

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.103 of 2020 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu

Versus

The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board And Ors .

...Respondent.

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Through
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel For Government of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE:22.01.2026

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No. 103 of 2020 (SZ) &
I.A. No.143 of 2024 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **Suo Motu.**

And

The District Environment Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
HANDLOOMS, HANDICRAFTS TEXTILES AND KHADI DEPARTMENT**

I, V. Amuthavalli, Daughter of Velappan, aged about 58 years, having office at Secretariat, Chennai -09 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follow:-

I am the Secretary to Government and I am filing the report on the recommendation of Anna University suggestions to control the noise pollution arising from the operation of Powerlooms in the residential area of Tharamangalam Village, Salem.

Recommendation : 1

Conduct a comprehensive noise mitigation study and considering cost-effectiveness since most powerlooms are cottage industries.

- It is submitted that the Department of Handlooms will conduct a comprehensive noise mitigation study which will be economically viable by small-scale powerloom units.

Recommendation : 2

Install acoustic enclosures / sound barriers such as multilayer strip curtains, insulated panels, and absorbent wall materials to reduce noise from looms.

- It is submitted that the Department concurs and recommends multilayer plastic strip curtains, thermocol sheets, and glass-paneled ventilators in loom sheds for effective noise absorption.

Recommendation : 3.

Improve building ventilation and dust/heat removal through turbine ventilators or similar systems.

- It is submitted that the Department recommend turbine ventilators in powerloom units with more than four looms to reduce heat and improve air quality.

Recommendation : 4

Maintain proper machine condition and lubrication to minimize vibration and noise generation.

- It is submitted that the Department emphasizes regular maintenance and ensuring good operational condition of powerlooms.

Recommendation : 5.

Promote use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as earplugs for operators to protect hearing.

- It is submitted that the Awareness programmes on PPE usage are being conducted through Zonal Officers and Assistant Directors.

Recommendation : 6

Consider gradual upgradation of looms to newer shuttleless or rapier looms to inherently reduce noise and improve efficiency.

- It is submitted that under the Powerloom Modernization Scheme (2025–26), the Department is promoting conversion to Shuttleless Rapier Powerlooms and procurement of new Airjet looms.

Recommendation : 7

Undertake stakeholder consultation (Powerloom Associations, MSME, SIDBI, etc.) before large-scale implementation.

- It is submitted that these suggestions are being implemented.

Recommendation : 8.

Based on field study, installation of sound-absorbing panels and vibration isolators Sound Enclosures or mufflers can reduce noise levels around 10dB(A).

- It is submitted that the Department will examine the feasibility of incorporating these features in future modernization schemes and will collaborate with Anna University for pilot testing in select clusters.

Recommendation : 9.

Awareness programmes should be organized for loom owner son regulatory limits and mitigation technologies.

- It is submitted that the Environmental awareness and noise-mitigation training will be organised for loom owners in regular intervals.

Recommendation : 10.

Awareness programmes should be organized for loom owners on regulatory limits and mitigation technologies.

- It is submitted that all Deputy/Assistant Directors were instructed to conduct awareness programme for loom owners.

4. It is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) at Chennai may be pleased to consider and pass order as deem fit.


Secretary to Government
Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles &
Khadi Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

VERIFICATION

I, V. Amuthavalli, Daughter of Velappan, working as Secretary to Government, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department, State of Tamil Nadu, Chennai-9 do hereby submit that the contents of the above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

DATE: 07.01.2026


Secretary to Government
Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles &
Khadi Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.