

From
Dr. ArunThamburaj, I.A.S.,
District Collector,
Nagapattinam District.

To
The Registrar,
National Green Tribunal,
Southern Zone,
Chennai-5.

Rc. No.71/Mines/2021 Dated:24.07.2021

Sir,

Sub: Nagapattinam District- O.A.132/2021- Suo Motu case taken by National Green Tribunal - Illegal mining undermines desilting work - Order Passed by National Green Tribunal- Sending Report- Reg.

- Ref:**
1. National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai Order in O.A.No.132 of 2021 dated:25.06.2021.
 2. The Executive Engineer, PWD, WRO, Vennar Basin Division, Thiruvarur Lr. No. 293,M/F 100 (Mines)/2021/D1 dated: 16.07.2021.
 3. The Assistant Director, Geology and mining, Nagapattinam report dated:16.07.2021.

I invite your kind attention to the references cited.

With reference to the order 1st cited, I submit my report herewith for kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully


24/7/21
For District Collector,
Nagapattinam.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.132 of 2021 (SZ)

(Through Video Conference)

IN THE MATTER OF

SUO MOTU - "illegal mining undermines
desilting work"

..... Applicant(s)

Versus

1. Union of India,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Indira paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
3. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
4. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
5. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
6. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
7. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Industries Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.

8. Engineer in Chief (Water Resources Organisation)
And Chief Engineer (General),
Public Works Department,
Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.
9. Directorate of Geology and Mining,
Rep. by its Commissioner,
Alandur Road, Guindy Industrial Estate,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
10. State Environment Impact
Assessment Authority Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by its Member Secretary,
3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.
11. The District Collector,
Ariyalur District,
District Collectorate,
Jayankondam Road,
Ariyalur - 621 704.
12. The District Collector,
Karur District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor, Karur - 639 007.
13. The District Collector,
Pudukottai District,
District Collectorate,
Second Floor, Pudukottai - 622 005.
14. The District Collector,
Tiruchirappalli District,
District Collectorate,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 001.
15. The District Collector,
Thanjavur District,
District Collectorate,
Thanjavur - 613 010.
16. The District Collector,
Thiruvarur District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor, Thiruvarur - 610 004.

17. The District Collector,
Nagapattinam District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor, Nagapattinam - 611 001.

18. The District Collector,
Mayiladuthurai District,
District Collectorate,
Mayiladuthurai Keelavidhi,
Mayiladuthurai - 609 001.

19. The District Collector,
Cuddalore District,
District Collectorate,
First Floor,
New Collectorate Building,
Manjakuppam - 607 001.

..... Respondent(S)

REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, NAGAPATTINAM.

In the matter of O.A.No.132/2021 (SZ) suo-motu issue concerned with a news item published in The Times of India, Chennai on June 3, 2021. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal while observing that there arises a substantial question of environment which requires the interference of the tribunal has directed the District Collectors of the respective districts to submit their independent reports regarding the allegations made in the newspaper report and remedial measures that are to be taken to restore the damage if any caused to the river due to unscientific desilting and illegal mining. In compliance with the above direction I submit my report as follows.

In the above mentioned news item published on 03.06.2021 it was alleged that the illegal sand mining has lowered the surface level of the rivers than that of canals water cannot flow into the branch rivers and the channels which are on the higher level. Even, after desilting the desired results cannot be

achieved. In this regard, a report from the Executive Engineer, PWD (WRO), was called for and as per the orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal the report of this Respondent is submitted here under.

Nagapattinam district is a sea shore district having flat topography. As such the irrigation courses like rivers, channels, supply channels and drains are also having flat bed fall. During irrigation and monsoon periods the flow in the water course is almost very slow due to the flat terrain. The low velocity cause the suspended particles like tiny soils which are transported from the upper reaches to get deposited in bed. The silt deposition raises the bed level which inturn reduces the carrying capacity of water courses as a result of which water could not be feed in required quantum to the fields. In order to restore the theoretical bed level it is warranted to desilt the water courses.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have issued an order G.O (2D) No. 57 dated 17.05.2021 to Public Works Department to desilt 589 irrigation courses in Cauvery delta which are under the control of Public Works Department in Trichy region at an estimate amount of Rs. 6290.50 lakhs of these 89 number of works to desilt channels and rivers to a length of 574.50 Kms has been taken in Nagapattinam district. Out of the 89 number of works, 88 desilting works were completed to a cumulative length of 571.60 Kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 522.96 lakhs and the remaining works will be completed after the irrigation period.

During the desilting work, the earth excavated from the bed of water courses were all deposited on the top of bank as such the bank of the water

courses are stabilized in order to protect the banks from overwash and breaches. Further the soil excavated is clayey in nature and it is not classified as sand. Since, the desilted earth is completely deposited in the banks of Channels and rivers there is no chance of illegal mining as alleged in "Times of India" Newspaper. Following measures are taken to monitor the silt level in the River beds.

A) In order to have qualitative work and to complete the work on time (ie) before opening of Mettur Dam on 12 June 2021, Senior level Secretaries has been appointed as inspection officers by State Government. In addition to that, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Water Resource Division, Trichy region and Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department / Water Resource Division, Lower Cauvery basin circle have also inspected the desilting sites frequently and put forth their suggestion to implement the scheme in successful manner. The District Administration has also deputed block wise inspection officers in the cadre of Executive Engineer and Assistant Executive Engineer from Departments of Highways, Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural development to monitor the quality of the desilting work being carried.

B) The Additional Chief Secretary to Government Public Works Department has also instructed the District administration to constitute Uzhavar Kulu (Farmers Group). Three (3) Farmers in village, Village Administrative Officer, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Panchayat Secretary and Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department are the members of the group. Whatsup group were Created among the members and remarks on the desilting work are posted in order to monitor the progress of the work.

The desilting work was also periodically inspected by the farmers. Hence, there is no chance to misuse and transport the desilted earth beyond the working area and there by silt level of the bed is maintained.

C) In order to have transparency in the work done and to make the public to convey their complaint / dissatisfaction in the quality of work done the Public Works Department has erected Name boards consisting of all the details of work in an elaborated manner along with the details of contractors name and the phone numbers of Executive Engineer, Assistant Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer, hence there is no once of misuse and illegal mining carried during the work.

As a result of the desilting carried the Cauvery water reached its tail end regulator of this district and all the rivers and channels in the district are irrigated.

Regarding other activities taken to control illegal mining it is submitted that the Taluk Level Task Force Meeting is being held every month to control illicit mining and transport in every Taluk in Nagapattinam District. The Team discusses about illegal mining both in Government poramboke lands such as Rivers, Lakes and Ponds and also in Private lands which affects the Farmers and leads Revenue loss to the Government. The permitted quarries are inspected regularly to check whether the quarry holder abides by the rules. It is inspected to ascertain if any quarry work is done without permission and that proper silt level is maintained. Rivers and Canals are also being inspected consistently to check the illegal sand mining whether the permitted depth of the earth and sand is only dug.

District Level Task Force is being held every month to control the illicit mining and transport in every Taluk in Nagapattinam District. In the meeting, the action taken by Taluk Level Task Force meeting agendas is reviewed by the DLTF Chairperson, the District Collector, Nagapattinam. Team consisting of Police Department officials, Revenue Department officials and Geology and Mining Department Officials is consistently inspecting the quarries and vehicles to curb illegal activities of mining/ transportation of minerals.

It is humbly concluded that as far as the District of Nagapattinam is concerned while desilting, proper silt level is maintained ensuring the water from the channel reaches the tail end and irrigates the ayacut area. Further, the District Administration is keen in protecting the mineral wealth of the district and as such it is ensured that mining activities do not undermine the desilting work and the same is monitored.


DISTRICT COLLECTOR, 3/4
NAGAPATTINAM.