

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 29 of 2025

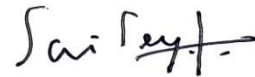
Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU** based on the news item in The Hindustan Times dt.06.12.2024 titled “3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai” and news item in The Times of India dated 07.12.2024 titled “Pathogens to watch out for taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths”

And

1. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Through its Member Secretary, Chennai
and Ors.

... Respondents

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF MoEF&CC,
RESPONDENT No.4**



Counsel for Respondent-4 (MoEF & CC)

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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 29 OF 2025 (SZ)
[Earlier O.A. No.1365/2024 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

TRIBUNAL ON ITS OWN MOTION SUO MOTU BASED ON THE NEWS ITEM IN THE HINDUSTAN TIMES DT.06.12.2024 TITLED “3 DEAD DUE TO CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER NEAR CHENNAI” AND NEWS ITEM IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 07.12.2024 TITLED “PATHOGENS TO WATCH OUT FOR TAPS NEAR SEWAGE LINES COULD BE BEHIND CHENNAI CONTAMINATION DEATHS.

.....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD THROUGH ITS MEMBER SECRETARY, CHENNAI AND ORS.


..... RESPONDENT(S)

REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, RESPONDENT No. 4.

I, Dr. S. Pradeep Kumar, S/o S. Sugumar, aged about 37 Years currently working as Scientist- ‘B’ in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Chennai, solemnly affirm and declare the following That I, in the capacity of Scientist- ‘B’ in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, office at do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:


1. That I, in the capacity of Scientist- ‘B’ in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, am fully conversant with facts of the case and competent to swear this affidavit on behalf of the answering Respondent No. 4.

Dr.S.Pradeepkumar
Scientist 'B'
Government of India
Regional Office
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.


Dr.S.Pradeepkumar
Scientist 'B'
Government of India
Regional Office
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.

2. That the present application is registered suo-moto on the basis of the news items titled "3 dead due to contaminated drinking water near Chennai" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 06.12.2024 and "Pathogens to watch out for Taps near sewage lines could be behind Chennai contamination deaths" appearing in the Times of India dated 07.12.2024. The matter relates to the death of three people and hospitalization of 20 others in Tambaram near Chennai, Tamil Nadu due to suspected contaminated drinking water.
3. That the main mandate of MoEF&CC is policy formulation for abatement, control and prevention of pollution, prescribing environmental standards which are implemented through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).
4. It is submitted that Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 empowers the State Pollution Control Boards to take all such measures as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protection and improving the quality of environment and prevention, controlling and abating environmental pollution.
5. That the Central Government has enacted Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 which specifically deals with issues, related to control and abatement of pollution in water bodies including drains. The implementation of the provisions of these Act are with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)

Dr. S. Pradeep Kumar
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Besides, the concerned State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees are empowered to take all such measures as are deemed necessary or expedient for the purpose of protection and improving the quality of environment as well as prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution.

6. That water is a State subject and the major sources of pollution including sewage pollution and dumping of solid waste fall under the civic, health and sanitation responsibilities of the State Government and/or municipalities/ local bodies. The respective States/municipalities/local bodies, therefore, are having the primary responsibility in tackling these sources of pollution out of their budget and internal revenue generation. They are also responsible for setting-up proper facilities for collection and treatment of sewage being generated in various towns to ensure that untreated sewage does not pollute the water bodies and surroundings.
7. In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that issue involve in present matter does not come under the purview of this Ministry. Therefore, the answering respondent humbly prays for leave to make additional submissions.
8. It is humbly prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly pass such order(s) as may be deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case.


DEPONENT

Dr.S.Pradeepkumar
Scientist 'B'
Government of India
Regional Office
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 600 006, Tamilnadu.

VERIFICATION:

Verified at Chennai on this 17th day of September 2025 that the contents of this reply affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are correct to my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.


DEPONENT

Dr. S. Pradeepkumar
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