

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**

APPLICATION NO. 109 OF 2021 (SZ)

BETWEEN

Tribunal on its own Motion SUO MOTU

... Applicant

And

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
and Others.

... Respondents

**PRESENT STATUS CUM ACTION TAKEN REPORT FILED BY THE 8th
RESPONDENT**

Dated at Chennai on this the 13th day of September, 2021.

E-Filing No. :

Date : 13.09.2021



M/s. ABDUL SALEEM

S.SARAVANAN

COUNSEL FOR THE 8th RESPONDENT

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 109 of 2021 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motions – SUO MOTU based on the
News items published in Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper, Chennai
Edition Dated : 08.04.2021 "Ranganathar Temple pond is
Becoming a hub for drinking alcohol"

... Applicant

Versus

1. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department
Government Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
2. The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu
Department of Environment & Forests
Government Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
3. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Government Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
4. Hindu Religious Charitable Endowment Department
Rep. by its Commissioner
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai
Nungambakkam
Chennai – 600 034
5. The Chairman
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 032


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6. The District Collector
Chengalpet District
Collector Office, GST Road
Chengalpattu – 603 001
7. Arulmigu Ranganatha Perumal Temple
Rep. by its Joint Commissioner
Thiruneermalai Main Road
Thiruneermalai, Chennai – 600 044
8. Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat
Rep. by its Executive Officer
No.6-A, Main Road, Thiruneermalai
Chennai – 600 004

... Respondents

STATUS CUM ACTION TAKEN REPORT
FILED BY THE 8TH RESPONDENT - EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE
THIRUNEERMALAI TOWN PANCHAYAT

I, N.Latha, Wife of Mr. K.S.Krishnamoorthy, aged 55 years, serving as the Executive Officer i/c, Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat, having address at S4, Tajeswer Homes, Dilli babu Nagar, 2nd Street, Pallikaranai, Chennai-100, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I humbly submit that this Hon'ble Tribunal has taken suo motu cognizance based on the News item with caption "Ranganathar Temple pond is becoming a hub for drinking alcohol" published in Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper, Chennai edition on 08.04.2021.


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2. I humbly submit that the Status Report filed by this Respondent on 26.08.2021 may be taken as a part and parcel of this present Report.
3. I humbly submit that pursuant to the direction of this Hon'ble Tribunal, this Respondent is filing the present status cum action taken report, which is as follows:-
4. I submit that Thiruneermalai is a Special Grade Town Panchayat in Chengalpattu District with a population of 30,702 as per 2011 Census and the present population is estimated about 40,000. The extent of the Town is 4.80 sq.km and is administratively delimited into 18 wards. There are 10308 House Holds and 254 commercial establishments, 1 urban health centre, 1 Primary Health centre, 1 private hospital and 9 small health clinics situated within the Town. The Town Panchayat owns 39.538 km length of Roads besides 4.00 km of roads belong to State Highways Department. There is 32.860 km length of storm water drains maintained by the Town Panchayat. It is the duty and responsibility of the Town Panchayat for the better maintenance of Sanitation, Solid waste Management, Water Supply, Street lights and other basic services to the people of the Thiruneermalai and the same is being done with paramount importance.

I. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – QUANTITY OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE GENERATED

5. I submit that the Town Panchayat generates 9 Metric Tonnes of Solid waste every day as mentioned below:


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Bio – Degradable Waste - 5 MT

Non Bio degradable waste - 4 MT

The Non bio degradable waste daily generated consists of the following categories of wastes :

1	Plastics	1.700 MT
2	Glass, Rubber and Tyres etc	0.450 MT
3	Clothes, Bed, wood waste etc	0.400 MT
4	E-waste	0.400 MT
5	Others	0.450 MT

6. I submit that apart from the above, Construction and Demolition waste about 0.3 M.T is collected separately and 0.3 M.T silt from Road sweeping and storm water drain cleaning are collected and stored separately at Resource Recovery Park.

Availability of staff and Vehicle strength for Solid Waste

Management

Sanitary Workers (permanent)	22
Sanitary Workers (on Contract Basic)	88
Vehicles	
Mini Lorry	1
Compactor	1
Tata Ace	2
Battery Operated Vehicle	9


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Tri cycle	24
Push cart	15
Tractor (Hire basis)	4
Sanitary Napkin Incinerator NB 100 Capacity	4

II. RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK

7. I submit that the Resource Recovery park is located in Town Survey No: 147/1G/2 in an extent of 1.18 acres. The same is established in the land, classified as Government Land, which has been in possession and maintenance of the Town Panchayat for more than 30 years. The Solid waste generated at source of 10308 households and 254 commercial establishments at 216 streets/roads of the Town Panchayat has been collected by Sanitary Workers at the Doorsteps and segregated, processed to the maximum extent at the Resource Recovery Park. The route chart for primary collection of solid waste from households to RRP is in place for strict monitoring of movement of solid waste.

8. I submit that the primary collection at source by using Tri cycle/Battery Operated Vehicles/Push Cart is immediately transported by the secondary vehicles from strategic points to the Resource Recovery Park mentioned above for final disposal. The entire process is handled by 110 Sanitary Workers of Town Panchayat and 47 vehicles in different configurations, presently fit to run on road. An average of 5 metric Tons of Bio Degradable are processed through windrow method and 4 Metric Tons of Non Bio Degradable solid wastes



are collected in a day from all the above 216 Streets/Roads. Bio degradable wastes are processed at the Resource Recovery Park (RRP) and sold as Bio Compost and Vermi Compost to the farmers and other urban families for roof top garden. An average 2.0 Tones of Plastic wastes are segregated at Resource Recovery Park and supplied to the privates. Thermocol and other re-processable non bio degradable items are handed over to scrap collectors.

III. PRESENT SYSTEM OF WASTE PROCESSING & DISPOSAL.

Sl No	Category of wastes	Quantity generated per day in M.T	% of processing for 75% collected garbage's	Present method of processing	Method of disposal
1	Bio degradable waste	5.000 M.T	100%	Windrow composting	Manure produced
2	Non Bio Degradable Waste a. Plastic-Saleable/Recyclable	1.000 M.T	100%	Stored at Resource Recover Park and sold to potential Recyclers/vendors	By sale
	b. Plastics-Reusable	0.350 M.T	100%	Stored at Resource Recover Park	By sale


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				and sold to potential Recyclers/vendors	
	c. Plastics-Non saleable/Non Reusable/combustible	0.350 M.T	100%	Stored and sent to private processing	To Cement Industries
	d. Glass, rubber, tyre	0.450 M.T	100%	Daily collected waste stored in RR Park	Resource Recover Park
3	Domestic Hazardous waste a. Electric wires/chokes/ Battery/ paint containers /Bulbs	0.400 M.T	100%	Stocked at Resource Recovery Park and sold to TNPCC authorised vendors	Sold to TNPCC authorised vendors
	b. Napkins/Diapers etc	0.250 M.T	100%	Daily collected waste through Sanitary Napkin Incinerator NB 100 Capacity	Sanitary Napkin Incinerator NB 100 Capacity
4	Other Dry waste Unused Bed/Pillows/Mat	0.300 M.T	100%	Collected and stored separately in the Resource Recovery	Resource Recover Park

	s/ clothes/Wood pieces etc			Park.	
5	Construction and Debris Wastes	0.500 M.T	100%	Separate place is earmarked in the Town Panchayat. Quantity generated per day is very less and hence used for low-lying areas in the wards.	Low-lying areas filling
6	E-waste	0.150 M.T	100%	Collected and stoked at Resource Recovery Park. Sold to potential Recycling vendors authorised by TNPCB	Sold to TNPCB Vendors
7	Inert Drain silt etc	0.300 M.T	100%	Collected separately and filled up in low-lying areas	Low-lying areas filling

V. ACTION TAKEN ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

9. I humbly submit that the Town Panchayat is peripheral local body and the number of permanent/sanctioned posts is inadequate, considering its development. As of now, the sanctioned post of Sanitary Worker is 22, out of which 3 is vacant. The process of filling vacancies requires considerable time and compliances, in accordance with Rules. As the existing staff in sanction posts are insufficient to meet the


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requirement of rapid growth in households and population, the services of SHG and NGO were roped in to supply required personnel for solid waste management.

10. I humbly submit that under the State formulated Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 (Management and Handling), the Town Panchayats were authorized to engage self help groups and Non-Government Organizations to handle Solid Waste Management Activities as per Na.Ka.No:5030/08/B4 dt 24/6/2008, issued by the Director of Town Panchayats, Chennai.
11. I submit that accordingly, the service of an NGO named "Ramanujam Social Service society" was engaged to supplement the existing sanitation team and to ensure proper implementation of Solid Waste Management activities as per Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. The process of Solid Waste Management from Door to Door collection to final process at Resource Recovery Park has been monitored by the Executive Officer Town Panchayat, as mentioned supra.
12. I submit that all solid waste management activities in this Town Panchayat went on well, till the general lockdown declared from 23rd March 2020 on account of Covid 19 pandemic. However, the effective implementation was affected due to COVID19 pandemic and general lock down. Since the entire sanitation team was busy in containment of COVID-19 and the Self Help Group could not provide additional personnel required at the lockdown period, the Town Panchayat had to place some more temporary arrangements on contractual basis, with little orientation to those personnel. Due to the



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above reasons, the Door to Door collection and waste segregation at source activities were naturally disturbed. I submit that Door to Door collection and segregation at source is being addressed, restored and improved now. I submit that inspite of consistent efforts of Town Panchayat, the response and cooperation of public still need to be improved, for which awareness is continuously created.

VI. Water bodies within Town Panchayat:

13. I submit that the following 7 major water bodies are situated within Thiruneermalai and except Periya Eari and Thiruneermalai Sri Ranganatha Perumal Koil Kulam, all are maintained by the Town Panchayat.

S. N	Name of Tank/Lake	Location	Maintained by
1	Nagan Kulam	North Mada Street	Town Panchayat
2	Mukalathamman Koil Kulam	Kulakarai Street	Town Panchayat
3	Chitheri	Thiruneermalai Main Road	Town Panchayat
4	Veeraragavan Eari	Earikkarai Street	Town Panchayat
5	Nainan Eari	Thirumangaiyazhvar puram	Town Panchayat
6	Periya Eari	Thiruneermalai Main Road	PWD
7	Thiruneermalai Sri Ranganatha Perumal Koil Kulam	Theradi Street	HR&CA



14. I submit that the Town Panchayat involving 110 Sanitary Workers, manage the Solid waste collections at source to the end process at Resource Recovery Park, as detailed above. Since, there are four secondary collection points as transit center to transport the solid waste from primary collection to Resource Recovery Park, there is no necessity for the Town Panchayat to dump its waste at any water bodies.

VII. SRI RANGANATHA PERUMAL TEMPLE :

15. It is submitted that Sri Ranganathar Temple Pond is situated on the western side of the foothills of Thiruneermalai Temple. This Pond spread on 3.6 acres of land comprised in Survey No.137 and it has been under the care and maintenance of the 7th respondent. The water from nearby lake is filling the tank by channel passing through the lands comprised in S.Nos.130 to 136, besides its own recharging from rain water. There is an inlet for water reaching the pond, but no outlet is available now, to drain the water from tank. The 8th respondent Town Panchayat used to collect and remove the wastes and silts, whenever the 7th respondent cleans the Temple Pond.

16. It is submitted that the Sri Ranganathar temple and the area around it including the Temple Pond, are all under the care, control and maintenance of the Temple Authorities and this Respondent is prohibited from entering or working in the premises of the Temple. It is submitted that this Respondent


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duly collects and clears the waste/garbage generated from the Temple and the surrounding area, strictly adhering to the Rules of 2016. Most of its habitats and Wards are on the eastern side of the outer ring road. The above pond is sacred to the devotees and domiciles occasionally using the same for rituals and performs rites. There are three marriage halls and several residents on its northern side and part of western side. The office of the Town Panchayat was functioning on the premises at the southern side of the pond till the year 2011 and it was moved to the present building away from the tank.

17. I submit that the stray incidents of dumping solid waste at road side and water bodies is now curbed, by proper orientation to the Sanitary Workers. I further submit that surveillance cameras have been installed at the Sri Ranganatha Perumal temple pond to prevent any such incidents and it is also further submitted that the police officials have been duly monitoring the premises of the ponds everyday to prevent any untoward incidents at night times at water bodies, based on the request made by this Respondent.

18. I humbly submit that this respondent has been following the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal diligently and adequate measure are taken to comply with Environmental Laws.

Under the above circumstances, I respectfully pray that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the above status and action taken report and pass any such further other order deem fit and proper to the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.



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Dated at Chennai on this the 11th day of September, 2021

8TH RESPONDENT



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VERIFICATION

I N.Latha, Wife of Mr. K.S.Krishnamoorthy, aged 55 years, serving as the Executive Officer i/c, Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat, having address at S4, Tajeswer Homes, Dilli babu Nagar, 2nd Street, Pallikaranai, Chennai-100, do hereby verify that the contents of above Paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and are believed to be true on legal advice and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Verified at Chennai on this the 11th day of September, 2021

8TH RESPONDENT



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