



# **Environment and Forest Department**

**Policy Note 2006-2007**

**Demand No.15**

## **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board**

### 3. TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

#### INTRODUCTION

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) enforces the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1978 and 1988, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, as amended in 1991, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended in 1987 and the provision/rules made under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent, control and abate pollution and for protection of environment.

#### 3.1. ORGANISATIONAL SET UP

The TNPCB was established in 1982 and functions with its organization structure consisting of head-office at Chennai and 25 district offices. The Board has established 3 Advanced Environmental Laboratories, 10 District Environmental Laboratories, and one Mobile Environmental Laboratory.

#### 3.2. MONITORING OF INDUSTRIES AND ISSUE OF CONSENT

The TNPCB is monitoring the industrial activities for prevention and abatement of pollution by periodical inspections and analysis of samples. As on 31.03.2006, TNPC Board has granted 6,034 and 5,962 consent orders for establishing the industry under Water and Air Act, respectively. The Board has also issued 24,957 and 22,103 consent orders for operating the industry under Water and Air Act, respectively. Continuous emphasis is given on compliance of pollution control norms by the industries. By closely monitoring the functions of pollution control systems, renewal of consent is given in time to all the industries, which have complied with the pollution control norms.

#### 3.3. COMMON EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANTS

The TNPCB plays an important role in the establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for clusters of small scale industries in various parts of the State. The Board assists the units in mobilization of financial resources and in the technical scrutiny of the proposals for the common effluent treatment plants.

50 Common effluent treatment plants have been formulated in the following sectors:

<u>Sector</u>	<u>No. of CETPs</u>
Tanneries	24 Schemes
Textile (Bleaching & Dyeing Units)	25 Schemes
Hotels & Lodges	1 Scheme

Out of 50 CETPs formulated, 14 CETP schemes for tanneries, 18 CETP schemes for textile dyeing units and 1 CETP scheme for hotels and lodges are under operation. 10 CETP schemes for

tanneries and 7 CETP schemes for textile dyeing units are under various stages of implementation. State and Central Governments sanction the subsidy for implementing the CETP schemes.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned Rs.25.90 crores towards subsidy for 48 common effluent treatment plants and out of this Rs.22.66 crores have been released as on 31.03.2003 through the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Tamil Nadu Leather Development Corporation. During 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, State subsidy of Rs.86.49 lakhs to M/s. Kovai Telungupalayam Common Effluent Treatment Private Limited and Rs 114.32 lakhs to M/s Perundurai CETP has been granted.

### **3.4. AIR QUALITY MONITORING**

With the increased industrial and commercial activities in the vicinity of major cities, the quality of the ambient air is being affected by emissions from the industries and from the ever increasing vehicular population. As per the provision of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the entire state of Tamilnadu has been declared as an air pollution control area.

#### **3.4.1. Ambient Air quality Monitoring Programme**

The Board is monitoring the ambient air quality in Chennai (3 stations), Coimbatore (3 stations), Thoothukudi (3 stations), Madurai (3 stations) and Salem (1 station) under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. Under the State Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme, the Board has established 5 ambient air quality monitoring stations in Chennai city and 5 in Tiruchirapalli. The programmes monitor the air quality in residential, commercial and sensitive zones of the cities.

#### **3.4.2. Vehicular Emission Monitoring**

The TNPCB is carrying out the vehicle emission monitoring since 1992 for testing the emissions from goods transport vehicles in and around Chennai city in three locations at Alandur, Madhavaram and Ambattur. Vehicles that do not comply with the emission standards are instructed to carry out corrective measures to comply with the emission standards. Emissions under control certificate are issued to only those vehicles which comply with the emission standards in the subsequent tests. In addition, 97 private agencies have been authorized by the Transport Department in Chennai urban agglomeration area to check the emission levels of the vehicles.

### **3.5. WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

The basic objective of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to maintain and restore the wholesomeness of water. To ensure this objective, regular monitoring of water quality is required. The TNPCB is monitoring the inland water quality under two major programmes namely, Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources (MINARS). Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS). Under MINARS programme, the rivers Thamiraparani, Palar and Vaigai and lakes

such as Udhamandalam lake, Kodaikanal lake and Yercaud lake are being monitored. Under the above two programmes the river Cauvery is being monitored. The programmes are funded by the Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi. The TNPCB is also monitoring Chennai city water ways to assess the level of pollution by collecting water samples every month both at water bodies and industrial outlets.

### **3.6. MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND CHEMICALS**

The TNPCB is taking effective steps for safe handling of hazardous chemicals and for management and treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes in an environmentally safe manner. The Board has identified 2610 units generating hazardous wastes for which 2512 authorization under the Hazardous Wastes(Management and Handling)Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 have been issued.

A site has been identified at SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Gummidipoondi as a site for establishing a Common Hazardous Waste treatment Storage and Disposal facility and it has been notified by the Government. Though, consent to establish has been issued to establish the facility, further progress could not be made due to a writ petition filed in the High Court of Judicature at Madras.

Besides, the Federation of common effluent treatment plants, Tiruppur and Karur has identified a site at Nallur village, Karupagoundarpalayam, Tiruppur Taluk, Coimbatore District and Mathagiri village, Krishnarayapuram Taluk, Karur district for establishing Common Hazardous Waste Treatment storage and Disposal facilities. These sites have been notified for establishing common hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities.

### **3.7. MANAGEMENT OF BIOMEDICAL WASTES**

The Board has so far inventorised 2449 private hospitals, 317 Government hospitals in the State. Site for 11 common facilities for Biomedical Wastes treatment and disposal have been identified for the private sector health care units, in the State, of which 9 common facilities are under operation and the remaining 2 facilities are under various stages of implementation.

### **3.8. MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTES**

With increasing urbanization and rising levels of municipal solid waste there is an urgent need to evolve scientific approaches to the management of municipal solid wastes.

The Board has issued NOC to 90 municipalities and one corporation for composting of municipal solid waste and setting up of waste processing facility. NOCs issued for 45 municipalities have been converted as authorisation. In order to develop one Municipality or one Special Village Panchayat in each district as a Model town in Municipal Solid Waste Management, a seed money of

Rs.2 Lakhs to one Municipality or Rs.1 Lakh to one Special Village Panchayat in each district has been given by the Board through District Collectors.

### **3.9. MANAGEMENT OF PLASTIC WASTES**

The environmental problems arising due to indiscriminate use and disposal of throwaway plastic items have been recognized and the Board has embarked upon an intensive awareness campaign. The awareness campaign has focused on preventing the use of throwaway plastic as well as eco friendly substitutes to plastic items. The Board has issued consent to operate for 1635 plastic products manufacturing units.

### **3.10. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD**

#### **3.10.1. Environmental Training Institute**

An Environmental Training Institute (ETI) has been established with financial assistance from DANIDA, Denmark in the year 1994 at head office, Guindy, Chennai. The Environmental Training Institute has conducted 293 training programmes and trained 12618 participants from its inception upto 31.03.2006.

#### **3.10.2. Environmental awareness and public participation**

In 1994, an awareness cell was established in the head office, Guindy, Chennai to promote environmental awareness. Various awareness campaigns, workshops, rallies are being conducted regularly to highlight important environmental issues. A special awareness campaign was launched against air and noise pollution during festival seasons such as Deepavali and Bhogi.

### **3.10.3. Cleaner Technologies**

The TNPCB has been involved in promoting a holistic approach of environment protection by going in for cleaner technologies options rather than mere end of pipe treatment. With active support and encouragement from the Board, industrial units in Tamilnadu have switched over to cleaner technologies in phased manner.

### **3.10.4. Green Cover Programme**

As a measure of pollution check, industries have been directed to develop 25% of the land area as green belt with trees having a thick canopy cover. Accordingly, industries have taken action to plant adequate number of trees in and around industrial premises.

### **3.10.5. Environmental Atlas**

The TNPCB, in co-ordination with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), is implementing the Programme of Zoning Atlas on environmental features through the GIS cell of the Board. Initially, the Zoning Atlas was taken up for Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts. Subsequently, the preparation of district wise Environmental Atlas for the districts of Coimbatore, Vellore and Thoothukudi and Environmental Management Plan for Chennai city was taken up. Presently, the project on preparation of District Environmental Atlas for the districts of Cuddalore and Villupuram are being undertaken.

### **3.10.6. Green Awards**

The Government of Tamilnadu has instituted green awards to encourage District Collectors to play a proactive role in promoting sustainable development in their districts. Green awards are given to the District Collectors based on the assessment of their personnel contribution to the promotion of environmental protection and sustainable development. The selection of the District Collectors for this award is done by a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests Department.

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