

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 139 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based
on the News Item in The Hindu, Chennai edition,
Newspaper dt: 28.04.2024, under the caption,
“Activists worried over garbage dumped on
Kodaikanal ghat road”.

Versus

Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj,
Through its Principal Secretary, Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY 2ND RESPONDENT
THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, KODAIKANAL

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

DATE 29.10.2025

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Garbage dumped on Kodaikanal ghat road".

And

1. Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj,
2. The District Collector, Dindigul.
3. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
4. Assistant Director Panchayat.
5. Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj.

... Respondent (s)

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
DINDIGUL – 2nd RESPONDENT**

I, Thiru.S.Saravanan S/o Thiru.K.Selvan, aged 34 years, presently discharging my duties as The District Collector, Dindigul, is aware of the facts and circumstances of the SUO MOTU case and files the report as follows:

1. It is submitted that based on the above, a letter was sent to Assistant Director Panchayat, Block Development Officer, Kodaikanal to take necessary action so as to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.(letter copy enclosed)
2. It is submitted that a special monitoring team has been formed by the District Collector involving following officials.
(i)The Project Director DRDA, (ii)Assistant Director Panchayat, (iii)Assistant Director Town Panchyat, (iv)Food Safety Officer, (v)Forest Officers, (vi)Police officials, Tamil Nadu Pollution

Control Board officials. This Monitoring made team surprise visit to shops, hotels, restaurants etc every month to inspect and confiscate plastic and impose fine (Green tax).

3. It is submitted that the special monitoring team was instructed by the District Collector to conduct a field survey to verify whether plastic and other wastes are dumped on both sides and slopes of the road from Kodaikanal ghat Road to Kodaikanal entrance and also to create awareness in this regard among roadside vendors.
4. It is submitted that, the e.Pass scanning and Plastic checking/seizing Tollgate has been expanded to the areas of Kattakamanpatti, Dharmathupatti, Sitharevu, Vadakadu and Balasamudram, which are the gateways to Kodaikanal, from 11.11.2024. Here all the type of activities related to e.Pass like issuing, scanning and plastic prevention work are also being carried out in a coordinated manner. A total of 64 persons are working continuously on this work on a 24X7 basis. Because of the arrangements, delay in checking of e.Pass is brought under control. All the vehicle are counted without any omission. Two police constables are also working to support the staffs in both activities of plastic check & e.Pass check.
5. Apart from the City Health Officer, Sanitary Inspector in Kodaikanal Municipality, Zonal Deputy BDOs, Panchayat Secretaries, Swachh Bharat Mission- Grameen (SBM(G)) Consultants, Block coordinator and TamilNadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) trained staffs have been appointed to all the check post for regular monitoring and also in assisting in the implementation of e.Pass system and plastic checking / seizing on 24X7 basis.

6. It is submitted that, Green Tax System to bring Plastic free Kodaikanal has been implemented in Kodaikanal Municipality, Pannaikadu town panchayat and 15 village panchayats with utmost seriousness from 01.11.2024. Through this, 3785 banned plastic bottles have been seized with a green tax penalty of Rs.65,340/- from 01.02.2025 to 28.02.2025. 157 kg Single Use Plastic (SUP) have been seized through surprise inspection by the Food Safety Department. A fine of Rs.10000/- has been imposed on 15 shops. Also, during the same period, 11285 plastic bottles were seized through the e-Pass procedure and plastic prevention check posts, with awareness that plastic bottles of less than 5 liters are banned in the Kodaikanal hill areas.
7. It is submitted that the plastic bags and plastic bottles collected through the Plastic ban check post are sold directly to local vendors and plastic waste management units set up in village panchayats. So far 4386 of plastic bottles has been sold.
8. It is submitted that many tourists from other States, especially Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana etc visisting Kodaikanal. These tourists bring a lot of water and soft drinks in plastic bottles. To prevent this, awareness is being created among them about less than 5 liters plastic bottles are banned in Kodaikanal.
9. It is submitted that, Awareness boards and stickers have been placed on both sides of the road from Batlagundu to Ghatroad, from Periyakulam to Ghatroad, from Ghatroad to Kamakapatti check posts at major restaurants, hotels, petrol banks and shops stating that e-Pass has been made mandatory for vehicles entering in to Kodaikanal, and that plastic bottles of less than 5 liters are banned and that violators will be fined(Green Tax) Rs. 20/- per plastic bottle.

10. It is submitted that, intensive cleaning Drive was held on 24.01.2025 and 25.01.2025 in Kodaikanal. During this Drive, 62 places with high accumulation of garbage were cleaned. A Route Map is prepared to clean the places where garbage accumulates in two days once. Sanitation workers and Thoomai Kavalars have been instructed on the waste segregation collection, composting and recycling of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from households and public places. (Photos enclosed)
11. It is submitted that, Awareness Rally was conducted at Kodaikanal Lake on 25.01.2025. Kodaikanal Municipal officials, Mother Theresa University Students and E-scooter Warriors were participated. Manjappai and Pamphlets were distributed among the public.
12. It is submitted that, necessary measures have been taken to safely dispose waste collected from hotels, Lodges and home stays. In particular, it has been recommended to the Hotel/ Homestay management to implement in converting waste into alternative fuels and electricity energy. By implementing this, more than 50 percent of biodegradable waste can be prevented from reaching public places.
13. It is submitted that, the work has been continuously monitored and a coordination meeting at the District/Block level conducted with the relevant departments regularly .
14. It is submitted that the District Administration is taking earnest steps to systematically implement plastic waste management and also to ensure plastic free Kodaikanal. Hence Hon'ble Tribunal orders are being complied in letter and spirit.
15. Therefore it is prayed that this Hon'ble court may be pleased to accept this status report and pass further orders as deemed fit and thus render justice.

Date: 18.03.2025


District Collector,
Dindigul District

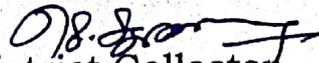




Verification

I, Thiru.S.Saravanan S/o Thiru.K.Selvan, aged 34 years presently discharging my duties as The District Collector, Kodaikanal, solemnly affirm that the contents of this report are true to the best of my knowledge based on the records and I have not suppressed any facts.

Date: 18.03.2025


District Collector,
Dindigul District

Awareness Programme held in Kodaikanal.

