

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

(By Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 173/2020

News item published in the local daily "News18 India" dated 06.08.2020 titled "**700 Tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate Stored in Chennai Safe, E-auction Done: Customer after Beirut Blast**"

Date of hearing: 24.08.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. SATYAWAN SINGH GARBYAL, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent(s): Mr. Balaji Srinivasan, Advocate for TNPCB
Mr. Balendu Shekhar, Advocate for CPCB
Mr. Dhananjay Bajjal, Advocate for TSPCB
Ms. Madhuri Donti Reddy, Advocate for R-5

ORDER

1. The issue taken up in the present matter is safe storage and handling of 700 Tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate, having potential for serious explosions and damage, as reported in the media.

2. The Registry issued Notice on 14.08.2020 to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB); Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB); District Magistrate & Collector, Chennai; Director, Industrial Safety and Health Department, Tamil Nadu and Port Trust, Chennai for today's hearing.

3. We have perused the reports filed by several authorities. The TNPCB has stated as follows:

*"7. It is respectfully submitted that it was informed during the inspection that **10 containers were removed on 10.08.2020, 12***

containers were removed on 11.08.2020 and 15 containers were removed on 12.08.2020. It is submitted that totally 37 containers with 697 Tonnes of ammonium nitrate were sent to M/s. Salvo Explosives & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., S F No.756, 786, 916, 913, Ankireddypali Village, Keesara Road, Keesara Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri, Telangana - 501301 which is a detonator manufacturing unit having license for ammonium nitrate.

8. *It is respectfully submitted that though it was mentioned in the earlier report that about 740 T were stored in the container freight station, but the actual quantity is only 697 T in 37 containers which were transported to M/s. Salvo Explosives & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad, Telangana."*

4. The Director, Industrial Safety and Health Department, Tamil Nadu, the District Magistrate, Chennai have also repeated the stand of the State PCB. The Port Trust Chennai has only given particulars of import and storing of the substances in question.

5. Since the substance has now been removed and shifted to Telangana, let off-site and on-site emergency plans be finalized in accordance with the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 (Rules 13 & 14) which may be jointly coordinated by the CPCB and the State PCB with all concerned authorities and entities for storage and handling of the substances. Such action may be concluded at the earliest, but positively within one month from today.

The application is disposed of.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S. P. Wangdi, JM

Dr. Satyawan Singh Garbyal, EM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

August 24, 2020
Original Application No. 173/2020
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