

Item No.13 to 15:-

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

(Through Video Conference)

**Original Application No.180 of 2023 (SZ) &
I.A. No.128 of 2023 (SZ)**

AND

Original Application No.183 of 2023 (SZ)
AND

Original Application No.59 of 2024 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based
on the Visual media titled **Chennai Rains :**
மக்களை வதைக்கும் Oil Companies -
Shocking Story - Michaung Ground Report
covered by on VIKATAN TV Chennai dt.
06.12.2023.

With

The District Collector
Chennai District and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

AND

R.L. Srinivasan,
Chennai.

...Applicant (s)

Versus

The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority,
Rep. by its Member Secretary,
Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

AND

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the news item in The News Minute dt: 11.12.2023 titled **“TN Govt forms 20-member committee to mitigate oil spill in Kasimedu harbour”**.

With

Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by its Commissioner and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 02.04.2024.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

O.A. No.180/2023:-

For Applicant (s):

Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s):

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan for R1, R8 & R9.
Mr. S. Sai Sathya Jith for R2.
Dr. S.B. Nirmalatha represented
Mr. N.R. Ramesh Kanna for R4.
Mr. Abdul Saleem, Sr. Adv. a/w.
Mr. S. Saravanan, E. Karthikeyan for R7 and R10.
Mr. Adeesh Anto for R11.

O.A. No.183/2023:-

For Applicant (s):

Mr. A. Yogeshwaran.

For Respondent(s):

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan for R1 to R6.
Mr. S. Sai Sathya Jith for R7.
Mr. Abdul Saleem, Sr. Adv. a/w.
Mr. S. Saravanan for R8.

O.A. No.59/2024:-

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

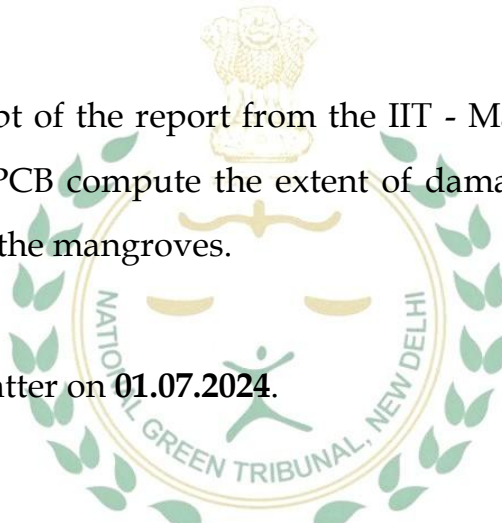
For Respondent(s): Dr. D. Shanmuganathan for R1 to R3.
Mr. S. Sai Sathya Jith for R4.
Mr. Abdul Saleem, Sr. Adv. a/w.
Mr. S. Saravanan, E. Karthikeyan for R5.

ORDER

1. Today, both these matters [O.A. Nos.180 & 183 of 2023(SZ)] are taken up along with O.A. No.59 of 2024 (SZ) which was renumbered after receipt of the same from the Principal Bench, New Delhi.
2. The Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) has filed its status report dated 02.04.2024. The said report specifically addresses the bioremediation of mangroves. In that regard, the water and sediment pre-sampling at one control and three test locations was done on 09.01.2024 before starting the bioremediation which is to be carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa and the final report from the NIO - Goa is awaited which would be made ready in the month of May 2024. The said report would throw light on the technology that may be used for bioremediation.
3. The report from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), which has also been engaged by the CPCL, is yet to be furnished and according to them, it would be ready by the end of April 2024.

4. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) which has engaged the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras has to assess the entire spread, remediation, etc. and furnish their report regarding the impact of the oil spill by the end of April 2024.
5. The report of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) dated 25.03.2024 which is furnished by the TNPCB states that the affected areas have been categorized into moderately damaged and severely damaged areas. The assessment showed that about 20 Hectares were severely damaged and 40 Hectares were found to be moderately damaged owing to an oil spill during December 2023. The affected foliage of 5,000 No. of mangroves were only pruned so as to induce fresh growth as per the standard methodology in consultation with the reputed institutions. The pruned waste collected is about 5,081 bags.
6. The report further states that the remnants of oil slicks which is deposited on the soil surface were cleared using water sprayers, hydrojets and other equipment. Finally, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has stated that there are no casualties of mangroves till date and continuous monitoring and assessment are being carried out for their healthy survival.
7. We direct the PCCF to file an additional report regarding the health of the mangroves, their survival rate and the time that may be taken for complete revival.

8. Mr. A. Yogeshwaran, the learned counsel appearing the applicant in O.A. No. 183 of 2023 (SZ) has stated that the reports for the oil spill that occurred in December 2023 are still not ready, even after four months.
9. As the learned counsels appearing for the respondents have submitted that the reports would be ready by the end of April and May - 2024, the same may be looked into thereafter. As and when the reports are received from above-referred institutions, let them be filed before this Tribunal by the authorities.
10. After receipt of the report from the IIT - Madras and NIO - Goa, let the TNPCB compute the extent of damage caused due to the oil spill on the mangroves.
11. Post the matter on **01.07.2024**.



Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.180/2023 (SZ)&
I.A. No.128/2023 (SZ)
O.A. No.183/2023 (SZ)&
O.A. No.59/2024 (SZ)
02nd April, 2024. Mn.