

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 95 of 2024(SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the news item in India Today dt:
18.02.2024 titled, "10 killed in blast at Tamil Nadu
firecracker unit several injured".

WITH

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR - VIRUDHUNAGAR

INDEX

S. No.	Date	Description	Page No.
1	07.07.2025	Report filed by the District Collector, Virudhunagar	1-7

(Note: The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

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

**Original Application No.95 of 2024 (SZ)
[Earlier O.A.No.174 of 2025 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in India Today dt: 18.02.2024 titled, "10 Killed in blast at Tamil Nadu firecracker unit several injured"

Versus

Central Pollution Control Board and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE /
DISTRICT COLLECTOR, VIRUDHUNAGAR
RESPONDENT**

I, Dr.N.O.Sukhaputra, S/o Obanna, aged about 39 years, presently working as District Collector, Virudhunagar District files the report as follows.

1.It is respectfully submitted that, a fire accident occurred on 17.02.2024 at 12.30 P.M., at M/s. Asok Sparklers Factory, located in 304/2A, 2B, 3, 4, 5, 305/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10A, 10B, 10C, 11, 306/7, 8A, 8B, 9, 10, 11A, 11B, and 11C, Kundairuppu village, Virudhunagar District. The unit is spread over an area of 23.65 acres.

2.It is respectfully submitted that, the unit was established under the name of M/s. Winner Fireworks Factory as per PESO License No. E/HQ/TN/2/1591 (E2715) dated 10.12.2009. Subsequently, the license was transferred from M/s. Winner Fireworks Factory to M/s. Asok Sparklers

Factory, vide PESO License No. E/HQ/TN/21/1591 (E42719) dated 06.01.2023. The details of the unit are as follows

Details of unit and status of Licenses

Sl No.	Particulars	
1.	License Capacity	2302 .5 kg
2.	Man limit	The persons working in the manufacturing facilities are limited to 152 persons as approved by PESO
3.	Explosive magazine capacity	40,000 kgs
4.	Design drawing of the fireworks unit having a site plan and construction plan approved by PESO is enclosed.	Enclosed as Annexure - II
5.	Details of licenses obtained under Explosive Rule 2008:	
A	From Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) , Nagpur: a. Firework manufacturing license No. E/HQ/TN/20/1185(E42714) valid upto 31.03.2028 , presently under suspension due to accident b. Firework Magazine license No. E/HQ/TN/22/278(E58075) valid upto 31.03.2028 , presently under suspension due to accident	
B.	Licenses granted by the District Authority: a. Arms Act license No (For Sulphur) : Ni-Mu E2/131/2023 Valid till 31.12.2024 . presently under suspension due to accident	
C.	License granted by the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health Govt. of Tamil Nadu : VNR06665 dated 29.01.2024 for the period upto 31.12.2024.	
D.	Green crackers registration certificate obtained from CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur on 13.12.2022 with valid upto 12.12.2024 (Registration No.NE/TN/644-01/2021)	

6.	Details of Authorized Persons/Owners/Partners of Factory :			
	Name	Age	Position	Address
	G A Vignesh S/o P C G Asok Kumar	33	Partner (Occupier)	Door No:468, PKSA ArumugaNadar Road,Sivakasi Taluk,Virudhunagar District.
	P.C.G. Asok Kumar S/o P.C. Ganesan	63	Partner	
	Smt. A. Rahika w/o P.C.G.Asok Kumar	53	Partner	
7.	Foreman's certificate was issued to Shri A. Suresh kumar having certificate No.E/SS/TN/FM/3416(E147922) as the competent person to supervise and monitor activities in the manufacturing premises. The certificate is valid upto 21/08/2028			

3. It is respectfully submitted that, the accident occurred in Factory Shed No. 8, where chemical mixing and filling activities were taking place. The fire spread to Sheds 7, 9, and 10 because similar activities were also in progress in these sheds, and they were located very close to Shed No. 8. In these four sheds, two persons each were present, and two more workers who were near these sheds also died, bringing the total number of fatalities to 10. One worker from Shed No. 34, who got injured while escaping the accident, died nine days later on 26.02.2024. The other two injured persons were working in Shed No. 34. While escaping from the accident, one person suffered thermal injuries, and another person sustained a bone fracture in the left leg.

Since the persons present in Shed No. 8 died at the time of the accident, and the foreman was in Shed No. 59, which is located away from the accident site, the exact causes of the accident could not be ascertained.

4. It is respectfully submitted that, However, the cause of the blast as may also be due to the following,

1. Friction/impact caused by mishandling of fireworks composition.
2. Flouting of safety norms by carrying out, mixing chemicals used for fireworks.
3. Handling sensitive pyrotechnic composition susceptible for

impact and friction in a casual / unsafe manner.

4. Complete ignorance / non-compliance of Explosives Rules, 2008, Standard Operating Procedures, Safety Circulars / Advisories by workers.

5. It is respectfully submitted that, In **this accident of the fireworks factory the following sheds that was razed to ground and which had been fully and partially damaged.**

1. Shed Nos 7(Gun Powder Mixing shed), 8 (Gun Powder filling shed), 9 (white powder mixing), 10 (white powder filling shed), totaling 04 sheds have been completely razed to ground.
2. shed No's.11 (Fuse cutting shed), 34 (White powder mixing), 35 (white powder filling shed), total of 03 sheds are partially damaged.
3. Shed No 52 (Shell Loading shed), shed where their things found damaged.
4. Shed No's 14, 15 (Fuse cutting /making /wrapping /dipping curing shed) 17,19,20,21,23,24,36,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47, 57,58,59 ,60,61,62,63 and 64 (Manufacturing and finishing shed), total of 27 sheds, where their roof has been damaged.

6. It is respectfully submitted that, the details of deceased and injured persons are follows.

List of deceased persons:

Date wise details of dead people

S/No	Date of Death	Male	Female	No of Persons
1	17.02.2024	6	4	10
2	26.02.2024	-	1	1
Total		6	5	11

List of injured Persons:-

Sl. No	Name and Address	Sex	Age	Injury Percentage	Discharged Date
1	Thiru.Sivakumar, S/o.Sakthivel, Thompangulam.	Male	29	-	11.03.2024
2	Thiru.Muthukumar, S/o.Muthukkutti, Reddiapatti.	Male	22	-	01.03.2024

7. DETAILS OF COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS:-

At present, the compensation has been paid to the legal heirs of the persons, who died as follows,

Details of Compensation provided to 11 cases of death:

S.No	Name &Address	Honorable CM Fund	Labour department	Honorable PM Fund	From Factory owner	Total Amount
1	Thiru.Karuppasamy S/o Arichandran	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
2	Thiru.Rameshpandi, S/o Suppuraj	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
3	Tmt. Ambiga, W/o Radhkrishnan	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
4	Thiru Muthu S/o Muniyasamy	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
5	Thiru.Aveyaraj S/o Muniyasamy	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
6	Tmt.Murugajothi W/o Thangamani	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
7	Tmt.Sandha, W/o Vellaisamy	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
8	Thiru Gurusamy, S/o Murugan	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000

9	Thiru. Muniyasamy S/o Muniyandi	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
10	Tmt Jaya, W/o.Rajsekar	300000	205000	200000	1550000	2255000
11	Tmt.Rengammal W/o.Pesalingakaalai	Tmt.Rengammal compensation fund is under process for confirmation of inheritance				

Details of Compensation provided to 02 cases of Injured:

S. No	Name and Address	From Factory owner (Rs)	Honorable CM Fund (Rs)	Honorable PM Fund (Rs)	Total Amount (Rs)
1	Thiru.Sivakumar, S/o.Sakthivel, Thompangulam	200000	100000	50000	350000
2	Thiru.Muthukumar, S/o.Muthukkutti, Reddiapatti	200000	100000	50000	350000

I, submit that the victim/s of the tragedy were awarded compensation of Rs. 22,55,000 per person, which is 12.5% more compared to the earlier incident. The injured persons received compensation of Rs. 3,50,000 each and also learned that the injured persons have resumed their normal lives.

8. Action taken Against Licences:-

Regarding this accident, the Asok Sparklers Factory, Licence No: E/HQ/TN/21/1591(E42719), was suspended by the Deputy chief controller of Explosives in Sivakasi on 18.02.2023. Simultaneously, the Arms Act Form II Licence No.39/2023 was also suspended by the

Virudhunagar District Revenue Officer / Additional District Magistrate
under order Roc.No.E4/192/2023, dated:17.02.2024.

9. Case Details: -

In relation to this fire incident, the Alangulam police, Virudhunagar district filed a criminal case (Crime No.27/2024) under IPC sections 286, 304(ii), 337, 338 and 9(B)(1)(a) of the Indian Explosive Act, 1884 against the factory owner, Vignesh and foreman Suresh Kumar and Jayapal. They have been arrested, and further investigation is ongoing by the police department.

It is therefore prayed, that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept the report, consider the aforementioned facts of the case, and thus render justice.

Date: **07.07.2025.**

Suresh Kumar No. 27/24
**District Magistrate/
District Collector,
Virudhunagar.**

Suresh Kumar