

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 138 OF 2025 (SZ)
[EARLIER ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 320 OF 2025 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suo Motu matter in respect of news item
appearing in The Hindu dated 16.06.2025
titled "Erode residents allege discharge of
effluent into stream by chemical
factory"

...Applicant(s)

Vs.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Through its Member Secretary,
Delhi and Ors.

..... Respondent(s)

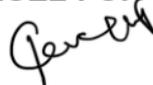
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Place: Chennai

Date: 11 .12.2025

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO. 1



MRS.REVATHI MANIVANNAN

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 138 OF 2025 (SZ)
[EARLIER ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 320 OF 2025 (PB)]**

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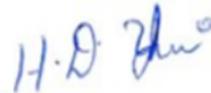
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Through its Member Secretary,
Delhi and Ors.

..... Respondent(s)

**REPLY FILED ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1,
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**

1. That, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principle Bench) (hereinafter referred to as "Hon'ble NGT") vide order dated 07.07.2025 in the Original Application (hereinafter referred to as "O.A") No. 320 of 2025, impleaded Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB") as Respondent No. 1 and transferred the matter to Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai. The matter has been re-numbered as O.A 138/2025 (SZ). Thereby, the reply is made in this instant O.A in succeeding paragraphs.




H.D.VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

2. That, CPCB is constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "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 "Air Act, 1981") and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as "E (P) Act, 1986").
3. It is further submitted that 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, the matter is related to the environmental violations in Mokkaiyam Palayam at Villarasampatti, Erode, Tamil Nadu, where residents allege that a chemical factory is polluting a local stream by discharging untreated effluents. As per the news item, the factory, which manufactures sodium silicate and other chemicals, has been operating for about 10 years. It is also mentioned that the residents noticed the stream water turning white and foul-smelling after the discharge began. The news item further states that following the complaints, officials from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board visited the site to investigate the pollution and assess the situation.
5. That, it is humbly submitted that the Hon'ble NGT (PB) vide Order dated 07.07.2025 directed all the respondents to file their responses before the Southern Zonal Bench of the Hon'ble NGT and transferred the case to Hon'ble NGT Southern Zone, Chennai.



H.D. Varalaxmi
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Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

6. That, it is humbly submitted that as per the provisions of Section 24 (1) of the Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1974:

(a) no person shall knowingly cause or permit any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter determined in accordance with such standards as may be laid down by the State Board to enter (whether directly or indirectly) into any stream or well or sewer or on land; or

(b) no person shall knowingly cause or permit to enter into any stream any other matter which may tend, either directly or in combination with similar matters, to impede the proper flow of the water of the stream in a manner leading or likely to lead to a substantial aggravation of pollution due to other causes or of its consequences.

7. That, it is humbly submitted that, Sodium Silicate manufacturing industries fall under "RED" Category according to the CPCB's classification of industrial sectors. Industrial sectors under Red category are required to obtain Consent to Establish (hereinafter referred to as 'CTE') prior to establishment and are required to obtain Consent to Operate (hereinafter referred to as 'CTO') prior to commencement of operations under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 from the concerned SPCB/PCC, and subsequent to becoming operational are required to comply with the conditions laid down in the CTO including the mode of discharge of treated effluent as well as compliance with the prescribed effluent discharge standards.

8. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB pursued the matter with TNPCB vide letter dated 17.07.2025 to provide Action taken report in the said matter followed by reminder e-mails on 29.09.2025, 30.10.2025, 20.11.2025, 28.11.2025 and 02.12.2025. A copy of the letter and e-mails sent to TNPCB is annexed as **Annexure- 1**. The Action Taken Report from TNPCB is awaited.




H.D. VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

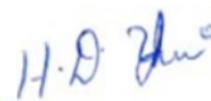
9. That the answering respondent craves leave of the Hon'ble NGT to file additional reply, if required, in future.

10. That, in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering Respondent No. 1, i.e. CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant O.A.

Dated at Chennai on this the Eleventh day of December 2025.



Counsel for the 1st Respondent



H.D. VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

1st Respondent-CPCB

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 138 OF 2025 (SZ)
[EARLIER ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 320 OF 2025 (PB)]**

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Suo Motu matter in respect of news item appearing in The Hindu dated 16.06.2025 titled "Erode residents allege discharge of effluent into stream by chemical factory"

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Vs.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Through its Member Secretary,
Delhi and Ors.

..... Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT

I, H. D. Varalaxmi, D/o Shri H.S. Devaiah, Hindu, aged about 56 years working as a Scientist F & Regional Director at the Regional Directorate - Chennai, Central Pollution Control Board, 40-E, 2nd Floor, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate, CIPET Road, Chennai - 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. That the deponent 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.



H.D. Varalaxmi
H.D. VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.

3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof of 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.



H.D. Varalaxmi

DEPONENT

H.D. VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032

VERIFICATION

Verified at Chennai on this Eleventh day of December, 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as maintained in the day to day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed, or suppressed therefrom or mis-stated.

Verified at New Delhi on this the Eleventh day of December, 2025.

H.D. Varalaxmi

DEPONENT

H.D. VARALAXMI
Regional Director
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Directorate (Chennai)
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India
2nd Floor, 40-E, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate,
CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032



F. No. CM/1/2024-TECH-RD-CHENNAI-RD (Chennai)/ 328

Date: 17.07.2025

To

The Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
No.76, Mount Road, Guindy
Chennai-600032

Sub: Action Taken Report in the matter of O.A. No. 320 of 2025 – Reg.

Sir,

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi has registered a Suo Motu case as Original Application No. 320 of 2025 based on the News item appearing in The Hindu dated 16.06.2025, titled " Erode residents allege discharge of effluent into stream by chemical factory". The matter relates to the environmental violations in Mokkaiyam Palayam at Villarasampatti, Erode, Tamil Nadu, where residents allege that a chemical factory which manufactures sodium silicate and other chemicals is polluting a local stream by discharging untreated effluents. The NGT (PB) vide Order dated 07.07.2025, has impleaded CPCB as Respondent No. 1 and directed all respondents to file their replies and transferred the case to the Southern Zonal Bench.

In this connection, it is kindly requested to provide action taken report (ATR) to this office, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully

(H. D. Varalaxmi)
Regional Director

क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय (चेन्नई) : 40-ई, द्वितीय तल , बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, थिरु-वी-का औद्योगिक एस्टेट, सिपेट रोड, गिन्दी, चेन्नई – 600032
दूरभाष: 044-29998683/044-29567019 ईमेल: rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in

Regional Directorate (Chennai): 40-E, Second Floor, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate, CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600032
Phone: 044-29998683/044-29567019 Email: rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in

प्रधान कार्यालय : परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली -110 032
Head Office: Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi – 110032

दूरभाष /Telephone: 011-43102030, Fax: 22305793, 22307078, 22307079, 22301932, 22304948
ई-मेल / E-mail: cpcb@nic.in वैबसाइट / Website : www.cpcb.nic.in

एफ. सं. सीएम/1/2024-टेक-आरडी-चेन्नई-आरडी (चेन्नई)/ 328

दिनांक: 17.07.2025

सेवा में

सदस्य सचिव
तमिलनाडु राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
नंबर 76, माउंट रोड, गिंडी
चेन्नई-600032

विषय: ओ.ए. संख्या 320/2025 के मामले में की गई कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट

महोदय,

माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण, प्रधान पीठ, दिल्ली ने द हिंदू में दिनांक 16.06.2025 को प्रकाशित समाचार आइटम, जिसका शीर्षक "इरोड निवासियों ने रासायनिक कारखाने द्वारा धारा में अपशिष्ट के निर्वहन का आरोप लगाया" के आधार पर मूल आवेदन संख्या 320/2025 के रूप में एक स्वतः संज्ञान मामला दर्ज किया है। यह मामला तमिलनाडु के इरोड के विलारासम्पट्टी के मोक्कैयाम पलयम में पर्यावरण उल्लंघन से संबंधित है, जहां निवासियों का आरोप है कि सोडियम सिलिकेट और अन्य रसायनों का निर्माण करने वाला एक रासायनिक कारखाना अनुपचारित अपशिष्टों का निर्वहन करके एक स्थानीय धारा को प्रदूषित कर रहा है। एनजीटी (पीबी) ने दिनांक 07.07.2025 के आदेश के तहत सीपीसीबी को प्रतिवादी नंबर 1 के रूप में शामिल किया है और सभी प्रतिवादियों को अपने जवाब दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया है।

इस संबंध में, कृपया इस कार्यालय को जल्द से जल्द कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट (एटीआर) प्रदान करने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

निष्ठापूर्वक
[सु] 15/07/25

(एच. डि. वरलक्ष्मी)
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक

Re: Action Taken Report in the matter of Hon'ble NGT O.A. No. 138/2025 (SZ), i.e., earlier O.A. No. 320/2025 (PB) - Regarding

H D Varalaxmi <rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in >

Tue, 02 Dec 2025 1:11:49 PM +0530

To "MS TNPCB"<memsec@tnpcb.gov.in>,"Law TNPCB"<lawsec@tnpcb.gov.in>

REMINDER 5

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, it is to kindly inform that the matter has been renumbered as 138 of 2025 (SZ) and is scheduled for next hearing on 15.12.2025. In this regard, the Action Taken Report is still awaited. It is kindly requested to furnish the Action Taken Report to this office at the earliest for obtaining timely approval from HO and filing before Hon'ble Tribunal.

Regards,

Regional Director /क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
Central Pollution Control Board /केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Regional Directorate, Chennai / क्षेत्रीय निर्देशालय, चेन्नई
2nd Floor, BSNL Building, 40-E, / दूसरी मंजिल, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, 40-ई,
TVK Industrial Estate, / टीवीके इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट,
CIPET Road, Guindy / सिपेट रोड, गिंडी,
Chennai, 600032 / चेन्नई, 600032

---- On Fri, 28 Nov 2025 12:33:47 +0530 **H D Varalaxmi** <rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in> wrote

REMINDER 4

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, it is to kindly inform that the matter has been renumbered as 138 of 2025 (SZ) and is scheduled for next hearing on 15.12.2025. In this regard, the Action Taken Report is still awaited. It is kindly requested to furnish the Action Taken Report to this office, at the earliest.

Regards,

Regional Director /क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
Central Pollution Control Board /केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Regional Directorate, Chennai / क्षेत्रीय निर्देशालय, चेन्नई
2nd Floor, BSNL Building, 40-E, / दूसरी मंजिल, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, 40-ई,
TVK Industrial Estate, / टीवीके इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट,
CIPET Road, Guindy / सिपेट रोड, गिंडी,
Chennai, 600032 / चेन्नई, 600032

---- On Thu, 20 Nov 2025 10:31:24 +0530 **H D Varalaxmi** <rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in> wrote ---

REMINDER 3

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, it is to kindly inform that the matter has been renumbered as 138 of 2025 (SZ) and is scheduled for next hearing on 15.12.2025. In this regard, the Action Taken Report is still awaited. It is kindly requested to furnish the Action Taken Report to this office, at the earliest.

Regards,

Regional Director / क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
Central Pollution Control Board / केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Regional Directorate, Chennai / क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, चेन्नई
2nd Floor, BSNL Building, 40-E, / दूसरी मंजिल, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, 40-ई,
TVK Industrial Estate, / टीवीके इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट,
CIPET Road, Guindy / सिपेट रोड, गिंडी,
Chennai, 600032 / चेन्नई, 600032

---- On Thu, 30 Oct 2025 10:49:33 +0530 **H D Varalaxmi** <rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in> wrote ---

REMINDER 2

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, the Action Taken Report is still awaited. It is kindly requested to furnish the Action Taken Report to this office at the earliest.

Regards,

Regional Director / क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
Central Pollution Control Board / केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Regional Directorate, Chennai / क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, चेन्नई
2nd Floor, BSNL Building, 40-E, / दूसरी मंजिल, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, 40-ई,
TVK Industrial Estate, / टीवीके इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट,
CIPET Road, Guindy / सिपेट रोड, गिंडी,
Chennai, 600032 / चेन्नई, 600032

---- On Mon, 29 Sep 2025 14:06:29 +0530 **H D Varalaxmi** <rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in> wrote ---

REMINDER 1

Sir,

With reference to the trailing mail, the Action Taken Report is still awaited. It is kindly requested to furnish the Action Taken Report at the earliest.

Regards,
Regional Director /क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
Central Pollution Control Board /केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Regional Directorate, Chennai / क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, चेन्नई
2nd Floor, BSNL Building, 40-E, / दूसरी मंजिल, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, 40-ई,
TVK Industrial Estate, / टीवीके इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट,
CIPET Road, Guindy / सिपेट रोड, गिंडी,
Chennai, 600032 / चेन्नई, 600032

---- On Thu, 17 Jul 2025 13:00:31 +0530 **H D Varalaxmi** <rdchennai.cpcb@gov.in> wrote

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, please find the attached Hon'ble NGT PB Order dated 07.07.2025 and CPCB letters dated 17.07.2025, seeking for Action Taken Report. In this regard, it is kindly requested to furnish the ATR tot this office, at the earliest.

Regards,
Regional Director /क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
Central Pollution Central Board /केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Regional Directorate, Chennai / क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, चेन्नई
2nd Floor, BSNL Building, 40-E, / दूसरी मंजिल, बीएसएनएल बिल्डिंग, 40-ई,
TVK Industrial Estate, / टीवीके इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट,
CIPET Road, Guindy / सिपेट रोड, गिंडी,
Chennai, 600032 / चेन्नई, 600032

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GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI**

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...Applicant(s)

Vs

Central Pollution Control Board
(CPCB)
Through its Member Secretary,
Delhi and Ors.

..... Respondent(s)

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF
THE CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD (CPCB), RESPONDENT NO. 1**

**ADVOCATE REVATHI MANIVANNAN
COUNSEL FOR CPCB**