

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ) CHENNAI
IN THE MATTER OF:

Original Application .No. 59 of 2022

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Amaravati,

Date: 30-10-2025.



Counsel for the Applicant

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ) CHENNAI

IN THE MATTER OF:

Original Application .No. 59 of 2022

BETWEEN:

Velagapudi Babu Rao, S/o Late Venkateswara Rao,
Aged about 65 years, Occ: Business,
R/o. D.no-24-86, Now YSR Tadigadapa Municipality,
Previously Yenamalakuduru Village, Penamaluru Mandal,
Vijayawada Rural, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh- 520007.
Email: velagapudi.babu@yahoo.in, Phone.No. 8333978818.

... Applicant

AND

1)The State of Andhra Pradesh, Rep. by its Principal Secretary,
Major Irrigation Department, Secretariat,
Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Andhra Pradesh -522238.

Email: prlsecy_pr@ap.gov.in, Phone.No. 0863-2445509 & Others ... Respondent/s

REJOINDER / REPLY FILED BY THE APPLICANT
(To the Status Reports Filed by Respondents)

1. It is respectfully submitted that the Applicant is filing the present rejoinder/reply to the status reports filed by Respondents. The reports filed are incomplete, misleading, and evasive, particularly with regard to the continuing discharge of untreated sewage and dumping of garbage into the Krishna River, in gross violation of environmental laws and the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

2. It is submitted that Respondent No. 2 (YSR Tadigadapa Municipality) has been dumping municipal solid waste and garbage into the Krishna River bed, while Respondent No. 3 (Vijayawada Municipal Corporation) has been discharging untreated sewage effluents from the Ramalingeswara Nagar Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) directly into River Krishna after demolishing the returning wall constructed to prevent flooding in the adjacent residential areas.

Such actions are illegal, environmentally hazardous and violative of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. It is further submitted that on 20th August 2024, a tragic incident occurred wherein several cattle belonging to local villagers died within minutes after drinking contaminated water from River Krishna near Ramalingeswara Nagar – the very location where the STP operated by Respondent No. 3 releases untreated sewage effluents. The affected cattle owners lodged a complaint before Penamaluru Urban Police Station, which was registered as FIR No. 759 of 2024.

Following the said incident, local residents staged public protests, expressing concern about groundwater contamination and river pollution. The local MLA, Police Officials, Municipal Commissioner of Respondent No. 2 and Animal Husbandry Department officers visited the site and assured corrective measures.



During the inspection, the MLA directed the police to collect water samples for laboratory testing and instructed the Animal Husbandry officials to conduct post-mortem examinations on the dead cattle. The said events were widely reported in local newspapers, reflecting the severity of public concern regarding environmental degradation in the area. A detailed Memo dated: 21-09-2024 with the facts has already been filed and readily available for perusal of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

5. It is further submitted that the demolition of the returning wall at the Ramalingeswara Nagar STP outlet by Respondent No. 3 has led to flooding of adjacent residential areas during heavy rains and recent Krishna River floods. Through this breach, floodwaters entered the colonies, causing hardship and distress to residents.

This reckless act of Respondent No. 3 not only violates environmental norms but also endangers public life and property.

6. It is submitted that Respondent No. 3 is operating STPs without valid Consents to Operate (CTO) from the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (Respondent No. 4), in violation of Section 25 of the Water Act, 1974.

Operation without valid consent renders such discharge illegal and punishable under Section 44 of the same Act.

7. It is further submitted that the Respondents continue to apply outdated effluent standards of BOD \leq 30 mg/L, TSS \leq 100 mg/L and COD 250mg/L which are no longer applicable after the revised norms issued under the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

In accordance with the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 30th April 2019 in O.A. No. 1069/2018, and as subsequently outlined in the CPCB Guidelines for the Reuse of Treated Sewage, the following standards are prescribed for treated effluent from Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) located in metropolitan and large urban areas:

S. No.	Parameters	Norms as per NGT direction dated 30/04/2019 in the matter of OA No 1069 of 2018	MoEF&CC Notification dated October, 2017	
			Cities (more than 10 lakh population)	Areas / regions other than mentioned above
1	pH	5.5-9.0	6.5-9.0	
2	BOD, mg/L	10	20	30
3	COD, mg/L	50	-	-
4	TSS, mg/L	20	50	100
5	NH ₄ -N, mg/L	-	-	-
6	N-Total, mg/L	10	-	-
7	Faecal Coliforms, MPN/100 mL	100 Desirable 230 Permissible	1000	

Respondent No. 4 (APPCB), in their report, has stated that in connection with a complaint filed before the Hon'ble Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh regarding the discharge of treated sewage effluent into the River Krishna, APPCB officials inspected the STPs and collected samples on 20.08.2024. The inspection indicated

that, while most parameters were within permissible limits, the BOD levels were 36.0 mg/L for the 10 MLD STP and 32.0 mg/L for the 20 MLD STP, exceeding the then-applicable standard of 20.0 mg/L and thereby demonstrating non-compliance even with the earlier standards.

It is respectfully submitted that the said reference to 20.0 mg/L BOD pertains to the obsolete CPCB standard applicable prior to the Hon'ble NGT's Order dated 30.04.2019 in O.A. No. 1069/2018, which has since been superseded by the revised effluent norms of BOD \leq 10 mg/L and TSS \leq 20 mg/L for metropolitan and large urban areas.

Accordingly, the present exceedance constitutes a more serious violation when assessed against the currently applicable standards. It is therefore clear that the Respondents' reliance on earlier standards of BOD 30 mg/L, TSS 100 mg/L and COD 250 mg/L is contrary to law and amounts to non-compliance with the NGT's binding directions.

It is further recorded that the Board officials again inspected the said STPs on 22.11.2024 and 26.11.2024, and collected additional samples on 17.10.2024 and 14.11.2024. However, the analysis reports of these samples have not been furnished to this Hon'ble Tribunal till date, despite repeated opportunities. This omission underscores the Respondents' continued failure to demonstrate compliance with the prescribed standards.

Also, the Respondents' reliance on the obsolete standards of BOD 30 mg/L, TSS 100 mg/L and COD 250 mg/L is contrary to law and constitutes non-compliance with the binding directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

8. It is further submitted that Respondent No. 4 (APPCB) has failed to enforce compliance and has not produced any NABL-certified laboratory or inspection reports to support its claims. Its inaction constitutes a failure of regulatory oversight under the Water Act and the Environment (Protection) Act.

9. It is also submitted that the Respondents have misleadingly relied upon future projects proposed under AMRUT 2.0 and UNIDO grants for STP upgradation. The Applicant submits that ongoing violations cannot be justified by citing future works.

Environmental compliance is a continuing and mandatory obligation, not a conditional one.

10. It is further submitted that the continuous discharge of untreated sewage and unregulated dumping has resulted in:

- a) Severe pollution of River Krishna;
- b) Death of livestock and ecological imbalance;
- c) Groundwater contamination in Yanamalakuduru
- d) Public health hazards for residents living near the riverbanks.

11. It is most respectfully submitted that the present issue is a matter of grave public concern, involving not only violations of statutory environmental norms but also serious risks to public health, livestock, and the ecological balance of River Krishna. A lenient or delayed approach in this regard would result in irreversible environmental damage, continued loss of animal life, and further hardship to the residents of Yanamalakuduru, and surrounding localities.



In light of the above facts and circumstances, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to:

- a) Direct immediate cessation of all untreated sewage discharge into River Krishna by Respondent 3 until valid CTOs are obtained and the CPCB/NGT-mandated standards are met;
- b) Constitute a Joint Inspection Committee comprising APPCB, Irrigation, Animal Husbandry, and independent environmental experts to inspect STPs, discharge points, and investigate cattle deaths;
- c) Impose Environmental Compensation on Respondents 2 and 3 under the 'Polluter Pays Principle';
- d) Direct Respondent No. 4 (APPCB) to verify RTMS data, conduct regular inspections, and file certified compliance reports before this Hon'ble Tribunal;
- e) Take a strict and time-bound view of the violations and direct immediate remedial and preventive measures, in the interest of justice, environment, and public welfare;
and
- f) Pass such other orders as may be deemed fit in the interest of justice, environment, and public health.

Amaravati,
Date: 30.10.2025.


Deponent.

BEFORE ME

ADVOCATE :: AMARAVATHI

VERIFICATION STATEMENT

I, Velagapudi Babu Rao, S/o Late Venkateswara Rao, Aged about 65 years, Occ: Business, R/o. D.no-24-86, Now YSR Tadigadapa Municipality, Previously Yenamalakuduru Village, Penamaluru Mandal, Vijayawada Rural, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh- 520007, being the Applicant herein and person acquainted with the facts do hereby verify and state that the contents of the above paras are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. The above contents are typed under my instructions and same are read over and explained to me in vernacular language. Hence verified at Amaravathi on this the 30th day of October 2025.


ADVOCATE


DEPONENT

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL (SZ) CHENNAI**

O.A.No. 59 of 2022

Between:

Velagapudi Babu Rao, S/o Late
Venkateswara Rao,

... Petitioner

And

The State of Andhra Pradesh and
others.

.. Respondent/s

**REJOINDER / REPLY FILED BY THE
APPLICANT**

Filed by:
Kodali Madhukar,
Advocate
Counsel for the Applicant.