

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI.

E.A.No.35/2023

IN

O.A.No.673 of 2018.

MD. IMRAN AHMAD & ORS.

...Applicant

Vs-

CHIEF SECRETARY, TAMIL NADU

...Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY,
STATE OF TAMIL NADU

I, Shiv Das Meena, son of Chaturbhuj Meena, aged about 59 years, having my office at, Secretariat, St. Fort George, Chennai-600 009, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I am the Chief Secretary to Government, State of Tamil Nadu, Chennai-600 009 and I am filing this Report on behalf of the State of Tamil Nadu and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records.

2. Polluted River Stretches

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified six Polluted River Stretches (PRS) in 2018 based on consolidated reports of Global Environmental Monitoring Scheme (GEMS) and Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources System (MINARS) programme for the year 2015 - 2017. The details of Polluted River Stretches are furnished in Annexure-1. The Polluted River Stretches (PRS) have been prioritized based on a parameter viz. Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) values and categorized as five priorities (Priority-I — BOD > 30mg/L, Priority-II — BOD 20 to 30mg/L, Priority-III — BOD 10 to 20 mg/L, Priority-IV — BOD 6 to 10 mg/L, Priority-V — 3 to 6mg/L).

3. Rejuvenation of Polluted River Stretches

The National Green Tribunal (PB) in OA No. 673/2018 has ordered to rejuvenate the Polluted River Stretches. Accordingly, Action Plans have been prepared for six PRS in coordination with line departments such as Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Chennai Metro Water and Sewerage Board, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Greater Chennai Corporation, Commissionerate of Town Panchayats, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj & Water Resources Department. The Action Plans for

Rivers Sarabanga, Thirumanimutharu, Vasista, Cauvery, Bhavani and Thamiraparani have been approved by the CPCB and are under implementation by the line departments.

4. Local Bodies

a) Sewage treatment

In the State 3938 MLD of sewage is generated. To treat the sewage, 101 Sewage Treatment Plants (Capacity-2345 MLD) and 36 Fecal Sewage Treatment Plants (Capacity 1 MLD) with some alternate technologies (Capacity 957 MLD) are in operation to a total capacity of 3303 MLD. Apart from the above, 13 STPs and 15 FSTPs are under construction (267 MLD capacity); they are at various stages of implementation and the works will be completed by December 2023. Hence, the gap in treatment of sewage is 368 MLD only. To bridge the gap of sewage treatment, 49 sewage treatment plants and 5 fecal sewage treatment plants are proposed to be constructed by local bodies concerned.

b) Municipal Solid Waste management

In the State, 15,644 TPD of municipal solid waste is generated by the Local Bodies. Out of which, 9990 TPD of waste is treated. The biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes are collected separately.

The recyclable wastes are segregated and sold to the venders/recyclers. The plastic wastes are collected separately and used in cement plants for co- incineration, laying road, etc,. The local bodies are constructing 155 Nos. of additional municipal solid wastes facilities (5654 TPD capacity) to treat the balance solid wastes. Hence, after providing the proposed facilities there will not any gap in treatment of municipal solid wastes.

5. Nadanthaivazhi Cauvery Project

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced under Rule 110 in the house of Tamil Nadu State Assembly on 20.07.2019 a Scheme viz. "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery" in Tamil Nadu. It is a massive programme for Cauvery River and its tributaries with the prime objective to conserve, rejuvenate and augment the water resources in Cauvery basin and to curb pollutants effectively.

In order to execute works, Detailed Project Reports have been prepared for the project in Tamil Nadu reach in line with Government of India norms and appropriate guidelines contemplating the key Interventions / infrastructure developments provisions. Preliminary report has been prepared by Public Works Department for an estimated cost of Rs. 11,250 crore. But, taking the considerations of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and National River Conservation Directorate

(NRCD) observations the project has been decided to be implemented in two phases at an overall outlay of Rs.10,711/- crores (Rs. Ten thousand seven hundred and eleven crores). The DPRs have been forwarded to the Government of India by the Government of Tamil Nadu for funding.

6. Chennai Rivers Restoration Works

The Government of Tamil Nadu has carried- out rejuvenation works for Cooum and Adyar Rivers. In GO (Ms) No. 107 MA & WS dept. dated. 20.8.2019, the Govt. has accorded in principle a sum of Rs. 2371 crore for rejuvenation of Cooum, Adyar and Buckingham canal. Administrative sanction has been accorded for the above rejuvenation works for Rs.1001 crore and the works are being implemented. On completion of the projects, the water quality in Chennai City waterways will be improved further.

7. Ground Water Department

The Ground Water Department of the State is one among the departments to rejuvenate rivers. It has completed 123 Nos. of Rain Water Harvesting Structures along the PRS and 16 works are under progress; it has proposed to take up 283 Nos. of recharging wells. Out of 1767 Nos. of encroachments 756 Nos. have been evicted and 1011 encroachments are

to be evicted. The Chief Engineer, Ground Water Department, Chennai has assured to complete the works early.

8. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

a. Water Polluting Units

The water polluting industries functioning in Tamil Nadu have provided either individual effluents treatment plants or common effluents treatment plants to treat their waste water. The details are tabulated as below:

Sl. No.	Details of Industries	State
1.	No. of industries in the State:	54,000
2.	No. of water polluting industries in the State:	11,558
3.	Quantity of effluent generated from the industries(MLD)	2,836
5.	No. of industrial units having Effluent Treatment Plants:	11,558
6.	No. of industrial units connected to Common Effluent Treatment Plants	1,497 (99 MLD capacity).

b. Treatment and Disposal

In Tamil Nadu, trade effluents are collected, treated and disposed off as per the consent Orders conditions of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. In the State, tannery sectors and textile sectors industries are achieving zero liquid discharge systems and thereby no industrial waste is discharged into the Rivers from the above sectors. About 9.70 lakh ton per

annum hazardous wastes are collected from industries; segregated as land-fillable, recyclable, incinerable, etc, and disposed off scientifically. About 104 ton per day of Bio- medical wastes are collected from 29,289 health care facilities, segregated as land-fillable, incinerable, etc., and disposed off scientifically.

c. Monitoring of Industries

The TNPCB implements five stage systems in monitoring industries viz. Corporate office headed by Chairperson, Regional offices headed by Joint Chief Environmental Engineers, District Offices headed by District Environmental Engineers, Flying squads headed by Environmental Engineers and District Environmental Committee chaired by the District Collectors concerned. So, strict monitoring is being carried-out by the Government of Tamil Nadu against discharge of waste waters into the environment. In the case of any illegal discharges are found, the units concerned will be closed and power supplies are disconnected.

As far as industrial pollution is concerned; the industries are monitored by means of inspection, sample collection and analyzed as per the CPCB norms. The industrial operation complied the norms of the Hon'ble NGT orders.

9. Preparation of Comprehensive Action Plans for Coastal-marine Pollution

As per the Hon'ble NGT orders, for Preparation of Comprehensive Action Plans for Coastal-marine Pollution in Tamil Nadu; work orders have been issued to the National Centre for Coastal Research, Chennai by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the works are under progress. The works will be completed within four months time.

10. Water Quality of Rivers

The water quality of the polluted river stretches for the month of October 2023 is tabulated in Annexure-2 for reference. In Cauvery, Bhavani and Tamirabarani the water quality is improved upto bathing standards.

Due to the continuous efforts of the Govt. of Tamil Nadu on rejuvenating the PRS; the PRS priorities for Rivers Sarabanga, Cauvery and Bhavani have been shifted to lower priorities during the year 2022 as furnished in Annexure-1. Hence, Sarabanga, Cauvery, Tamirabarani and Bhavani PRS will be eliminated by the CPCB early. (Annexure-1&2)

11. Bio-mining

Total quantity of legacy waste generated in Tamil Nadu is 2,03,07,364 cum. Out of which quantity of legacy waste bio-mined up to

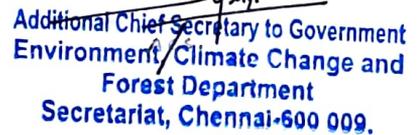
the month of October 2023 is 1,00,61,102 cum. The balance quantity will be bio-mined within a year period.

12. Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in this case and thus render justice.



DEPONENT

Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu
Chennai-600 009



Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

VERIFICATION

Verified at Chennai on this 12th day of December, 2023 that the contents of the above report are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

DEPONENT



Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu
Chennai-600 009



Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

Annexure-1

**Revised Polluted River Stretches Classified by CPCB
based on 2019 and 2021 Report of Analysis**

S. No.	Name of the River	Length of river (Kms)	Polluted River Stretches	Priority year 2018	Priority year 2022
1	Sarabanga	70	Thathayampatti to T. Gonagapadi 15 Kms)	I	II
2	Thirumanimutharu	120	Salem to papparapatti 15 Kms	I	I
3	Vasista	87	ManiVizhunthan to Thi aganur (10 Kms)	I	I
4	Cauvery	253	Mettur to Mailaduthurai (200 Kms)	I	III
5	Bhavani	217	Sirumugai to Kalingarayan (60 Kms)	IV	V
6	Thamiraparani	128	Pappankulam to Arumuganeri (80 Kms)	V	IV

Annexure-2

**Water quality of Six Polluted River Stretches for the month
of October 2023**

S.No.	Name of the River	No of Monitoring Locations	BOD (Maximum level) (mg/L)	Bathing Standards BOD (mg/L)
1	Sarabanga	1	12.0	<3
2	Thirumanimutharu	1	7.0	<3
3	Vasista	1	6.0	<3
4	Cauvery	19	3.0	<3
5	Bhavani	7	3.0	<3
6	Thamirabarani	12	2.5	<3