

**VIOLATION**

# Effluent treatment plant shut down

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DC | CUDDALORE

**Oct. 19:** Officials of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board have shut down the common effluent treatment plant (CETP) set up in the Sipcot industrial estate on the directions of the Madras high court. The Cuddalore Sipcot Industries Common Utilities Limited (CUSECS) was shut down on October 15 for violations in the effluent discharge standards.

“The unit has merely a NOC and had not obtained Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate under the Air and Water Acts. The effluent plant was established without obtaining the mandatory approval from the competent authorities,” according to a senior official in the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB).

The high court had taken suo motu note of a report from the SIPCOT Area Community Environmental Monitors (SACEM) about the inefficient operation of the treatment plant.

The court cited its view that the unit had no right to

**court**

**directive**

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function till the grant of consent by the Board after compliance with the NOC conditions. “Under these circumstances and taking into consideration the interest of the public, the court directs the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to stop the functioning of CUSECS and consider the feasibility of granting renewal of consent to those industries which had paid the fees in accordance with law.”

According to the SACEM report, the infrastructure for effluent collection and disposal was commissioned in 2001, 19 years after the industrial estate was established. Initially, 19 industries registered as members with CUSECS. At present only eight industries are with CUSECS. The Coastal Zone Regulatory clearance was obtained only in 2005.