

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 108 of 2020 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion  
Suo Motu based on the News item in  
Vikatan E-Magazine edition dated 09.07.2020  
"Coonoor Misery: Increasing waste in River Water! -  
Elephants looking for good water".

...Applicant(s)

**Versus**

1) The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department,  
Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai – 600 009.

2) The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Environment,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.

3) The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Health and Family Welfare,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.

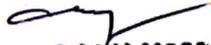
4) Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Development,  
Govt. Secretariat,  
Fort St. George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.

5) The Chairman,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 032.

6) The District Collector,  
Nilgiris District,  
Collector Office, Nilgiris District,  
Near Charing Cross,  
Ooty, Tamil Nadu – 643 001.

7) Coonoor Municipality,  
Rep. by its Municipal Commissioner,  
Municipal Office, Mount Road,  
Coonoor - 643 101.

...Respondent(s)

  
COMMISSIONER  
COONOR MUNICIPALITY

**FURTHER PROGRESS REPORT FILED BY THE COMMISSIONER,  
COONOOR MUNICIPALITY**

1. T Krishnamurthi, aged 57 years, the Commissioner, Coonoor Municipality, having office at No.10, Mount Road, Coonoor, submit this further progress report, as follows:

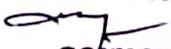
2. It is submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), during the hearing on 24.09.2021, considered the further report of Joint Committee, and directed this Respondent to file further progress report regarding the action taken and also implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 including the biomining of the legacy waste lying in the present dump-yard.

3. It is submitted that Coonoor Municipality has submitted a proposal to Government for Rs. 550 Lakhs (Rupees Five Crores and Fifty Lakhs), for constructing a sewage treatment plant, including the collection and conveyance of sewage, and another proposal for Rs. 1155 Lakhs (Rupees Eleven Crores and Fifty five Lakhs) for constructing revetments in both sides of Krishnapuram River.

4. It is also submitted for the kind consideration of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) that Coonoor Municipality has removed and biominced about 4524.445 MT of legacy waste till December, 2021, and wastes to the tune of not exceeding 20 MT alone is to be removed further.

5. It is further submitted that the legacy waste that slid in to the Tea Estate of Thiru I Margo, the Applicant in O.A. No.: 203 of 2017, the legacy waste in the erstwhile Ottupattarai dumpsite and the present Resource Recovery Centre, the plastic waste mixed with silt that were kept adjacent to the erstwhile IL & FS shed in western side, legacy waste lied in the western side of IL&FS shed, legacy waste lied in the valley in the north western side of IL&FS shed were found completely removed, subjected to biomining and disposed with. The erstwhile dump location at Ottupattarai has been landscaped with grass. Similarly, the area where legacy waste lie in the western side of IL & FS shed has been also pitched with grass.

6. It is also submitted that as on date, wastes to the tune of around 4 to 6 MT, which lies in the valley between Karadipallam Road and the Ottupattarai Resource Recovery Centre Road, and about 3 MT of waste lying at the southwest end of the land adjoining to IL & FS shed are yet to be removed. It is submitted that these waste would be removed before 15.01.2022. It is submitted that the area valley between Karadipallam Road and the Road

  
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leading to Ottupattarai Resource Recovery Centre is very steep and with dense vegetation, and hence there is delay in removal of waste from that place. In the other place, the removal could not be carried out as the subsoil of the adjoining area is weak and as such vehicle could not be parked to remove and load the waste. The waste at these locations are proposed to be removed by engaging men.

7. It is submitted for the kind information of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), that out of the 1520 MT wastes which were removed during the month of July 2021, which is mainly containing plastic waste mixed with other impurities such as silt, rags, broken glass etc., is screened/ segregated to recover the coarse materials, and the finer matter containing rags, silt, broken glass etc., amounting around 200 MT, is collected in nags and kept in the IL&FS shed, for further processing. It is submitted, that these waste need to be processed in addition to the dry waste collected and processed at the Resource Recovery Centre, and the Centre can handle about 2 MT waste, in addition to the daily waste received, and thereby it would take another 3 to 4 months to exhaust the same.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the wet organic wastes generated in Coonoor Municipality is managed by composting. The composting is carried out through Micro Composting and Wind Row Composting. The Micro Composting Centre, located adjacent to "Uzhavar Sandhai", is entrusted to RDO Trust, Yellanalli and the Wind Row Composting is carried out at the erstwhile IL&FS Shed at Ottupattarai, which is handed over to Clean Coonoor Organization. Both these centres are functioning well.

9. It is further submitted that the dry wastes that are collected is transported to the Resource Recovery Centre at Ottupattarai, segregated and the segregated wastes are sold out for recycling. The rags, diapers and sanitary napkins are subjected to controlled high temperature burning, at the Resource Recovery Centre premises. The Resource Recovery Centre premises at Ottupattarai is managed and maintained by Clean Coonoor Organization.

10. This respondent respectfully submits that Coonoor Municipality has earnestly taken all steps to manage the solid waste that is generated currently. The legacy waste, that were lying in a few places are also removed and processed, but for a very meagre quantity of less than 10 MT, which would

  
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also be cleared within a fortnight time. It is respectfully submitted that Coonoor Municipality could not adhere to the time line of June 2021, for the completion of biomining of legacy waste, as assured during the beginning of the year 2021, the same is owing to various reasons such as unfavourable climatic conditions, steep terrain where some waste s were lying, continuous rainfall experienced since June, 2021 till the middle of December 2021, etc. Moreover, the COVID-19 control activity that is entrusted to the Municipality has also caused also some amount of delay in executing the removal and processing of legacy waste. This respondent respectfully further submits that earnest measures are also taken to prevent the entry of untreated sewage in to the water bodies. Coonoor Municipality has earnestly taken all steps to manage the solid waste that is generated currently.

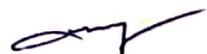
11. Therefore, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal to accept the Progress Report being submitted by this Respondent and pass such other orders the Hon'ble Tribunal considers deem fit in the facts and circumstances of the case.

(Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022, at Coonoor)

  
COMMISSIONER  
COONOOR MUNICIPALITY

#### VERIFICATION

I, T Krishnamurthi, Commissioner, Coonoor Municipality, do hereby verify that the contents above mentioned are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and information, and I have not suppressed any material fact.

  
COMMISSIONER  
COONOOR MUNICIPALITY