



ABSTRACT

Environment - Environment Control – District Co-ordination Committee to ensure Co-ordinated and continued action to arrest discharge to water bodies / land and to take stringent action against defaulting units – Constituted - Orders – Issued.

Environment and Forests(EC.1)Department

G.O. (Ms) No.23

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு-2048

ஹேவினம்பி, மாசி - 17

Dated: 01.03.2018

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms) No.213, Environment and Forests Department , dated 30.03.1989.
2. G.O.(Ms) No.127, Environment and Forests Department , dated 08.05.1998
3. G.O.(D) No.223, Environment and Forests Department , dated 02.09.1998
4. From the Principal Secretary to Government / Chairman(FAC), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Letter No.P&D/F.012260/2015, dated 25.10.2017 and 17.01.2018.

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ORDER :

The Principal Secretary to Government / Chairman(FAC), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has informed that as per section 17 of the Water Act, one of the functions of the State Pollution Control Board is 'to advise the State Government on any matter concerning the prevention, control or abatement of water pollution'. As per section 24 of the Water Act, the State Government may issue notification on the recommendations of the State Pollution Control Board for protection of water bodies.

2. On the above lines and based on the recommendations of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, in the Government Order 1st read above the Government of Tamil Nadu imposed a total ban on setting-up of the 14 types of highly polluting industries within one kilometer from the embankments of the specified Rivers, Tanks and Reservoirs and Canals. Further in the Government Order 2nd and 3rd read above the ban was extended to 5 kilometer from the banks of River Cauvery and its tributaries, Penniaaru, Palar, Vaigai and Thamirabarani Rivers.

(P.C.O)

Several complaints were received regarding discharge of untreated waste into River Cauvery. In this regard, writ petition was also filed in the Hon'ble High Court by the People Health and Development Council, Erode against the pollution of river Cauvery. The Hon'ble High Court of Madras in the W.P.Nos.5494/98 and 30153/03 on 04.07.2007 and subsequently on 09.08.2007 has passed the various directions inter-alia that

"Para 18 (ix) The District Collector is directed to set up a Committee for co-ordinated action headed by the District Collector or his representative and comprising of the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, S.E, TNEB and the District Superintendent of Police or his nominee, to ensure coordinated and continued action to arrest discharge to water bodies / land and to take stringent action against defaulting units, including criminal prosecution wherever warranted."

Based on the High Court order the District Collector, Erode and Namakkal have constituted a District Co-ordination Committee.

3. The Principal Secretary to Government / Chairman (FAC), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board in his letter 4th read above has stated that considering the above model, the Board vide B.P. Ms. No. 12 Dated 21.04.2015 issued orders to all the District Collectors to constitute District Co-ordination Committee (DCC) in their respective districts to restrain the operation of illegal units discharging the untreated effluent on land or into water bodies. Accordingly, the Committees have been constituted in certain districts.

However, during all Joint Chief Environmental Engineers (Monitoring) review meeting held on 06.10.2017, it was mentioned by the JCEEs(M) that the District Co-ordination Committees are unable to function with full spirit, since there is no legal powers vested or back-up for the committee. In the meeting it was requested to give additional powers to the JCEE(M) to handle illegal discharges without procedural delays. It was thereby suggested that Government may be addressed to issue Orders for constituting the District Co-ordination Committee in all the Districts with suitable terms of reference for the committee.

4. Based on the above, and considering the importance of protecting the precious water bodies in the State of Tamil Nadu, the Principal Secretary to Government / Chairman(FAC), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has requested the Government to issue necessary order constituting District Co-Ordination Committee in all the Districts with the following members:-

The District Co-ordination Committee shall be constituted with the following officials.

1.	District Collector	Chairman
2.	District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	Convener
3.	Environmental Engineer(Flying Squad), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (if available)	Member
4.	District Superintendent of Police	Member

5.	Superintending Engineer, TANGEDCO	Member
6.	Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (WRO Division)	Member
7.	Revenue Divisional Officer	Member

5. The Government after careful consideration, accept the proposal of the Principal Secretary to Government / Chairman (FAC), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and constitute a District Coordination Committee in all the districts with the following members and the following guidelines:-

1.	District Collector	Chairman
2.	District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	Convener
3.	Environmental Engineer (Flying Squad), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (if available)	Member
4.	District Superintendent of Police	Member
5.	Superintending Engineer, TANGEDCO	Member
6.	Executive Engineer, PWD(WRO Division)	Member
7.	Revenue Divisional Officer	Member

Guidelines of the DCC:-

- (i) The Committee shall take action against any unauthorized unit including Textile processing units and tannery units.
- (ii) The Committee shall take action against units which discharge untreated trade effluent into the water bodies/on land/outside the premises. Action may include disconnection of power supply, disconnection of water supply, seizure of the materials, sealing of units' premises/ machinery and eviction etc.
- (iii) Criminal cases may be filed against the unit owners and land owner who allow running of unauthorized units.
- (iv) The Committee shall also examine and take action against the illegal/unauthorized effluent discharges based on the inspection reports furnished by the District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB/ Environmental Engineer (Flying Squad).
- (v) The DCC shall take up periodical / surprise inspections (including night times and holidays) along the water bodies including Rivers, Canals, Lakes and odais etc., so as to prevent indiscriminate discharge of effluent from any source.
- (vi) Necessary Police Protection shall be given to officials during inspection and acting on behalf of the DCC to carry out the above activities.

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- (vii) The expenses incurred for eviction, demolition etc., shall be collected from the polluter on the basis of 'Polluter Pays Principle'.
- (viii) In case of any illegal movement and dumping of hazardous wastes, bio-medical wastes or other wastes in any private/porambokku land, near water bodies/open land which may cause environmental pollution, the District Co-ordination Committee would take immediate action including criminal action.
- (ix) The DCC shall take action against illegal movement of fabrics/yarn for the purpose of dyeing outside and also to prevent movement of sludge arising from the treatment system so as to prevent illegal dumping of sludge.
- (x) To prevent un-authorized movement of Hazardous wastes and illegal transportation of sewage /process effluent, criminal action to be initiated against violators with the help of RTO.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

Md. NASIMUDDIN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Secretary to Government / Chairman(FAC)
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-32.
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Home Department, Chennai-9
The Principal Secretary II to Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
Chennai-9
The Principal Secretary to Government ,
Energy Department, Chennai-9
The Secretary to Government, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Chennai-9
All District Collectors
Copy to:-
The PS to Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment and Forests Department,
SF/SC.

/FORWARDED BY ORDER/

B.R. Sundaram
Section Officer. 1/3/18
CAR
TS/18