



W.P.No.15120 of 2019

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 05.12.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE N. SATHISH KUMAR

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

W.P.No.15120 of 2019

and

W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019, W.M.P.No.8422 of 2024

W.P.No.15120 of 2019

G.Subramania Koushik

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

1.The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai 600 009 and 29 others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.15112 of 2019

G.Subramania Koushik

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

1.The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,



W.P.No.15120 of 2019

Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,

Chennai 600 009 and 15 others

... Respondent(s)

W.M.P.No.8422 of 2024

G.Subramania Koushik

... Petitioner (s)

Vs

1.The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai 600 009 and 15 others

... Respondent(s)

W.P.No.15120 of 2019

For Petitioner : Mr.T.V.Suresh Kumar
M/s Genicon & Associates

For Respondent(s): Dr.T.Seenivasan
Special Government Pleader for
RR1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13
and 14, 30

Mrs.A.Sri Jeyanthi for R4

Mr.R.Srinivas, Senior Counsel for
Mr.K.Madhan for R12



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Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, SPC
for RR15, 28, 29

Mr.B.N.Suchindran,
Standing Counsel for TNPCB for
R16

Mr.P.T.Ramkumar, Standing Counsel
for Railways

Amici Curiae

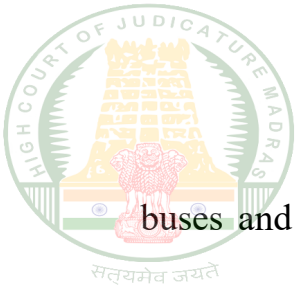
1. Mr.C.Mohan, Advocate
2. Mr.T.Mohan, Senior Advocate
3. Mr.M.Santhanaraman, Advocate
4. Mr.Rahul Balaji, Advocate

ORDER

E-pass for Valparai :

As regards e-pass for Valparai, a status report is filed today. It is stated in the report that the orders of this Court have been implemented and two major check posts have been established and are fully operational. Both are operating without interruption and strict e-pass screening and plastic ban enforcement measures have been carried out. The nature of vehicles entering into Valparai is also captured in the status report. It is seen that 98% of the total traffic movement is due to two-wheelers and cars, when compared to low number of buses and mini

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buses and other commercial vehicles. The status report, at present, is taken on

record. Let the learned *Amici Curiae* make an inspection in this regard and file a

report suggesting further improvement. Based on the suggestions, further orders will be passed.

2.Call on 23.01.2026.

Micro Plastics :

3.Today, separate reports have been filed on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, State of Tamil Nadu.

4.In the report filed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, particulars of the Rules of Solid Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, extended producers' responsibility are all given. But it is to be noted that, we sought for a report with particular reference

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as to the impact of these plastic waste with reference to human health which has

not been addressed in the said report. Even with reference to the Rules that are framed, no other particulars with reference to whether the production of the packing materials, which will not stand the scrutiny of the standard prescribed, is banned or whether it is taking place or not, is also not given.

5. With reference to the report that is filed on behalf of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, firstly, it is stated that a research project is being undertaken by the ICMR, New Delhi. While in Para No.5, it is enlisted as the outcomes of the project, what is enlisted is the methods/test that is carried on by the ICMR, but the outcomes are not enlisted. Be that as it may, the other particulars can be placed on record.

6. But what is more disturbing to the Court in the report is that, firstly, a
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statement is made directing the FSSAI to defend and safeguard the interest of the

Ministry in the matter. It is made clear that this is not an adversarial litigation and

the Court has been taking up this continuous mandamus in the welfare of the environment as well as the human population. The entire exercise is being done upon the research reports which were placed before this Court that the microplastics are found in 9 out of 12 placentas which were microscopically analysed and it is there in the mother's milk and also in the womb and in the brain of the humans. Therefore, that is the alarming factor and the situation in which we expected a report from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

7.The second disturbing observation is contained in Para No.6 of the report. It states that the impact of microplastics on human health is not yet known. This statement is extremely disturbing. The impact of microplastics on human health has been captured in our earlier order dated 29.08.2025, wherein, this Court has considered the detailed research conducted by a reputed institution, namely PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Coimbatore, wherein, they have given details about the analysis of at-least 10 Cord Blood Samples of mothers which

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have the risk of prenatal Bisphenol A (BPA) exposure. Any person, from a

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student to a researcher, can have no two opinions that microplastics comprise of several elements including Bisphenol A (BPA) and Bisphenol A (BPA) has emerged as one of the most common endocrine disrupting chemicals which can interfere in the hormonal functions and these are dangerous chemicals which cause cancer and may pose a great challenge to human health. In this regard, even the research paper titled “*Microplastic Pollution in India – Evidence of Major Health Concern*” authored by Kiran P. Kolkar and others and published in the World Journal of Advance Research and Reviews can also be adverted to. There are enough research papers and materials which conclusively point out towards the danger. Therefore, if the FSSAI or the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, are sounding an opinion that the impact of microplastics on human health are not yet known, that only exhibits their ignorance as to the subject matter. Therefore, at this juncture, Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, learned Senior Panel Counsel, submits that he will file a more detailed report with further particulars.

8.Let both the Ministries take into consideration the detailed order that was
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passed by us on 29.08.2025, including the research reports that are submitted by

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the Doctors of the Medical Colleges which have given definitive opinion, after considering the research literature on the field, and a report be filed before this Court and they can also indicate the steps which they propose to take in this regard. The details of the outcome of the ICMR research project shall also be placed on record.

9. With reference to the State Government, the State Government has also placed on record whatever the prescription already made with reference to the nature of plastics that has to be used in food packaging and other packing materials. The purport of the Court is to ask whether any study is undertaken; whether the food, especially considering the typically hot foods, such as Sambar, Tea, etc., which are all packed in these kind of materials can be permitted; and whether any study has been conducted in that regard. Therefore, the learned Standing Counsel appearing on behalf of the State Department shall also apprise of the Department to undertake such studies in the matter before coming into any conclusion.

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State Departments on 19.12.2025. Call on 19.12.2025.

[N.S.K.J.,] [D.B.C.J.,]
05.12.2025

mkn

To

1. The Principal Secretary
to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment and Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai 600
009.

2. The District Collector,
The Nilgiris District, Collectorate, Ooty
643001.

3. The Commissioner,
Udhagamandalam Municipality, Oot,
The Nilgiris District.

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4.The Commissioner,
Coonoor Municipality, Coonoor, The
Nilgiris District.

5.The Commissioner,
Gudalur Municipality, Gudalur, The
Nilgiris District.

6.The Commissioner,
Kotagiri Town Panchayath, Kotagiri, The
Nilgiris District.

7.The Field Director,
Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Mount Stuart
Hill, Ooty, The Nilgiris.

8.The District Forest Officer,
The Nilgiris District, Mount Stuart Hill,
Ooty -643001.

9.The Commissioner,
Kodaikanal Municipality, Kodaikanal,
Dindigul District. (R9 SUO MOTU
IMPLEADED VIDE ORDER DT
12.02.2021 MADE IN WP.15120/2019
BY NSKJ)

10.The Principal Secretary To
Government,
Transports Department, Secretariat, Fort
St. George, Chennai - 600009.

11.The Transport Commissioner,
Government of Tamil Nadu,

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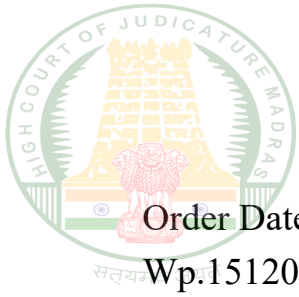
Commissionerate of Transport and Road
Safety, Ezhilagam, PWD Estate,
Chepauk, Triplicane, Chennai - 600005.

12.The Principal Secretary,
Department Of Municipal
Administration, Urban And Water
Supply, Government Of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai.600 009.

13.The Additional Chief Secretary,
Department Of Tourism, Culture And
Religious Endowments Department,
Government Of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat,
Fort St.George, Chennai.600 009.(r13
And R14 Are Suo Motu Impleaded As
Per Order Dated 19.03.2024 In
Wp.15120/2019 By Nskj And Dbcj)

14.The Secretary To The Ministry Of
Road Transport And Highways,
Transport Bhawan, No.1, Parliament
Street, New Delhi.110 001. (r15- Suo
Motu Impleaded As Per Order Dated
04.11.2024 In Wp.15120/2019 By Nskj
And Dbcj)

15.The Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai -
600032. (r16 Suo Motu Impleaded Vide



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Order Dated 27.06.2025 Made In
Wp.15120/2019 By Nskj, Dbcj)

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16.The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited,
(AAVIN), Aavin Illam, TCMPF Ltd.,
3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingar Salai,
Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.

17.The Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi – 110011.

18.The Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110 003.

19.The Secretary to Government,
Health and Family Welfare Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.



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