

From
Tmt.R.Seethalakshmi,I.A.S.,
The District Collector
Chennai District,
Chennai.

To
The Dy.Registrar (Judicial),
National Green Tribunal,
Principal Bench,
Faridkot House, Copernicus MarG,
New Delhi-110001

R.C. No.C2/15646/2020, Dt: .08.2020

Respected Sir/Madam,

Sub: NGT - OA No.173/2020 Suo Moto taken up by the Hon'ble NGT - Titled 700 tones of Ammonium Nitrate stored in Chennai Safe, E-auction Done: Customs after Beirut Blast - Hearing by the NGT through Video conferencing on 24.08.2020 - Report submitted -Reg.

Ref: 1. Dy.Registrar (Judicial), NGT Principal Bench, New Delhi Letter dated: 14.08.2020 sent through email.
2. This Office letter no.C2/15646/2020 dated:17.08.2020 addressed to the DEE, TNPCB, Chennai
3. The District Environment Engineer, Ambattur, TNPCB
Lr.No.DEE/TNPCB/AMB/F.AMB. Ammonium Nitrate CFS/2020 dated:17.08.2020

Kind attention is invited to the reference cited.

I submit that in the reference 1st cited, it has been informed that the hearing of Suo Moto case Titled 700 tones of Ammonium Nitrate stored in Chennai Safe (OA.NO 173/2020) will be taken up by the Hon'ble NGT through the Video Conference on 24.08.2020 before the following bench:

Hon'ble Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Chairperson

Hon'ble Mr.Justice S.P.Wangdi, Judicial Member

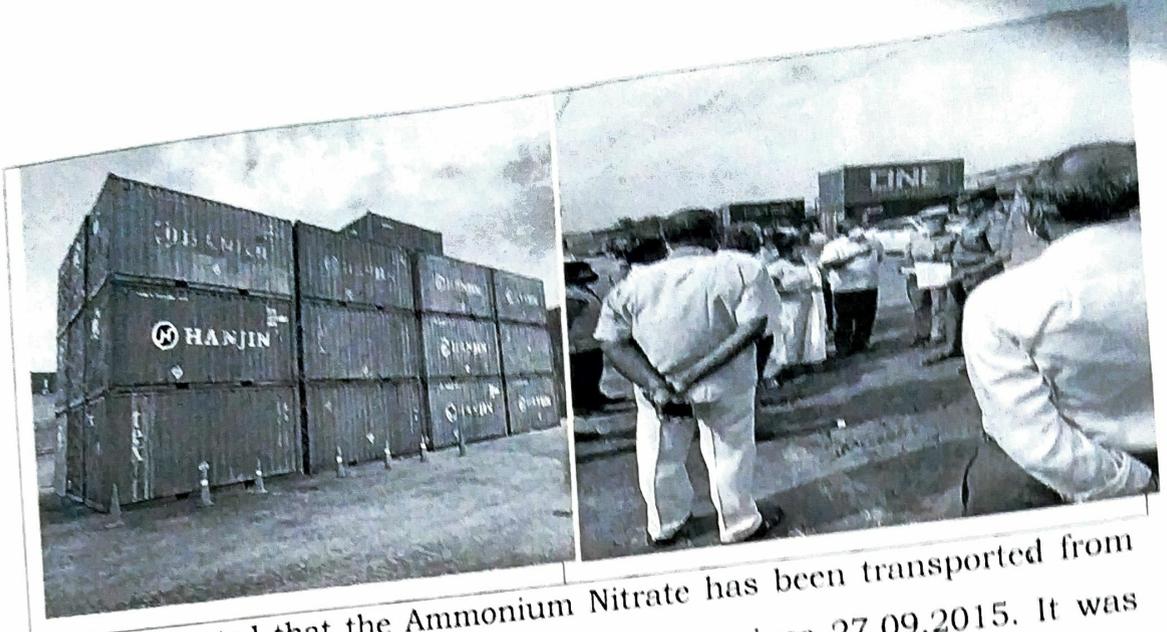
Hon'ble Dr.Nagin Nanda, Expert Member

It has also been directed to file the report if any through the mail. In this connection, I submit that in the reference 2nd cited the DEE, TNPCB Ambattur has been directed to furnish the report and accordingly the same has been sent vide reference 3rd cited.

In the report of the DEE, TNPCB, Ambattur it has been stated that the custom bonded warehouse of M/s. Sattva Container Freight Station (CFS) in Door No. 126A, Ponneri High Road, Manali, Tiruvottriyur Taluk, Chennai District was inspected on 06.08.2020 by TNPCB officials along with Police officials, Fire and Rescue services, Chennai in pursuant to the information given by the customs department as Large quantity of Ammonium Nitrate stored in one of the custom bonded container freight stations at Manali.

During inspection, the following were noticed:

1. The extent of the ware house is about 18 acres, surrounded by Container Freight Stations at east, west & northern directions and Ponneri High Road followed by container freight station in western direction.
2. The Nearest habitations are namely Manali New Town at a distance of 700m in the northern direction with a population of about 7000 and Sadayankuppam village at a distance of 1500m in the eastern direction with a population of about 5000.
3. The occupier of the premises is Mr. Narasimhan and this container freight station is being under operation since October 2001.
4. There were 37 number of MS containers each having approximately 20Tons, totally 740T of Ammonium Nitrate was reported to be stored within the premises of Sattva Container Freight Station(CFS) as shown in the following photographs.



5. It was reported that the Ammonium Nitrate has been transported from the Chennai Port and stored in the premises since 27.09.2015. It was also reported that the Ammonium Nitrate in the containers is being stored in crystallised form in 25kg polypropylene bags.
6. The official from the Customs Department present during inspection informed that the material has been imported by M/s. Sri Amman Chemicals, Karur, however the material is still under the possession of Customs Department due to some legal issues.
7. The Customs Official has also reported that the bidding for the utilization of Ammonium Nitrate by beneficiaries has been called for and the process will be completed within three days.
8. Ammonium Nitrate is listed in serial number 33 of part II schedule 1 of Manufacture Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 as amended.

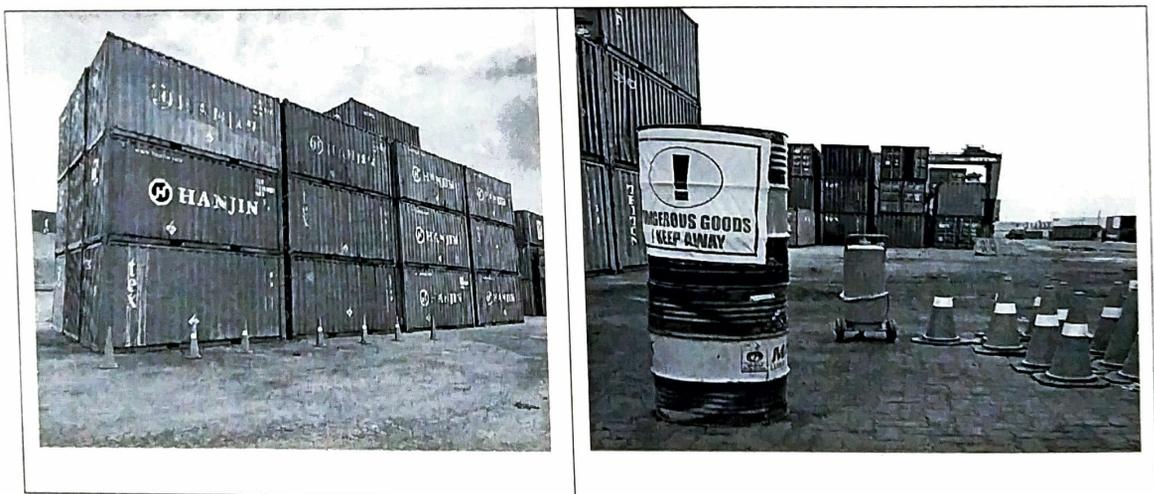
In view of above, it was recommended to Board to issue the following directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as amended.

1. To the Commissioner of Customs, Commissionerate III, Customs House, Beach Road, Chennai -01 to take immediate action to clear the stored Ammonium Nitrate from the said CFS as the same is still under the possession of Customs Department.

2. To the Director Industrial Safety & Health (DISH), Guindy to inspect the said Container Freight Station and take necessary action as per the provisions of Manufacture Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules 1989 as amended.
3. To the Occupier, M/s. Sattva Container Freight Station, Door No. 126A, Ponneri High Road, Manali, Tiruvottriyur Taluk, Chennai District to earmark the Ammonium Nitrate storage area and engage security personnel to safeguard the area till the clearance of Ammonium Nitrate stored containers by the Customs Department.

In the meantime the Board vide letter No.T2/TNPCB/F.013935/2020, dated 06.08.2020 requested the Director of Industrial safety and Health, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai that necessary inspection may be carried out and submit a report to the Government immediately.

Further the custom bonded warehouse of M/s. Sattva Container Freight Station (CFS) was again inspected on 13.08.2020 and it was noticed that the ammonium nitrate stored was removed. The location where ammonium nitrate was stored in containers was found vacant as shown as in photograph.



Before Disposal

After disposal

It was reported during inspection that 10 containers were removed on 10th August 2020; 12 containers were removed on 11th August 2020 and 15 containers were removed on 12th August 2020. Totally 37 containers with 697

Tonnes of ammonium nitrate were sent to M/s.Salvo Explosives & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., S F No.756, 786, 916, 913, Ankireddypalli Village, Keesara Road, Keesara Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri, Telangana - 501301 which is a detonator manufacturing unit having license for ammonium nitrate.

Though it was mentioned in the earlier report that about 740T were stored in the container freight station, but the actual quantity is only 697T in 37 containers which were transported to M/s.Salvo Explosives & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana.

It has been further stated that the above said details have been sent to the Government and also informed the same to Telangana Pollution Control Board since the material (Ammonium Nitrate) are transported to M/s.Salvo Explosives & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., S F No.756, 786, 916, 913, Ankireddypalli Village, Keesara Road, Keesara Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri, Telangana - 501301.

This is submitted before the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi for favour of kind information.

Yours faithfully,


20/8/2020
District Collector
Chennai


20/8/2020