

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**  
**Original Application No.181 of 2024 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
based on the News Item in 'The Times of India',  
Chennai Edition dt: 20.05.2024,  
"Work on Checkdam in Kerala  
Stokes TN Farmers' fears"

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The Chief Secretary to  
Govt. of Tamil Nadu , Chennai and ors

...Respondent(s)

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

**DATE: 26.10.2025**

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

**Original Application No.181 of 2024(SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in 'The Times of India', Chennai Edition dt: 20.05.2024, "Work on Checkdam in Kerala stokes TN farmers' fears".

**And**

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai and Ors. ...Respondent(s)

**Status Report filed on behalf of Respondent No. 4th,  
5th & 6th**

I, S.Manmathan son of R.Santhappa aged about 59 years, office of the Engineer-in-Chief & Chief Engineer (General), Water Resources Department, Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005 do hereby solemnly and sincerely affirm as follows:-

1. I state that I am the Engineer-in-Chief & Chief Engineer (General), WRD., as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from available records and I have been authorized to file this Status Report on behalf of (4th

  
Engineer-in-Chief and  
Chief Engineer (General),  
Water Resources Department,  
Chepauk, Chennai-5.

Respondent) Engineer-in-Chief & Chief Engineer (General), WRD., Government of Tamil Nadu.

2. It is submitted that in pursuant to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order dated 03.01.2025 in OA 181 of 2014, a virtual meeting was conducted between the Water Resources Department, Tamil Nadu and the Kerala Water Authority via video conferencing on 10.02.2025. A copy the minutes of the meeting held on 10.02.2025 is enclosed as Annexure-I.
3. It is further submitted that in the above meeting, Superintending Engineer, Amaravathy Basin Circle, Palani, Tamil Nadu requested Chief Engineer, Inter State Waters, Irrigation Department, Kerala to furnish details of all existing, ongoing and proposed irrigation schemes, including Minor irrigation schemes and drinking water supply schemes in Pambar sub basin of Kerala. However, Chief Engineer, Inter State Waters, Irrigation Department, Kerala, replied inter alia that the Irrigation Department has to conduct necessary discussions with Kerala Water Authority to know the details of ongoing and proposed drinking water schemes in Pambar Sub basin. The Chief Engineer, Kerala Water Authority stated that Kerala Water Authority and Irrigation Department would discuss this

Engineer-in-Chief and  
Chief Engineer (General),  
Water Resources Department,  
Chepauk, Chennai-5.

further. Thus, the details sought by Tamil Nadu from Kerala are still awaited.

In view of the above, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass necessary order as it may deem fit.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this  
13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025 and signed  
his name in my presence.

Before me

Engineer-in-Chief and  
Chief Engineer (General),  
Water Resources Department,  
Chepauk, Chennai-5.

Minutes of Meeting held on 10.02.2025 between the Water Resources Department, Tamilnadu and Kerala Water Authority through video conferencing, in compliance with the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai dated 03.01.2025.

The virtual Meeting between the officials of Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department and Kerala Water Authority was held on 10th February, 2025 at 11 am as per directives of the Honourable National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, in its order dated 03.01.2025 in OA No. 181 of 2024, through Google meet (video conference).

The list of the participants is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.

At the outset, the Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Amaravathy Basin Circle, Palani, Tamil Nadu welcomed all the participants. Before starting the discussion, the participants from the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu introduced themselves to each other. Then the following were discussed:

The Superintending Engineer, Amaravathy Basin Circle, Palani, GoTN has stated that even though the State of Kerala is entitled to use 3.00 TMC in Pambar Basin of Kerala as per the Orders of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal Award (CWDT), there are some apprehensions of farmers in Amaravathy Basin, Tamil Nadu whether the utilisation is within the allocated share. In order to address that, he has requested that the Kerala State may communicate the Master plan including all schemes of Minor Irrigation, Drinking water, Domestic and Industrial Usage. He has also recalled that the same was been requested by the Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, Tamilnadu and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu earlier through their letters addressed to Principal Chief Secretary, Irrigation Department, Kerala and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, respectively.

The Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Interstate Waters, Kerala has stated that regarding the Pambar Basin Master plan, taking into the account of the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2018, the State of Kerala has been allotted 3.00 TMC of Pambar River which is sub-grouped

into 11 items as listed below wherein <sup>5</sup> State of Kerala is entitled 0.02 TMC as Domestic Water Supply.

Sl.No.	Name of the Project / Purpose	Quantity allocated by CWDT in TMC
1	Thalayar	0.78
2	Chengalar	0.80
3	Vattavada	0.52
4	Chambakkad	0.03
5	Emergency requirement for plantation crops @ 5% of crop water requirement	0.10
6	Pambar H.E.	0.10
7	Reservoir losses	0.18
8	Minor Irrigation	0.44
9	Domestic water supply	0.02
10	Industrial uses	0.01
11	Share in balance water	0.15
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.13, say 3 TMC</b>

Further, he referred to Clause XIV of the CWDT award, according to which the water diverted from any reservoir by a State for its own use during any water year shall be reckoned as use by that State in that water year. He has informed that as per the details received from Kerala Water Authority, the weir constructed across Chilanthyar Stream, in Vattavada Gram Panchayat in Devikulam Taluk of Idukki District of Kerala, is about 45 meters long and 1.00 meter high, to draw 3.00 MLD of drinking water. Converting MLD to TMC, the present project being constructed by Kerala Water Authority is only intended to take 0.0386 TMC annually. Hence, as per CWDT award, considering consumptive use of 20%, the proposed annual utilisation would only be 0.0073 TMC, which is well within the domestic water allocation of 0.02 TMC in Pambar sub-basin of Kerala. He also informed that the said details have been submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai and also communicated to the State of Tamil Nadu. Regarding the requested Pambar Master plan by state of Tamil Nadu, Chief Engineer, ISW informed that Government of Kerala has already taken a stand that water allocation upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court itself can be considered as the future plan for

utilization of waters in Pambar Basin. He also informed that if there is any apprehension on sharing of data including those of project, the party states involved in Cauvery dispute is at liberty to approach Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulations Committee (CWRC), comprising of members from the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry. State of Kerala shall also be presenting its views in the said forums based on the policy decision of the Government.

The Superintending Engineer, Amaravathy Basin Circle, Palani, GoTN has asked for details of the new projects to be proposed by KWA.

The Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Interstate Waters, Kerala stated that as mentioned previously this issue can only be discussed in the appropriate forums. He re-iterated that Government of Kerala is of the view that allocation finalised by the Hon'ble Supreme Court itself can be considered as plans including those for future.

The Superintending Engineer, Amaravathy Basin Circle, Palani, GoTN has asked for the details of all the existing, ongoing and proposed drinking water schemes in Pambar Basin, Kerala, stating that they are needed for Tamil Nadu to take a comprehensive view.

The Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Interstate Waters, Kerala has informed that the Irrigation Department, Government of Kerala shall conduct necessary decisions with Kerala Water Authority to understand the latest project either on going and proposed drinking water schemes in Pambar Basin, Kerala if any. He has opined that he has limitations in discussing the same in the forum and the same can be discussed in an appropriate forum.

At this juncture, the Chief Engineer, Kerala Water Authority, Central Region Kochi expressed that the Kerala Water Authority and Irrigation Department would discuss the drinking water scheme in Pambar sub basin. The present project is construction of weir and not a check dam across the Silandhiar river for facilitating water supply scheme.

Then, the Superintending Engineer, Amaravathy Basin Circle, Palani, GoTN has asked for the details of existing, ongoing and proposed industrial consumption and its return flow.

The Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Interstate Waters, Kerala has replied that as of now, there are no approved and proposed industrial usage in Pambar Sub Basin in Kerala, under this project.

KWA, Central Region Kochi has stated that the weir across Silandhiyar in Vattavada Grama Panchayat is executed only for the purpose of providing drinking water facility for 617 families belonging to Muthuvan tribal communities and also concurred that there is no use for industrial or irrigation purpose under this project.

The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks.

  
Superintending Engineer, WRS,  
Amaravathi Basin Circle, Palani.

  
Chief Engineer, KWA,  
Central Region, Kochi

  
Executive Engineer, WRO,  
Amaravathi Basin Division,  
Dharmapuram

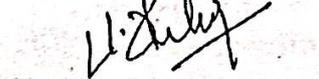
  
Chief Engineer,  
Inter State Waters,  
Irrigation Department, Kerala

  
Deputy Chief Engineer, WRO,  
Coimbatore Region,  
Coimbatore

  
Deputy Chief Engineer, KWA,  
Central Region

  
Assistant Executive Engineer, WRO,  
Amaravathi Basin Sub Division No. 3,  
Amaravathi Nagar.

  
Superintending Engineer, KWA,  
Public Health Circle, Idukki

  
Assistant Engineer, WRO,  
Dam and Camp Section,  
Amaravathi Nagar.

  
Executive Engineer, KWA,  
Project Division, Katappona