

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

Original Application No.109 of 2021 (SZ)

With

Original Application No.81 of 2021 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion-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

Vs

Additional Chief Secretary to
Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Tourism, Culture
and Religious Endowments Department,
Government Secretariat, Fort, St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009 and Ors

... Respondents

With

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu
based on the news item in Dinamalar
Newspaper, Chennai Edition dt. 15.02.2021,
"The Kothandaramar Temple pond in T Nagar,
Chennai which is left without maintenance is
Turning out to be a dumping yard"

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary to Government
of Tamil Nadu, Health and Family Welfare
Department, Chennai and Ors.

... Respondent(s)

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Advocate for the Respondent: TNPCB

Tr. S. Sai Sathya Jith,

Advocate, Chennai

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... Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 5TH RESPONDENT -
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani , Daughter of Jesu Rajan , Christian,
aged about 56 years, having my office at 76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai-600032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as
follows:-

1. I am the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu
Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Chennai – 32, and filing this Report on

J. Josephine Sahayarani
14/9/2024

**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032**

behalf of the Respondent Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone), Chennai has passed an order dated 21.05.2021 and stated the following:

" It is alleged in the newspaper report that there is a huge tank attached to Sri Ranganathar Perumal Temple in Thiruneermalai near Chrompet which is a famous temple and large numbers of worshippers are coming to that temple for worship. It is not being properly maintained for long time and it is being used as the dumping ground by dumping plastic and other waste.

Further, during night, this area is being occupied by the miscreants who are consuming alcohol throwing the bottle in the temple pond affecting the quality of the water in the pond. Though certain steps have been taken by the well wishers of the temple, on account of want of proper maintenance and regular attendance by the authorities, it has become a waste ground now.

On going through the allegations in the newspaper report, we are satisfied that there arises a substantial question of environment which requires the interference of this Tribunal for resolving the same.

There is a responsibility on the part of the authorities who are expected to maintain the water bodies including the temple ponds in a proper way as that will act as a water recharge system to improve the ground water level in that locality apart from acting as water resources.

The Religious Institutions are expected to bestow their attention to maintain the sacred tank attached in the temple and the officials of the department, under which they are, expected to bestow their attention to see that the temple tanks attached to the temple, within their jurisdiction of the department to take proper steps to maintain those tanks. We are satisfied that there arises a substantial question of environment which requires the interference of this Tribunal for resolving the same. So, the matter is admitted.

J. Ar. 20/08/21
4/19/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

Issue notice to respondents by Registered post with acknowledgement due, and also by e-mail along with the copy of the newspaper report and gist of the proceedings with full cause title.

In the mean time, the Commissioner, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department (HR & CED) is directed to look into the issue and submit a detailed report as to the present status and the action taken to revive the tank to its original position and safeguard the same against the misuse by the miscreants. Apart from this tank, there is another case pending before this Tribunal in O.A. No. 81 of 2021 in respect of Kothandaramar Temple T. Nagar with similar complaint. So under such circumstances, we feel it appropriate to direct the Commissioner, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department (HR & CED) to convene the meetings of the temple authorities to ascertain the status of the temple tanks attached to the respective temple and if any maintenance is required look into the issue and issue necessary directions to take steps to maintain those temple tanks which in fact have some role to play in protecting environment while providing natural water recharge system to improve the ground water level in that areas.

The Commissioner, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department (HR & CED) is also directed to report about the take steps taken by the department for protecting such temple tanks and if there is any scheme already launched for the purpose what is the stage of its implementation etc.,

The Commissioner is also directed to submit a detailed report regarding the number of such tanks coming under the supervision of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department (HR & CED) in the State and their status and how they are being monitored including the work of proper de-silting and maintainance of the temple tank including its inlet and outlets and whether there are any encroachments in the temple tanks, if so, what is the action taken by the department to remove the encroachment and restore the water tank to its original position.

The Commissioner Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department (HR & CED) is directed to submit the report in this regard to this Tribunal on or before 30.06.2021”.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the Ranganathar Temple Pond is located in Thiruneermalai Village in an area of 146713 sq.ft surrounded

J. S. Kumar 85
14/5/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

by residences belonging to HR&CED. The said temple pond is maintained by Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the said area was inspected on 24.07.2021 and it was noticed during the time of inspection that the said temple pond is grill fenced on all four sides with an entrance gate provided with lock and key arrangement. However, a part of the temple pond wall was found damaged and the same was also provided with wired fencing. The source of water to the pond is the rain water collected from the temple area and from the vicinity. It was reported by the Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat that the said temple pond is managed by the HR & CE department and the solid wastes in the area surrounding the temple are removed periodically by the Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat.

5. It is respectfully submitted that it was noticed during inspection that no solid waste found in the temple pond and in the area surrounding the pond. There is no sewage drain into the temple pond. Further, water sample was collected from the temple pond to ascertain the quality of water in the said pond. The presence of fecal coli-form 170 MPN/100ml and DO 5.8 mg/ltr are within the desirable standard prescribed by CPCB for outdoor bathing of 500 MPN/100ml or less and 5.0 mg/ltr or more respectively.

6. It is respectfully submitted that the photographs taken during the time of inspection is enclosed as Annexure – I.

J. Prasad 8/3
14/15/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstance of this case and thus render justice.

J. Josephine Sahayarani 8/9
14/9/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032
BEFORE ME

VERIFICATION

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, Daughter of Jesu Rajan, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, having office at No. 76, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 32, do hereby submit that the above contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief through records.

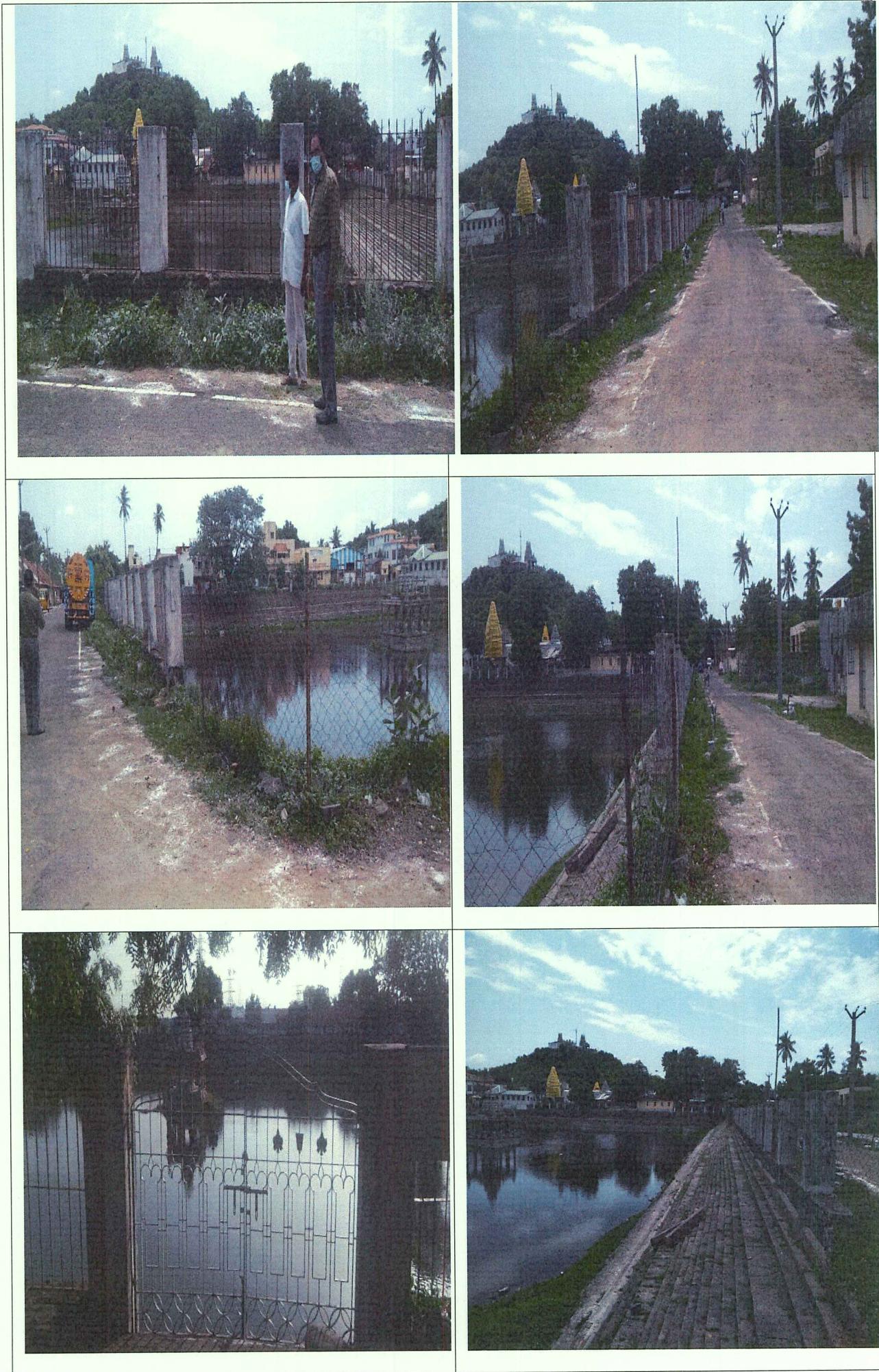
Verified at Chennai on this 14th day of September 2021.

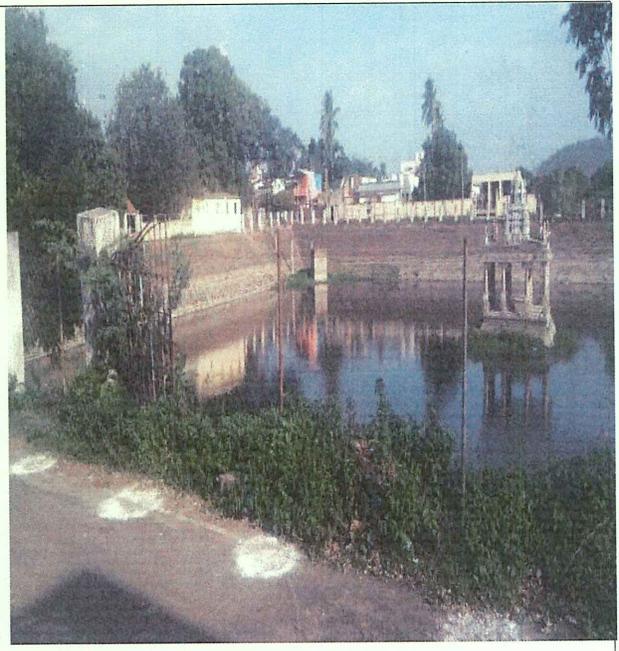
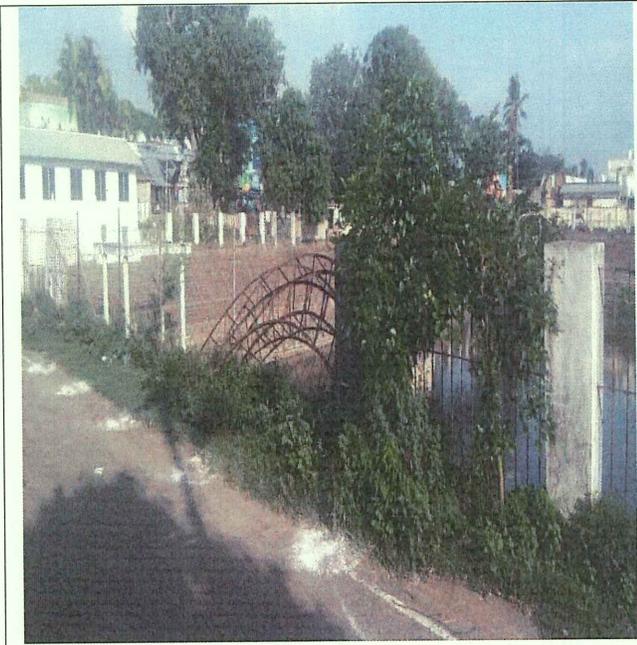
J. Josephine Sahayarani 8/9
14/9/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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Annexure - I

Photographs taken during Inspection in the areas surrounding the Ranganathar Temple Pond





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RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

Advocate for the Respondent: TNPCB
Tr. S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai

Date: 14.09.2021

Date of Hearing: 14.09.2021