

E,CC&F(EC.1) Department

Minutes of the Review Meeting on abatement of Thirumanimutharu river pollution chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change & Forest department, Government of Tamil Nadu, held on 10.08.2022 at 6.30 PM in 7th floor Conference Hall, Secretariat, Chennai.

At the outset, the Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board welcomed the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department and other officials who attended the meeting. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board presented the subject of Thirumanimutharu River Pollution on the line of complaint, water pollution caused to the environment, present status of industrial pollution, river water quality, action taken to mitigate the pollution and actions to be taken to comply the National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai orders in O.A.No.51/2015 as detailed below:

1. Thiru Manickam, Salem filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) regarding Thirumanimuthar River.
2. Waterways of Thirumanimuthar River is 132 kms (Namakkal & Salem Districts), out of which 117 kms falls in non-polluted stretch and 15 kms, falls in polluted stretch as per the O.A.No.673/2018 of NGT (PB), New Delhi.
3. The River water quality in Thirumanimuthar is analysed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for parameters such as pH, DO, BOD, Faecal coliform and found that pH and DO satisfy the bathing water standards whereas the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliform do not satisfy the bathing water standards.
4. National Green Tribunal (SZ) order dt.06.07.2022 in O.A.No.51/15 has issued directions to rejuvenate the river as below:
 - a) The Government of Tamil Nadu to constitute a Monitoring Committee comprising of Additional chief secretary, Environment Climate Change and Forest department, Additional chief secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Additional chief secretary, Water Resources Department and Additional chief secretary, Finance department.
 - b) To prepare the Action Plan with time bound target.
 - c) To review the progress of works every month.
 - d) The Chief Secretary to interact with Committee once in 3 months.
 - e) To restore the water quality within one year.
 - f) Intermediate action is to be taken to restore the water quality of the river and Seelavari lake .
 - g) Treated sewage by means of RO/ nano/filtration is to be supplied to industries for beneficial uses by Salem Corporation

5. The National Green Tribunal (SZ) has recommended the following for the improvement of water quality:
 - i. Salem Corporation to operate the Sewage Treatment Plants to its full capacity.
 - ii. 16 sago industries to treat the effluent and reuse it for beneficial purposes.
 - iii. 90 bleaching and dyeing industries functioning along the river stretch to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge.
 - iv. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to take action on erring industries
 - v. Environmental compensation shall be levied from defaulting industries.
 - vi. Action plan for rejuvenation of works is to be prepared.

6. The Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board elaborated the action taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu as below:
 - a) As per the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) monitoring Committee has been constituted.
 - b) Industries located at Salem district have been inspected by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board officials and 133 No. of consented industries have been closed during the years 2017-2022. Also, 574 numbers of illegal industries have been demolished by District Environmental committee during 2017-2022.
 - c) Environmental Compensation has been levied to a sum of Rs.4,75,34,000; out of which Rs.1,25,73,000 has been paid by the industries.

7. Assistant Environmental Engineer, Salem Corporation informed that there are 58 outfalls in Thirumanimuthar of which 22 are identified as more vulnerable. Out of the 4 STP's; 3 will become functional by March 2023 (only 40% sewer connection). The 4th Sewage Treatment Plant for 44 MLD is under construction.

8. Chairperson informed that the Salem Corporation has provided 4 Nos. of Sewage Treatment Plants to a capacity of 98 MLD whereas at present 27 MLD is being only treated which is one among the cause for the river pollution because 71 MLD of raw sewage is discharged into the river.

9. Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board explained the proposed action plan to rejuvenate the river and the subject has been discussed in depth in the meeting.

10. Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board narrated the details of Common Effluent Treatment Plant's funding pattern, procedures adopted for closure and revocation orders of the Board.

11. Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board expressed the Board's views of levying Environmental Compensation and Bank Guarantee by the closed units which are approaching the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for closure revocation orders.

12. After detailed discussions the following decisions were taken:

- I. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall study the possibilities of promoting Textile Park for the Bleaching and Dyeing industries in Salem Districts to mitigate Environmental problems.
- II. As a short term measure the Salem Corporation to intercept, divert and treat eight major sewage out-falls immediately which lead to the river.
- III. Salem Corporation shall utilize the installed 98 MLD capacity of the Sewage Treatment Plants early by completing the laying of Under Ground Sewerage Systems.
- IV. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is to engage a Consulting Agency to study and survey the locations of existing Bleaching & Dyeing units, geo tag, and map digital data of all units not connected to Sewage Treatment Plant /Common Effluent Treatment Plant and prepare report. The survey should also include recommendation on how many more Sewage Treatment Plant/Common Effluent Treatment Plant are required. The survey study should be completed by 2 months (October 2022). The study report should include alternate solution and also get public consent.
- V. No Bleaching and Dyeing unit industry shall discharge either untreated or raw trade effluent into drains, water bodies, etc. Local bodies shall take stringent action against all unauthorized units.
- VI. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) shall effect power supply for residential purposes only in residential complexes/houses and not for commercial purposes.
- VII. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall recommend to the Commercial Tax Department to consider the cancellation of license for an Entrepreneur involved in illegal Bleaching and Dyeing activities.
- VIII. Village Administrative Officers and Revenue Inspectors from Revenue Department shall inform the illegal activities of Bleaching and dyeing units to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall address the District Collector, Salem in this regard.
- IX. Water Resource Department (WRD) shall remove encroachments along the Thirumanimutharu River. Water Resource Department shall remove the Bushes/vegetation/

Prosopis Julioflora, etc. in the river for free flow of water and to keep the river clean.

- X. District Collector, Salem shall monitor the progress of works by conducting frequent review meeting with authorities.
- XI. The services of Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board to be sought and come with immediate solution to stop pollution from 8 points.

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//True Copy//

[Handwritten Signature]
23/8/2022
Section Officer

[Handwritten Signature]
23/8/2022