2 m above the water table and of adequate size based on type and number of birds handled. Its base should be constructed with stone slabs or concrete or impermeable compacted clay.

- Manure shall be protected from run off water and cover it to avoid dust and odours in storage pits. The dry manure dump shall be covered with permanent roof or with plastic / similar material to prevent air emissions and the precipitation falling on it.
- Mortalities on farm by proper animal care and disease prevention program shall be reduced.
- Proper facilities (Burial Pit/Composting/Incineration) shall be provided for Collection, storage, transport and disposal of dead birds
- Domestic hazardous wastes (vaccines, vials, medicines, syringes, etc.) shall be disposed as per provisions of "Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016".

Composting of Manure:

- Proper mixing the waste with a carbon rich material (e.g., paddy straw / husk, wood shavings) should be done in the pits. Carbon to nitrogen ratios of 20-25:1 is usually recommended. Pure manure can also be composted following the procedure and monitoring all parameters. The composting facilities may be designed through expert institutions in the field as per the size of poultry farms.
- Periodic stirring of compost material should be done for its proper mixing.
- Moisture levels should be maintained between 35 to 50%.
- Temperature monitoring should be done to determine composting conditions.

(ii) Hatchery Waste

- Efforts shall be made in converting the shells to animal feed to supply as a source of calcium, especially for poultry feeds.
- Extrusion with soya bean meal can be used to make a shell/hatchery meal.
- Un-hatched eggs shall be disposed of by composting or rendering.

(iii) Dead Birds Disposal

The dead birds arising from day to day farm activity shall be separated from other live birds promptly and stored in closed containers and disposed off within 24 hours by following any of the disposal methods.

A) Burial Method:

- The dead birds arising from day to day farm activity should be separated from other live birds promptly and should be stored in closed containers \ disposed off within 24 hours
- The dead bird burial pit shall be of minimum 3 to 4 m in depth and 0.8 to 1.2 m diameter and this size may vary as per the capacity of poultry farm and shall be located above minimum 3 m from the ground water table.

- The dead bird burial pit shall be provided with a vermin/fly proof cover made up of wooden / metal / concrete having a central operable lid of proper size for day to day dropping of carcasses.
- Carcasses shall be covered by a thin layer of soil (at least 40 cm deep).along with calcium hydroxide.
- When the pit is full, a compacted soil cover of 0.5 m shall be provided with the top of the covered soil well above the ground level.
- The distance between any two burial pits should not be less than 1 m.

B) Composting

- The composting facility shall not be located within 300 m from the nearest dwelling and 100 m from any well or water course.
- The capacity of the composting facility shall be sufficient to handle the average mortalities on the farm.
- The roof of the composting facility shall be permanent with concrete bottom.
- The composting facility shall be secured with link mesh all around raised to a height of 1.5 m above the ground level to avoid the predation by straw dogs etc.
- A proper mixture of smaller and larger particle sizes to obtain an optimum air exchange within the mixture and build-up of temperature.
- Moisture content of the composting pile shall be approximately 60%. More than this may result in odour problems and less than this will reduce the efficiency of the composting process.
- Carbon and nitrogen are vital nutrients for the growth and reproduction of bacteria and fungi. The carbon-to-nitrogen ratio shall be in the range of 20:1 and 25:1 for proper composting. This is obtained by carefully balancing the dead bird and carbon sources.
- The optimum temperature for composting is 54 to 66°C which pasteurizes the compost. If temperature falls below 49°C after a week or so, the material should be moved to the secondary stage unit. To facilitate the easy transfer of the first stage material to the secondary stage, the proper designing of the primary stage (first stage) facility is desirable as illustrated in figure 5.5. Failure to do so will result into poor compost. The temperature in the secondary stage unit will begin to raise as beneficial bacterial activity begins and will peak in 5 to 10 days.

6.2 Waste water Management

- The waste water generated from the cleaning operations (after each batch removal) shall be collected in appropriate holding tank and put to use in the green belt. Efforts may be made for dry cleaning of the sheds with use of disinfectant so as to avoid use of water.

- Water use and spills from drinking devices shall be reduced by preventing overflow or leakages and using calibrated, well-maintained self-watering devices;
- Improve drainage, reduce standing water and water ditches to control mosquitoes and flies
- Use of pressure pumps, hot water or steam in cleaning activities instead of cold water and plain water scrubs may be encouraged to improve sanitation and reduce the quantities of wash water.

6.3 Other issues

- *Control of Flies:* Proper treatment and disposal of manure, ventilation of sheds, control of temperature, good sanitation, swift repairs of leaks, avoidance of feed spills, prompt removal of broken eggs and dead birds shall be ensured for control of flies in the poultry farms. The farm should have provisions of wire nettings, traps, fly-repellents, insecticides etc.
- *Control of Rodents:* Methods for the control of rodents may include: i) Exclusion ii) Trapping Glue boards iii) Tracking powder iv) rodent proof doors and windows to eliminate rodents/pest infestation.
- As per Bureau of Indian Standards 1374: 2007, on poultry feed specifies that the use of antibiotic growth promoters is not recommended in poultry feed, hence use of antibiotics should not be mixed with feed or administered for non-therapeutic purposes without prescription for diseased birds. ***Regulation for use of antibiotics shall be regulated as per the advisory/directions issued by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Ministry of Health and the Drug Controller General of India.***

7 Siting Criteria

New Poultry Farms (Set up after issuance of Guidelines) should preferably be established

- 500 m from residential zone in order to avoid nuisance caused due to odour& flies.
- 100 m from major water course like River, Lakes, canals and drinking water source like wells, summer storage tanks, in order to avoid contamination due to leakages/spillages, if any.
- 100 m from national Highway (NH) and 50 m from State Highway (SH) in order to avoid nuisance caused due to odour& flies.
- 10-15 m from rural roads/internal roads/village pagdandis.
- The Poultry sheds should not be located within 10 m from farm boundary for cross ventilation and odour dispersion.

8.0 Regulatory/ Monitoring Mechanism for Poultry Farms

- SPCBs/PCCs shall upload Environmental Guidelines on their website.
- Guidelines shall be applicable to all the category of Poultry Farms.
- Poultry Farms handling birds above 25,000 at single location will have to obtain consent to establish (CTE) and consent for operate (CTO) under the Water Act, 1974 & Air Act 1981 from State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee.
- The Poultry Farms are categorized under “Green” Category, therefore validity of consent will be 15 yrs.
- Animal Husbandry Department of the State/Districts to assist the poultry farms for implementation of Guidelines.



Annexure III

Speed Post

CPCB/IPC-V/NGT/Poultry/2022

Dated: 10.01.2022

To

The Member Secretary
All SPCBs/PCCs
(List enclosed)

Sub: Environmental Guidelines for poultry farms in light of Hon'ble NGT order dated 10.12.2021 in the matter of O.A. No. 320/2021 of Gauri Maulekhi Vs. Union of India & Ors.

Sir,

Kindly refer to Environmental Guidelines for poultry farms issued by CPCB vide letter dated 17.08.2021 in light of Hon'ble NGT order 16.09.2020 in the matter of O.A. No. 681 of 2017 (Gauri Maulekhi Vs. Union of India & Ors).

Further Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 10.12.2021 in the matter of O.A. No. 320/2021 (Gauri Maulekhi Vs. Union of India & Ors) has directed to make these guidelines applicable for poultry farms having birds above 5000. Accordingly a copy of Environmental Guidelines is attached in compliance of Hon'ble NGT Order for implementation.

These Guidelines are also available on CPCB website at the following link:

<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdf.php?id=TGF0ZXN0RmlsZS8zNDZfMTY0MTgwNzg1Nl9tZWVpYXBob3RvMjg2MjgucGRm>

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully

(S.K. Gupta)

AD & Div. Head IPC-V

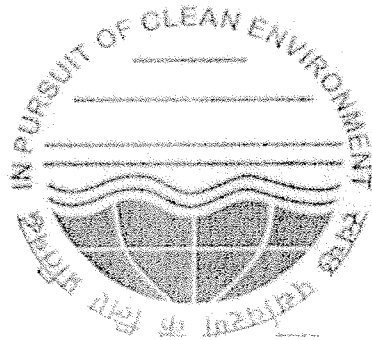
Encl.: as above

Copy to:

- 1 PS to CCB : for information of CCB, please.
- 2 PS to MS : for information of MS, please.
- 3 The Regional Directorates ; for information & follow-up, please.
Central Pollution Control Board,
(List enclosed)

(S.K. Gupta)

Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms



**Central Pollution Control Board
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar
Delhi-110032**

(January 2022)

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1.0 Background

Guidelines for Poultry farms were developed in the year 2015, which was applicable to poultry farms handling above 1.0 lac birds. As per CPCB classification of industrial sectors, 'Poultry, Hatchery and Piggery' are categorized into 'Green'.

In the matter of O.A. No. 681 of 2017, Hon'ble NGT, passed the following order on 16th September, 2020:

'...Accordingly we allow this application and direct CPCB to revisit the guidelines for categorizing the poultry farms as Green category and exempting their regulation under Air, Water & EP Act. CPCB may issue fresh appropriate orders within three months and in if no further order is issued, all the State PCBs/PCCs will require enforcement of consent mechanism under the above acts after 01.01.2021 for all Poultry Farms above 5000 birds in the same manner as is being done for farms having more than one lac birds. Till then, even without such consent mechanism, the state PCBs/PCCs may strictly enforce the environmental norms and take appropriate remedial action against the any violation of water, air and soil standards statutorily laid down.'

Subsequent to the aforesaid order, Hon'ble NGT (PB) in the matter of O.A. No. 320/2021 (Gauri Maulekhi Vs. Union of India &Ors) passed the following order on 10.12.2021

"...Accordingly, we direct that while the impugned guidelines be immediately enforced, all poultry farms above 5000 birds will also be covered by the said guidelines latest from 1.1.2023. The siting criteria should apply to all consents/renewals hereafter for the above size of the poultry farms. CPCB may issue revised guidelines to all the State PCBs/PCCs in terms of the above order within one month."

2.0 Poultry farming

Poultry farms refers to breeding, hatcheries, layer and broiler farms. Poultry farming is the rearing of domesticated birds such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, goose etc. for the purpose of farming meat or eggs for food. Chickens raised for eggs are usually called laying hens or layers while chickens raised for meat are often called broilers. Chicken are most numerous and popular domesticated poultry species, while other species, e.g. duck, goose form a very small proportion of activities in comparison. Poultry farming in India has witnessed a spectacular growth and transformed itself into a vibrant agri- industry. The leading states having poultry farms are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam, Haryana, Kerala and Odisha.

As per the 20th livestock census carried out by Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, the state-wise number of poultries (birds) are given below:

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Nos of Poultries (birds) in millions
1	Andhra Pradesh	107.863
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.599
3	Assam	46.712
4	Bihar State	16.525
5	Chhattisgarh	18.711
6	Goa State	0.349
7	Gujarat	21.773
8	Haryana State	46.24
9	Himachal Pradesh	1.341
10	Jammu & Kashmir	7.366
11	Jharkhand	24.832
12	Karnataka State	59.494
13	Kerala State	29.771
14	Madhya Pradesh	16.659
15	Maharashtra	74.297
16	Manipur	5.897
17	Meghalaya	5.379
18	Mizoram	2.047
19	Nagaland	2.838
20	Odisha	27.439
21	Punjab	17.649
22	Rajasthan	14.622
23	Sikkim State	0.580
24	Tamil Nadu	120.781
25	Telangana State	79.999
26	Tripura	4.168
27	Uttar Pradesh	12.515
28	Uttarakhand	5.018
29	West Bengal	77.322
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.289
31	Chandigarh	0.048
32	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.089
33	Daman & Diu	0.018
34	Delhi	0.043
35	Lakshadweep	0.226
36	Pondicherry	0.236
Total		851.809

3.0 Poultry Farming Process

The poultry farming consist of the following unit operations.

- Breeder Farms (Breeding)

- Hatchery Farm (Hatching)
- Layer farm &
- Broilers

3.1 Breeder Farms(Breeding)

Breeder farms specialize in the production of fertilized eggs for either broiler or egg production. Specific ratios of male/female breeders are used to ensure the fertility of hatching eggs. In India both layer and broiler breeders are predominantly housed in cages and the fertile eggs are obtained by artificial insemination. The eggs are collected daily, assessed for quality and stored in plastic / pulp trays in a controlled environment before being transferred to the hatchery for the production of commercial chicks. At the end of their productive phase, breeders are removed and sold for meat processing or byproducts.

3.2 Hatchery farms (Hatching)

The eggs collected from Breeder farms are hatched at special hatcheries. These are centralized facilities and receive fertilized eggs from its own or several other breeder farms. The eggs are stored for a period of 4 to 10 days before being placed in incubators that control temperature and humidity to stimulate embryonic development. Hatching typically takes 21 days. The chicks are vaccinated, graded for uniform quality and dispatched to destinations for further rearing. The day-old broiler chicks are delivered to broiler farms straight run (un-sexed). Chicks from egg laying stock are gender sorted and the female chicks alone are delivered for egg production while male chicks are killed and disposed-off.

3.3 Layer (Egg production)

In the layer farms, egg laying hens are reared for egg production. Typical egg laying cycle starts around 18 weeks age of the bird and continues upto 72–75 weeks of age and thereafter diminished gradually to become uneconomical. Birds less than six months of age are termed as pullets and are raised either on floor or on the cages little away from adult farms located in the same or at different premises. The birds are kept and raised in three different houses based on its age i.e. a) Chick house: 0 to 45 days, b) Grower House: 45 days to 18 weeks and c) Layer House: 18 weeks to 72 to 75 weeks. The birds start laying eggs from 18 weeks onwards.

There are two phases of growing period i.e. brooding and growing phase. The brooding phase extends from day one to three to four weeks depending upon the season of rearing. During this period, the birds are provided extra warmth in an enclosed quarter by means of gas brooders, electric hovers, infra-red bulbs or coal brooders. After this initial period, the birds are moved to growing establishments which are typically open houses. The brooding and growing houses may be deep litter type or cage type. After the completion of the growing phase, the birds are moved to laying cages where they remain there till the end of their laying cycle (72 to 75 weeks of age).

3.4 Broiler (Meat Production)

Broiler birds are raised especially for meat production for 40 to 45 days or up to weight gain of 2.5 to 3.0 Kg. Most of broiler birds gain slaughter weight (2.5 kg to 3.0 kg) within 40 to 45 days. Broilers are most commonly reared in deep litter shed, where feed and water is given by hanging feeder and watering. After cleaning of the deep litter shed, rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings, and dried leaves bed of 3" thickness is prepared by scratching. Chicks are moved in the shed freely. Depending on the weight of the bird, the birds are sold for slaughtering from 40th to 45th days.

The rearing of birds is of two types:

3.4.1 Deep Litter System

Birds are kept on litter floor which is covered with different kinds of agro materials like rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings and dried leaves etc. depending on their availability. Initially, the depth of the agro material is approx 5 to 6 cm and then topped up by another 5 to 6 cm as the birds grow in size. The birds may remain on this system upto six weeks in case of broilers from where they go for slaughtering. In case of layer, they remain upto 18 weeks of age or may be shifted to cages. The majority of broilers are housed in deep litter sheds. Feed and water are provided manually in small farms and with automatic equipment in large farms.

3.4.2 Cage System

This is widely practiced system for housing commercial layers, breeder layers and of late even broiler breeders. The birds are generally housed in cages erected on raised platforms in open sheds. These cages are arranged in rows. Three or four birds are accommodated in each cage with provision of drinking water and feeding. The water is provided through a nipple fitted to a closed pipe running at head height of the bird. Feed is placed in a trough attached to the front of the cage and distributed often manually or by automation. The droppings of birds slip through perforations instantaneously and are collected on the floor.

4.0 Classification of Poultry Farms

Backyard poultry is typically owned by small and marginal farmer and comprises of few birds, largely for self-consumption and very small quantities get commercially sold. The poultry farming practiced by the rural and tribal farmers under free range or backyard or semi-intensive systems is usually referred to as rural poultry farming.

Based on the number of handling of birds, Poultry farms may be classified into three categories.

- Small (5,000-25,000 bird)
- Medium (above 25,000-1,00,000 birds).
- Large (above 1,00,000 birds)

The poultry farms under small category are in un-organized sector run by economically weaker farmers and are of rural background.

5.0 Environmental issues & Current practices to address the environmental issues in Poultry Farms

Environmental nuisance arising from poultry farms is due to the generation of NH_3 & H_2S gases causing odor, dust from feed mill, storage & management of Solid Waste (Manure, Dead Birds and Hatchery Waste) also causing odour & water from cleaning operations. Breeding of flies and rodents etc. are the other issues in poultry farms.

(i) Gaseous emission (NH_3 & H_2S) and Feed Mill Dust

- The gaseous emission viz Ammonia (NH_3) and Hydrogen Sulphide (H_2S) are emanated from the excreta generated from the birds causes odour. The odour is produced due to anaerobic conditions in the litter occurs due to its storage at one place for longer period. The general practice followed by poultry farms to control odour is by maintaining good ventilation and free flow of air.
- Dust is generated from the feed mill operation during mixing and grinding of various ingredients of feed. The feed mill operations are typically located inside the mill buildings. Dust extraction systems are generally used to collect the dust and to improve the shop floor environment.

(ii) Solid Waste

Sources of solid waste are (i) Poultry droppings/Manure/Litter (ii) Dead Birds & (iii) Hatchery Waste.

- In case of cage system, excreta are collected just below the bird cages directly on ground, made of stone slabs or concrete or impermeable compacted clay. Litter is collected and kept dry by maintaining good ventilation and free air flow to undergo aerobic composting. The manure is removed once in four to six months & sold to the farmers. In deep litter system, excreta are collected in bed made up of agro residue (rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings, and dried leaves) itself. Once in a day or two days the bed is scratched for mixing of litter. Once the chicken is sold for meat, the bed (rice husk, saw dust, groundnut hulls, wood shavings, and dried leaves) is removed once the cycle of 42 to 45 days gets over along with the excreta and sold as

manure. The shed is washed and lime is applied as disinfectant and allows the area for quarantine period.

- Death of the birds in poultry farms is a common phenomenon and their disposal is an issue. Dead birds cause nuisance, odor and aesthetic problems like disease, insect, rodent and predator problems if the birds are not disposed immediately. Dead birds are either burned at relatively high temperatures using different fuels which causing atmospheric pollution and also odour nuisance or buried in the burial pit in the premises.
- During hatching operation, large quantity of solid waste comprising of egg shells, unhatched eggs, dead embryos and chickens and a viscous liquid from eggs etc is generated. This waste is disposed through open burning or through rendering plant.

(iii) Waste water generation from cleaning operation

- Water in poultry farms is used for drinking of birds, sprinkling during the summer and for cleaning sheds and equipment in between batch replacement.
- As such there is no process waste water generation from the poultry farming. However, wastewater is generated during cleaning operations. The waste water is collected in holding tank and utilized in gardening in the premises.

(iv) Other issues:

- Breeding of flies and rodents, etc. are the other issues in poultry farms

6.0 Environmental Guidelines for Poultry Farms farms:

Following are the revised guidelines addressing environmental issues of Poultry Farms.

6.1 Gaseous emission (NH₃ & H₂S) and Feed Mill Dust

(i) Minimization of odour/gaseous pollution

- Proper ventilation and free flow of air over manure collection points to keep it dry shall be ensured.
- Manure should be protected from Run-off water and from unwanted pests/insects.
- Well-designed storage facilities should be provided to contain manure /litter.
- Carcasses of dead birds shall be promptly collected on regular basis and disposed appropriately without damaging the environment as per the prescribed methods under section 6.2 (iii) of the guidelines.

(ii) *Dust from Feed Mills*

- Feed mill and Go-down should be located on a well elevated ground preferably near the entrance of the farm and isolated from other poultry sheds.
- Dust collector system should be installed to control emissions from mixing and grinding section of the feed mill.
- Workers in the feed mill shall be provided with dust masks to protect them from dust.
- Provision for vehicle tyre dip shall be made at the entrance to remove impurities/dust carried by vehicle tyres;
- Floor of the feed mill and Go-down shall be concrete and raised above the ground level by a minimum of 2 feet.

6.2 Management of solid wastes (Solid Wastes contains Manure/litter, Hatchery Debris and Dead Birds)

(i) *Manure handling and disposal*

- Proper ventilation and free flow of air over manure collection points to keep it dry (by blowing dry air over it or by conveying ventilation air through the manure pit) shall be ensured to prevent obnoxious odour in the area.
- Poultry housing shall be ventilated allowing sufficient supply of fresh air to remove humidity, dissipate heat and prevent build-up of gases such as methane, carbon dioxide, ammonia, etc.
- Excreta shall be scratched at least once in two days as needed for mixing of litter and to keep bedding material (rice husk, saw dust, wood shavings etc.) dry in case of deep litter houses the waste material. This waste shall be utilised for composting after completion of the cycle.
- Manure collected under cages on high raised platforms shall be stored for further processing and utilized by using following options:

Sl. No.	Poultry Farms	Methods for Disposal/Utilization of manure
1.	Small Poultry Farms	• Composting
2.	Medium & Large Poultry Farms	• Composting or Biogas production for disposal/utilization of manure/litter • Combination of any of the methods for disposal/utilization of manure/litter
3.	Poultry Farms in Cluster	• Common facilities for Biogas production or Composting or their combination

- Land application of manure to the nutritional requirements of soil and crop shall be balanced.
- The litter / manure storage facilities shall be minimum 2 m above the water table and of adequate size based on type and number of birds handled. Its base should be constructed with stone slabs or concrete or impermeable compacted clay.

- Manure shall be protected from run off water and cover it to avoid dust and odours in storage pits. The dry manure dump shall be covered with permanent roof or with plastic / similar material to prevent air emissions and the precipitation falling on it.
- Mortalities on farm by proper animal care and disease prevention program shall be reduced.
- Proper facilities (Burial Pit/Composting/Incineration) shall be provided for Collection, storage, transport and disposal of dead birds
- Domestic hazardous wastes (vaccines, vials, medicines, syringes, etc.) shall be disposed as per provisions of "Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016".

Composting of Manure:

- Proper mixing the waste with a carbon rich material (e.g., paddy straw / husk, wood shavings) should be done in the pits. Carbon to nitrogen ratios of 20-25:1 is usually recommended. Pure manure can also be composted following the procedure and monitoring all parameters. The composting facilities may be designed through expert institutions in the field as per the size of poultry farms.
- Periodic stirring of compost material should be done for its proper mixing.
- Moisture levels should be maintained between 35 to 50%.
- Temperature monitoring should be done to determine composting conditions.

(ii) Hatchery Waste

- Efforts shall be made in converting the shells to animal feed to supply as a source of calcium, especially for poultry feeds.
- Extrusion with soya bean meal can be used to make a shell/hatchery meal.
- Un-hatched eggs shall be disposed of by composting or rendering.

(iii) Dead Birds Disposal

The dead birds arising from day to day farm activity shall be separated from other live birds promptly and stored in closed containers and disposed off within 24 hours by following any of the disposal methods.

A) Burial Method:

- The dead birds arising from day to day farm activity should be separated from other live birds promptly and should be stored in closed containers \ disposed off within 24 hours
- The dead bird burial pit shall be of minimum 3 to 4 m in depth and 0.8 to 1.2 m diameter and this size may vary as per the capacity of poultry farm and shall be located above minimum 3 m from the ground water table.

- The dead bird burial pit shall be provided with a vermin/fly proof cover made up of wooden / metal / concrete having a central operable lid of proper size for day to day dropping of carcasses.
- Carcasses shall be covered by a thin layer of soil (at least 40 cm deep) along with calcium hydroxide.
- When the pit is full, a compacted soil cover of 0.5 m shall be provided with the top of the covered soil well above the ground level.
- The distance between any two burial pits should not be less than 1 m.

B) Composting

- The composting facility shall not be located within 300 m from the nearest dwelling and 100 m from any well or water course.
- The capacity of the composting facility shall be sufficient to handle the average mortalities on the farm.
- The roof of the composting facility shall be permanent with concrete bottom.
- The composting facility shall be secured with link mesh all around raised to a height of 1.5 m above the ground level to avoid the predation by straw dogs etc.
- A proper mixture of smaller and larger particle sizes to obtain an optimum air exchange within the mixture and build-up of temperature.
- Moisture content of the composting pile shall be approximately 60%. More than this may result in odour problems and less than this will reduce the efficiency of the composting process.
- Carbon and nitrogen are vital nutrients for the growth and reproduction of bacteria and fungi. The carbon-to-nitrogen ratio shall be in the range of 20:1 and 25:1 for proper composting. This is obtained by carefully balancing the dead bird and carbon sources.
- The optimum temperature for composting is 54 to 66°C which pasteurizes the compost. If temperature falls below 49°C after a week or so, the material should be moved to the secondary stage unit. To facilitate the easy transfer of the first stage material to the secondary stage, the proper designing of the primary stage (first stage) facility is desirable as illustrated in figure 5.5. Failure to do so will result into poor compost. The temperature in the secondary stage unit will begin to raise as beneficial bacterial activity begins and will peak in 5 to 10 days.

6.3 Waste water Management

- The waste water generated from the cleaning operations (after each batch removal) shall be collected in appropriate holding tank and put to use in the green belt. Efforts may be made for dry cleaning of the sheds with use of disinfectant so as to avoid use of water.

- Water use and spills from drinking devices shall be reduced by preventing overflow or leakages and using calibrated, well-maintained self-watering devices;
- Improve drainage, reduce standing water and water ditches to control mosquitoes and flies
- Use of pressure pumps, hot water or steam in cleaning activities instead of cold water and plain water scrubs may be encouraged to improve sanitation and reduce the quantities of wash water.

6.4 Other issues

- *Control of Flies:* Proper treatment and disposal of manure, ventilation of sheds, control of temperature, good sanitation, swift repairs of leaks, avoidance of feed spills, prompt removal of broken eggs and dead birds shall be ensured for control of flies in the poultry farms. The farm should have provisions of wire nettings, traps, fly-repellents, insecticides etc.
- *Control of Rodents:* Methods for the control of rodents may include: i) Exclusion ii) Trapping Glue boards iii) Tracking powder iv) rodent proof doors and windows to eliminate rodents/pest infestation.
- As per Bureau of Indian Standards 1374: 2007, on poultry feed specifies that the use of antibiotic growth promoters is not recommended in poultry feed, hence use of antibiotics should not be mixed with feed or administered for non-therapeutic purposes without prescription for diseased birds. ***Regulation for use of antibiotics shall be regulated as per the advisory/directions issued by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Ministry of Health and the Drug Controller General of India.***

7 Siting Criteria

New Poultry Farms (Set up after issuance of Guidelines) should preferably be established

- 500 m from residential zone in order to avoid nuisance caused due to odour& flies
- 100 m from major water course like River, Lakes, canals and drinking water source like wells, summer storage tanks, in order to avoid contamination due to leakages/spillages, if any.
- 100 m from national Highway (NH) and 50 m from State Highway (SH) in order to avoid nuisance caused due to odour& flies.
- 10-15 m from rural roads/internal roads/village pagdandis
- The Poultry sheds should not be located within 10 m from farm boundary for cross ventilation and odour dispersion

8.0 Regulatory/ Monitoring Mechanism for Poultry Farms

- SPCBs/PCCs shall upload Environmental Guidelines on their website.
- Guidelines shall be applicable to all the category of Poultry Farms.
- Poultry Farms handling birds above 25,000 at single location will have to obtain consent to establish (CTE) and consent for operate (CTO) under the Water Act, 1974 & Air Act 1981 from State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee.
- As per the directions of Hon'ble NGT dated 10.12.2021 (O.A. No. 320/2021: Gauri Maulekhi Vs. Union of India & Ors, poultry farms handling above 5,000 birds at single location shall also obtain consent to establish (CTE) and consent for operate (CTO) under the Water Act, 1974 & Air Act 1981 from State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee w.e.f. 01.01.2023
- The Poultry Farms are categorized under "Green" Category, therefore validity of consent will be 15 yrs.
- Animal Husbandry Department of the State/Districts to assist the poultry farms for implementation of Guidelines.

ITEM NO.19

COURT NO.5

SECTION XVII

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Annexure IV

Civil Appeal No(s). 2480/2023

THE POULTRY FARMERS AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No.69940/2023-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT and IA No.69938/2023-STAY APPLICATION)

WITH

C.A. No. 2523/2023 (XVII)

(IA No.72401/2023-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED
JUDGMENT and IA No.72399/2023-STAY APPLICATION)

Date : 28-04-2023 This appeal was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AJAY RASTOGI
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE BELA M. TRIVEDI

For Appellant(s) Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vishal Khattar, Adv.
Mr. Shekhar Raj Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Vandana Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Jinendra Jain, AOR

Mr. Arijit Prasad, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Paras Dutta, Adv.
Mr. Sanjay Kumar Visen, AOR

For Respondent(s)

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

One of the submissions raised for consideration is
that as per the revised guidelines issued by the
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in August 2021

followed in January 2022, the Poultry Farms handling birds above 25,000 in a single location have to obtain consent to establish and operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act 1974/the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, from the respective State/Central Board.

However, in the absence of any further guidelines being issued by the Government/competent authority and in the absence of any fact finding report from the experts available on record, the NGT, on its own, under its order impugned has substituted the requirement from above 25,000 to above 5,000 and that was circulated by the Government under its guidelines of January, 2022. Counsel submits that in the absence of any expert report being made available, the order passed by the Tribunal in substituting the guidelines of Government of India needs to be relooked by this Court.

Issue notice, returnable in four weeks.

In the meantime, guidelines of January 2022

"8.0 As per the directions of Hon'ble NGT dated 10.12.2021 (O.A. No. 320/2021 : Gauri Maulekhi Vs. Union of India & Ors., poultry farms handling above 5,000 birds at single location shall also obtain consent to establish (CTE) and consent for operate (CTO) under the Water Act, 1974 & Air Act 1981 from

State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control
Committee w.e.f. 01.01.2023." until further orders,
shall remain stayed.

(SONIA BHASIN)
COURT MASTER(SH)

(VIRENDER SINGH)
BRANCH OFFICER

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI.
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 57 of 2026(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Dhondiba Vithal Kharavat & Anr
....Applicant(s)**

Versus

**Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Ors.
...Respondent(s)**

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE
RESPONDENT NO. 02 i.e. CENTRAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**


R. THIRUNAVUKARASU
ADVOCATE
Flat C, 2nd Floor,
No.9, Thandavarayan Street,
Purasawalkam, Chennai-600 007.
Mobile: 94440 12986

**M/s.R.Thirunavukarasu
Counsel for the 2nd Respondent**