

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 239 of 2024 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
based on the News Item in Dinamalar  
Chennai Edition Dt. 19.08.2024 titled  
“Kalquarry in Sikkarayapuram near Kundrathur is full of water”.

Versus

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

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

**DATE:24.01.2026**

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

**Original Application No.239 of 2024 (SZ)**

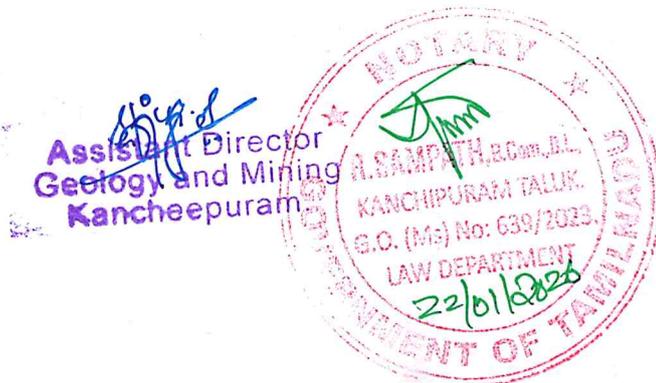
**IN THE MATTER OF**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
based on the News Item in Dinamalar  
Chennai Edition Dt.19.08.2024 titled  
**“Kalquarry in Sikkarayapuram near  
Kundrathur is full of water”.**

*With*

- 1. The Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu**  
Government, Secretariat, Fort St.George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 009.  
Phone No.044 425671555  
Email.
- 2. The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu**  
Department of Environment, Climate Change and  
Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St.George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600009.
- 3. Director of Geology and Mining,**  
Directorate of Geology and Mining,  
Guindy, Chennai-32.  
Email.cgmchennai32@gmail.com
- 4. The Chairman,**  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600 032  
Phone. 044-22353076  
Email:tnfisheries@nic.in

... Respondents.



DISTRICT COLLECTOR  
KANCHEEPURAM

**ADDITIONAL STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,**  
**KANCHEEPURAM**

I, Tmt.Kalaiselvi Mohan, I.A.S., Hindu, aged about 46, residing at Collector's Bungalow, Kancheepuram do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

2) I am the District Collector, Kancheepuram herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case from the records available with the office and filing this Additional Status Report in compliance with the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

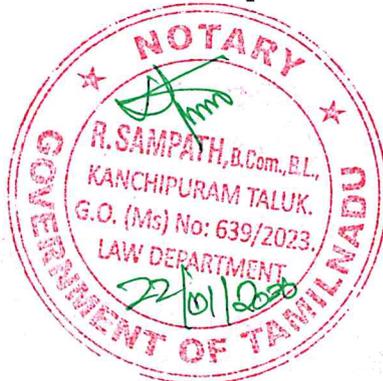
3) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, Chennai on its own SUO MOTU has registered case in Original Application No.239/2024 (SZ) based on the news item in Dinamalar, Chennai edition dated 19.08.2024, titled "Kalquarry (stone quarry) in Sikkarayapuram near Kundrathur is full of water".

4) It is submitted that this Hon'ble Tribunal, in its order dated 07.11.2025, was pleased to review the Status Report filed by the District Collector on 15.09.2025.

5) In Paragraph 3 of the said order, this Hon'ble Tribunal noted that "*It is stated that for several of the survey numbers, once the water is depleted, it cannot be recouped by recharge, as the quarry is located in bedrock without weathering or fractures. If the District Collector can provide an explanation for these classifications in his next report, the same may be recorded and the matter can be closed.*"

6) It is submitted that the Department of Geology and Mining engaged an expert agency, M/s. Care Earth Trust, authorized by the Government via G.O.(D) No.55, Natural Resources Department, dated 05.06.2024, to conduct a feasibility study on these abandoned quarries.

  
Assistant Director  
Geology and Mining  
Kancheepuram.



  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR  
KANCHEEPURAM

7) The scientific explanation for the classification "Bedrock without weathering or fractures" is submitted as follows:-

- The geological formation in Kancheepuram District predominantly consists of hard rock (crystalline rocks such as Charnockites and Gneisses). In such hard rock terrains, groundwater movement occurs primarily through "Secondary Porosity" which refers to cracks, fissures, joints, and weathered zones within the rock.
- The expert study conducted by Care Earth Trust indicates that for the specific quarries in Siruthamur and Kunnavakkam (specifically Survey Nos. 338(P), 161(P), 159, 155, 326, and 122), the mining activity has reached significant depths ranging from 20 to 50 meters. At these depths, the excavation has reached the "Massive Bedrock".
- "Massive Bedrock" implies solid rock that is devoid of fissures, fractures, or weathering. Without these fractures, the rock is impermeable. It acts like a sealed container or a concrete tank. While it can hold rainwater that falls directly into it (catchment), it lacks the hydraulic connectivity to the surrounding aquifer to "recoup" or recharge from the ground once the water is pumped out.

8) It is further submitted that, in contrast to the quarries located in the hard rock terrain described above, the expert study by M/s. Care Earth Trust has highlighted the significant potential of the quarries located in the vicinity of Chembarambakkam Lake, specifically in Sikkarayapuram and Malaiyambakkam. The key findings regarding these specific quarries are submitted as follows:

*Aiyid*  
Assistant Director  
Geology and Mining  
Kancheepuram.

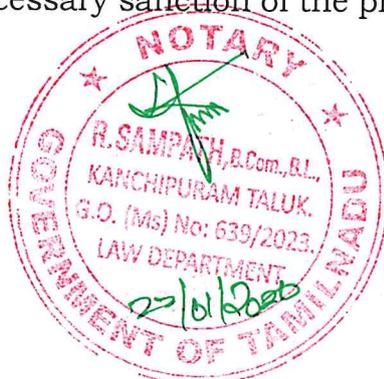


*Sundar*  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR  
KANCHEEPURAM

- The quarries in Sikkarayapuram and Malaiyambakkam currently function as a single entity with a substantial water holding capacity. The study estimates the stored water volume at approximately 1,40,24,000 cubic meters (495 mcft). This volume represents approximately one-fifth (1/5<sup>th</sup>) of the total capacity of the Chembarambakkam Lake, a critical drinking water source for Chennai City.
- It is submitted that infrastructure is already in place to utilize this water for public consumption. During drought years, when storage in Chembarambakkam Lake is low, water from these quarries is pumped to the Chembarambakkam Water Treatment Plant and supplied to Chennai City. All necessary arrangements are in place to continue utilizing this water for drinking purposes.
- The total area of these three quarries is 38.46 hectares. Following recent rains, runoff collected via a nearby field irrigation channel has flowed into these pits, filling them to the brim. The current estimated storage capacity has increased to approximately 600 mcft. given the consistent annual inflow from runoff, these quarry pits serve as an assured supplementary water source for Chennai, ensuring supply even during summer months. To protect this vital water resource from pollution and the dumping of garbage or debris, the District Administration has accorded top priority to installing high-quality chain-link fencing or compound walls around these sites.

9) Further it is submitted that, proposal for fencing 10 abandoned quarries (including 3 quarries in Sikkarayapuram and Malaiyambakkam village) with an estimated cost of Rs.152.92 lakhs has recommended and forwarded for issuing necessary sanction of the projects to be executed by the

  
Assistant Director  
Geology and Mining  
Kancheepuram.



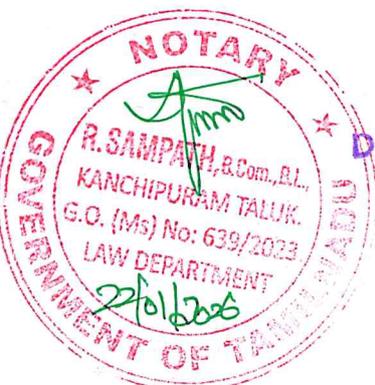
  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR  
KANCHEEPURAM

implementing agency as DRDA, Kancheepuram by utilizing Green Fund accumulated in respect of Kancheepuram District and to release the Fund to Government through the Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai.

10) Further, the Government in G.O.(Ms)No.38, Natural Resources (MMC.1) Department, Dated: 22.04.2025 has delegated the powers as below to make expenditure under Green Fund for the reclamation, restoration and rehabilitation of abandoned Mines or Quarries and order accordingly:

- i. The Projects involving costs upto Rs.50 (Fifty) Lakhs in a financial year may be approved and implemented by the District Collector (Chairperson of the reclamation, restoration and rehabilitation Committee)
- ii. Whenever the total cost of the selected projects(s) exceeds Rs.50 (Fifty) lakhs and is upto Rs.100 lakhs in a financial year, the Chairperson (viz. District Collector), after approval of the project, shall obtain the concurrence from the Director of Geology and Mining before implementing the project.
- iii. Whenever the total cost of the selected project(s) exceeds Rs.100 Lakhs in a financial year, the Chairperson (viz. District Collector), after approval of the project, shall obtain concurrence of the Government, before implementing the project.

11) Further it is submitted that, as per G.O.(Ms) No.38, Natural Resources (MMC.1) Department, Dated : 22.04.2025, the project Proposal has already been recommended and forwarded to the Government for sanction and the proposal is under consideration of the State Government. Hence, it is submitted that the implementing agency, i.e, DRDA will complete the said works within a period of six months from the date of order of the receipt of finding.


Assistant Director  
 Geology and Mining  
 Kancheepuram.

NOTARY  
 R. SAMPATH, B.Com., B.L.  
 KANCHIPURAM TALUK.  
 G.O. (Ms) No: 639/2023  
 LAW DEPARTMENT  
 GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DISTRICT COLLECTOR  
 KANCHEEPURAM

8/15

In view of the above, it is therefore humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai may be pleased to accept the above described explanation and dispose of the application or pass such further order as this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the fact and circumstance of this case and thus justice.

Solemnly affirmed at January on this day 22.01.2026 and signed her name in my presence.

*Solemnly*  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR  
KANCHEEPURAM  
BEFORE ME

*Soyid*  
Assistant Director  
Geology and Mining  
Kancheepuram.



*Sampath*  
22/01/2026  
R. SAMPATH, B.Com., B.L.,  
ADVOCATE / NOTARY  
Roll. No: Ms.7 / 2002  
No. E-317, Subash Chandra Bose Street,  
PALLAVAN NAGAR,  
KANCHIPURAM - 631 501.  
Cell: 9842313159.

From  
Tmt. Kalaiselvi Mohan., I.A.S.,  
District Collector,  
Kancheepuram.

To  
The Addl. Chief Secretary to Government,  
Natural Resources Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

Through

The Commissioner of Geology and Mining,  
Guindy, Chennai-32.

Rc.203/Q1/2022 Dated 07.02.2025

Sir/Madam,

Sub: Mines and Minerals – Minor Minerals – Amendment in the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 – Reclamation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of abandoned quarries by utilizing Green Fund – Detailed project report called for from the District Rural Development Agency for public utility of abandoned quarries – Report received – Recommended and forwarded to the Government for issuing necessary sanction and release of fund – Further details called for – Furnished - Reg.

- Ref:
1. Announcement of the Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources during the budget session of 2021-22
  2. G.O.(Ms) No.23 Industries (MMC.1) Department dated:23.02.2022
  3. Government authorized Care Earth Trust vide G.O.(D) No.55, Natural Resources (MMC-1) Department dated 05.06.2024.
  4. This office letter even no. dated 09.02.2024 and 19.12.2024 (addressed to Project Director, DRDA, Kancheepuram)
  5. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai Letter in R.C.No.5983/MM7/2021 dated 10.12.2024 (enclosed the report received from Tvl. Care Earth Trust).
  6. Project Director, DRDA, Kancheepuram report in letter Rc.598/2023/A9 dat11.01.2025 (received at this office on 13.01.2025).
  7. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai Letter in R.C.No.11306/MM7/2024 dated 10.01.2025
  8. This officer letter even No. dated 17.01.2025.
  9. Minutes of the Green Fund committee meeting in R.C.No.203/Q1/2022-Green Fund, dated 20.01.2025.

10. Telephone message received from the O/o Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai dated 31.01.2025.

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Kind attention is invited to the references cited as above.

2) Based on the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister during the Budget for the year 2021-2022, the Government vide G.O.(Ms) No.23 Industries (MMC.1) Department dated:23.02.2022 have inserted Section IV for creation of a "Green Fund" by collecting contribution from the lessees of Minor Minerals in addition to the Seigniorage fee for reclamation and restoration of abandoned quarries. Accordingly, The Reclamation, Restoration and Rehabilitation Committee was formed vide District Collector, Kancheepuram proceedings in R.C.No.203/Q1/2022 dated: 22.06.2022.

3) In the meantime, in pursuance to the G.O.(D) No.55, Natural Resources (MMC-1) Department dated 05.06.2024 and as ordered by the District Collector vide Proceedings dated 11.07.2024, Tvl.Care Earth Trust have conducted pre feasibility survey in 16 abandoned quarries in Kancheepuram District and submitted the final report to the Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai on 04.12.2024.

4) The Project Director, DRDA has been requested vide letter dated 19.12.2024 to submit the quarry wise detailed project reports along with detailed estimates to implement the projects reported by Tvl.Care Earth Trust by utilizing green fund collected in the district.

5) In respect of Kancheepuram District Green Fund accrued up to 31.12.2024 is Rs.5,01,28,864/-.

6) In this connection, the Project Director, DRDA, Kancheepuram vide letter dated 11.01.2025, has submitted detailed project reports initially for fencing of 10 abandoned quarries in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase. The quarry wise details of report received from DRDA are submitted as follows: -

S. No	Block	Village	Name of the Quarry / Location	Length in meters	Estimates Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
1.	Uthiramerur	Sirudhamur	338(P) Q.No.1	500	15.67
2			338(P) Q.No.2	462	14.50
3			161(P) Q.No.2	272	8.65
4			107(P)	556	17.41
5			326 (P)	538	16.85
6			155 (P)	932	28.95
7			159 (P)	829	25.80
8	Kundrathur	Sikkarayapuram	207/1	895	11.71
9			296/1A	637	8.36
10		Malayambakkam	873,874,876, 877,878,880 & 981	379	5.02
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>6000</b>	<b>152.92</b>

7) In view of the above, the District Collector, Kancheepuram vide letter dated 17.01.2025, has recommended and forwarded the proposal to Government for fencing of 10 abandoned quarries with an estimated cost of Rs.152.92 lakhs along with the connected records for issuing necessary sanction for implementing the aforementioned projects. Accordingly, the said projects was also recommended by the Green Fund Committee on 20.01.2025.

8) The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai vide letter dated 10.01.2025 (addressed to the other District Collectors) has requested to furnish certain details for sanctioning of funds under the green fund.

9) As requested by the Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai the details called for are furnished as below

- a) *The scheme/project is eligible under rule 35-F (m) of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959.*
- b) *The project proposal received from the District Rural Development Agency for fencing 10 abandoned quarries to prevent accidents involving people and animals drowning in stagnant water was recommended by the Green Fund Committee on 20.01.2025.*
- c) *yes, the project is in compliance with the green fund guidelines.*

- d) The project execution agency is the District Rural Development Agency, Kancheepuram.
- e) The estimates had been prepared and duly signed by the competent authority.
- f) On perusal of the project proposal/estimate the expected period of execution has not been furnished by the agency.
- g) Amount collected under the Green Fund as on 31.01.2025 is Rs.5,18,67,388.
- h) No expenditure has been made from the fund to date.
- i) Balance under the green fund as on 31.01.2025 is Rs.5,18,67,388.
- j) Copy of Green Fund constituted proceedings is enclosed herewith.

10) Hence, based on the detailed project report / estimates received from the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Kancheepuram, for fencing 10 abandoned quarries at an estimated cost of Rs. 152.92 lakh, the proposal is hereby recommended and forwarded to the Government along with the relevant records for necessary sanction. The project is to be executed by the implementing agency, DRDA Kancheepuram, utilizing the Green Fund accumulated for Kancheepuram District. It is also recommended that the funds be released at the earliest to facilitate timely execution of the work.

Encl: As above.

Sd/-Kalaiselvi Mohan,  
(Dated 07.02.2025)  
District Collector  
Kancheepuram

/ By order /

  
For District Collector,  
Kancheepuram.

