

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI
Original Application No.58 of 2025

G. Chidambaram,
S/o. Gurunathan,
No.3/22, Muthuramalingam Street,
Melaputhaneri,
Tirunelveli – 627351.

.....Applicant

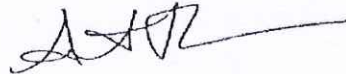
-Vs-

The State of Tamil Nadu,
Represented by The Principal Chief Secretary
to Govt of Tamilnadu, Secretariat,
Chennai and Others.

....Respondents

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Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.S.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.

Report submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ by the Second and Seventh Respondents - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) in Original Application No. 58 of 2025 which is filed by G. Chidambaram, S/o. Gurunathan, Muthuramalingam Street Melaputhaneri, Tirunelveli against The State of Tamil Nadu, Represented by The Principal Chief Secretary to Govt of Tamilnadu, Secretariat, Chennai and others.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) has directed the respondents to file their respective replies/reports vide order dated 4.7.2025 and to comply the Hon'ble Order, the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, R.Gunaseelan S/o Rajiah submits the report on behalf of the 2nd and 7th respondents herein.

A. The OA was filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai with the following prayers:

“a. to direct the 6th respondent to clear the Bio-Medical Waste in proper prescribed manner as per Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and further, to impose penal charges to the 6th Respondent for their illegal activities of disposing and burning Bio-Medical Waste into their own Hospital on 26.02.2025”.

B. A news article was published in “The Indian Express” on 27.02.2025 stating that biomedical wastes and plastic wastes are burnt inside the premises of M/s. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli and the same being hazardous to nearby residents. Based on the same, the Health Care facility was inspected by the officials of the EE (FS), TNPCB and O/o, DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli on 28.02.2025 and the following were observed.

- i) The mixed solid wastes such as plastic covers, food waste, food pouches, etc., generated from the health care facility were found to be dumped and burnt inside the HCF's premises near the cancer care unit. A few empty medicine bottles & medical masks were also found mixed with general solid waste.
- ii) The solid waste storage area was found to be over flowed and the segregated wastes were found dumped in open area.
- iii) The biomedical waste storage area was found to be well maintained and records were maintained properly with respect to the disposal of biomedical waste to the Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF), M/s. Aseptic Bio-Medical Waste Management Systems.

C. Complaints were received from Thiru. Mari Sankar and Thiru.G. Chidambaram in the O/o, DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli on 05.03.2025 against the Health Care Facility (HCF) M/s. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital stating that the biomedical wastes are burnt without following the Biomedical Waste (Management) Rules, 2016. Based on the complaints, the following instructions were issued to the Health Care facility vide the 7th Respondent DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli letter dated: 25.03.2025. (Enclosed as Annexure - 1)

- i) The solid waste storage area should be properly maintained so as to store and segregate the solid wastes generated in the health care facility.
- ii) The solid waste shall be segregated as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and disposed accordingly without dumping / burning the wastes in the premises.

- iii) The biomedical wastes if any found mixed along with the general solid waste shall be segregated and disposed only through the common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facility.

The action taken details were sent to both the petitioners (Thiru. Mari Sankar and Thiru.G.Chidambaram) vide the 7th Respondent DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli letter dated 25.03.2025.

D. Based on the application filed before the Hon'ble Tribunal (South Zone), the HCF M/s. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital was again inspected by the officials of the O/o, DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli on 12.06.2025 and the following were observed.

- i) The Health Care Facility was found under operation.
- ii) The bio medical waste generated from various blocks of the HCF was collected and found stored in colour coded bins. The bio medical waste storage area was found well maintained, and records were maintained properly. The segregated biomedical wastes are found to be handed over to CBMWTF M/s. Aseptic Systems Bio Medical Waste Management Company.
- iii) The mixed general solid wastes were found dumped inside the hospital premises in an earmarked location.
- iv) No Bio-Medical Wastes were found to be mixed in the general solid waste handling area.
- v) The previously dumped solid wastes near cancer care unit were found to be removed
- vi) It was informed that the solid waste segregation process was carried out by a private agency and segregated solid wastes were handed over to Tirunelveli Corporation for further treatment and disposal.

- vii) The solid waste collecting bins provided by the Tirunelveli Corporation were found inadequate.
- viii) The sewage and trade effluent generated from the HCF was found disposed into the public sewer.

E. Vide letters Dated: 04.07.2025 and 24.11.2025, the DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli has recommended the 2nd Respondent Chairperson, TNPCB to issue certain direction to the HCF under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as amended for compliance.

F. Board proceedings dated: 24.12.2025, (Copy Enclosed as Annexure-II) directions under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended was issued to the HCF for compliance within a period of one month.

GROUND:

1. In response to grounds in Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, the applicant has exaggerated the facts and made a misleading apprehension that bio-medical waste are stored inside the 6th respondent premises and the same is denied by the answering respondent and put the applicant to strict proof of the same.
2. In response to paragraph No. 8, bio-medical waste accumulating in the premises of the 6th respondent are found to be handed over to CBMWTF, M/s. Aseptic Systems Bio Medical Waste Management Company and only solid waste are found dumped inside the hospital premises in an earmarked location. Further, the Board issued suitable instructions and directions to the 6th respondent to comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended and take necessary steps to effectively manage the sewage and trade effluent generated within the premises of 6th respondent.

This report is submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in compliance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal. The TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) will abide by all such directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Dated at Chennai, on this the 11th day of May , 2026.


JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI - 600 032.



TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

From,

Thiru. D.M. KrishnaBabu, M.E.,
District Environmental Engineer,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
30/2, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Pettai,
Tirunelveli - 627 010.

To,

Dean,
M/s. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital,
Highground,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District - 627 011

Letter No. DEE /TNPCCB/TNV/F-TNV0007/2025 Dated :25.03.2025

Sir,

Sub: TNPCCB – O/o. DEE, Tirunelveli – M/s. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, S.F.No. 1694/6, Vijayaragavamuthaliyarsat Village, Palayamkottai Taluk and Tirunelveli District – Disposal of biomedical and plastic waste in open area and burning the waste - Instructions issued – Reg.

Ref: Inspection of the unit by the officials of this on 28.02.2025

I invite your kind attention that based on the news article published in The Indian Express dated 27.02.2025 stating that Biomedical and plastic wastes were burnt in Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital the Health care facility was inspected on 28.02.2025 and the following were observed.

1. The mixed solid wastes such as plastic covers, food waste, food pouches, etc., generated from the health care facility were found to be dumped and burnt inside the HCF's premises near the cancer care unit.
2. Empty medicine bottles & Medical mask were found mixed with general solid waste.
3. The solid waste storage area were found to be over flowed and the segregated wastes were dumped in open area.
4. The biomedical waste storage area was found to be well maintained and records were maintained properly with respect to the disposal of biomedical waste to M/s.

அனுப்பப்பட்டது Septic Systems.

நாள் 16.4.25

In view of above, the following instructions are issued to the health care facility.

1. The solid waste storage area should be properly maintained so as to store and segregate the solid wastes generated in the health care facility.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Proceeding No. T3/TNPCB/F.0344/ TNV/RL /2022 Dated : 24.12.2025

Sub: TNPCB – Industries – M/s.Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, S.F.No. 1694/6, Vijayaragavamuthaliyarsat Village, Palayamkottai Taluk, Tirunelveli District - Directions issued under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended for compliance-Orders Issued-Regarding.

Ref: 1. Letter No.: DEE/TNPCB/TNV/ F.TNV 0007/2025, Dated: 25.03.2025.
2. Letter No.F.0344 TNV/TNPCB/ Tech Misc.184/2025, Dated:24.11.2025.

Whereas, a news article was published in The Indian Express on 27.02.2025 regarding burning of biomedical wastes and plastic wastes inside the premises of M/s.Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli causing health hazard to nearby residents.

Whereas, the Health Care Facility (HCF) M/s .Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, S.F. No. 1694/6, Vijayaragavamuthaliyarsat Village, Palayamkottai Taluk, Tirunelveli District was inspected by the officials of O/o, District Environmental Engineer (DEE), TNPCB, Tirunelveli and O/o, EE(FS), TNPCB, Tirunelveli on 28.02.2025 and the following were observed:

1. The mixed solid wastes such as plastic covers, food waste, food pouches, etc., generated from the HCF were found to be dumped and burnt inside the HCF's premises near the cancer care unit. A few empty medicine bottles & Medical masks were also found mixed with general solid waste.
2. The solid waste storage area was found to overflow and the segregated wastes were found dumped in an open area.
3. The biomedical waste storage area was found to be well maintained and records were maintained properly with respect to the disposal of biomedical waste to M/s. Aseptic Systems.

Whereas, further complaints were received in the O/o, DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli on 27.02.2025 and 05.03.2025 against the HCF that the biomedical wastes are burnt without following the Biomedical Waste (Management) Rules, 2016.

Whereas, vide reference 1st cited certain instructions were issued to the HCF

Whereas, the petitioner Thiru.G.Chidambaram, S/o.Gurunathan, No.3/22, Muthuramalingam Street, Melaputhaneri, Tirunelveli has filed an application O.A No.58 of 2025, before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal at Chennai(SZ) with a prayer to direct the HCF (M/s.Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital) to clear the biomedical waste in proper prescribed manner as per Bio Medical Waste Management Rules,2016 and to impose penal charges to the HCF for their illegal activities of disposing and burning Bio Medical Waste in their own hospital.

Whereas, based on the above, the HCF was again inspected by the officials of the O/o, DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli on 12.06.2025 and the following were observed:

1. The HCF was found under operation.
2. The bio medical waste generated from various blocks of the HCF was collected and found stored in colour- coded bins. The segregated biomedical waste was found to be handed over to CBMWTF, M/s.Aseptic Systems Bio Medical Waste Management Company.
3. The mixed general solid wastes were found dumped inside the hospital premises in an earmarked location.
4. No Bio-Medical Wastes were found to be mixed in the general solid waste handling area.
5. The previously dumped solid wastes near the cancer care unit were found to be removed.
6. It was informed that the solid waste segregation process was carried out by a private agency and segregated solid wastes were handed over to Tirunelveli Corporation for further treatment and disposal.
7. The solid waste collecting bins provided by the Tirunelveli Corporation were found inadequate.
8. The sewage and trade effluent generated from the HCF was found disposed into the public sewer.

Whereas, vide reference 2nd cited the DEE, TNPCB, Tirunelveli has recommended to issue certain directions to the HCF under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as amended for compliance.

In view of the above and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended, the following directions are hereby issued to the HCF M/s. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

2. The HCF shall maintain the general solid waste storage area so as to store and segregate the solid waste generated in the HCF before disposal.
3. The HCF shall ensure that the biomedical waste should not get mixed with the Municipal Solid Waste under any circumstances.
4. The HCF shall publish the daily BMW collection and disposal details & annual returns under BMW (Management) Rules, 2016 in its website immediately.
5. The HCF shall take necessary steps to establish a full fledged Sewage treatment Plant to treat the sewage generated in its premises and shall furnish a time bound action plan for the same.

Failure to comply with the said directions will attract as per the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 as amended.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

For Chairperson 26/12

To
The Dean,
M/s. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital,
Highround, Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District- 627 011.

U/S
26.12.2005

Copy To

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer(M)
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Tirunelveli.
2. The District Environmental Engineer
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Tirunelveli,- For follow up and necessary action.
3. Technical File.

Copy Submitted to

1. The Principal Secretary to Government
Health and Family Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009. - For information
2. The Director, - For information

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREENTRIBUNAL SZ AT CHENNAI
Original Application No.58 of 2025**

G. Chidambaram,
S/o. Gurunathan,
No.3/22, Muthuramalingam Street,
Melaputhaneri,
Tirunelveli – 627351.

-Vs-

The State of Tamil Nadu,
Represented by The Principal Chief
Secretary to Govt of
Tamilnadu, Secretariat,
Chennai and Others.

... Respondents

**Report filed on behalf of the Second and
Seventh Respondents – Tamil Nadu Pollution
Control Board.**

Date of filing : 11.05.2026

Date of hearing : 28.07.2026

Thiru.S.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate for 2nd and 7th Respondent: TNPCB

