

INSPECTION REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE) IN RESPECT OF O.A. NO. 123 OF 2020 (SZ) SUOMOTU ON THE BASIS OF THE NEWS PAPER REPORT PUBLISHED IN DINAMALAR CHENNAI CITY SUPPLEMENT EDITION DATED, 09.07.2020, UNDER THE CAPTION "MOOVARASAMPATTU TEMPLE POND HAS BECOME RAIN WATER HARVESTING RESERVOIR."

1. ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL

It is respectfully submitted that a case has been taken up Suo Moto by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) on the basis of the news paper report published in the Dinamalar Chennai City Supplement Edition dated:09.07.2020 under the caption "Moovarasampattu temple pond has become rain water harvesting reservoir .

It is respectfully submitted that The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai in its order dated 27.07.2020 in the matter of O.A.No.123 of 2020 inter alia stated that:

"7. In order to ascertain the present state of affairs and also the steps taken by the authorities for maintaining the water body, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of

1. The District Collector, Chengalpet District, or an Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or Sub Divisional Magistrate who is in charge in that area nominated by the District Collector.
2. Superintending Engineer of Public Works Department and Water Resources Organisation, who is in charge of that area,
3. A Senior Officer designated by the Chairman Tamil Nadu State pollution Control Board and
4. Executive Engineer of Movarasampattu Village Panchayat
to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report if there is any violation found.

8. The committee is directed to consider the question as to whether there was any scheme launched by the Government or by the District administration for protection of this water body and if so, what is the stage of its implementation and also find out the encroachment or illegal discharge of any sewage effluents into the water body affecting the water quality and if there is any, recommendations and suggestions to be submitted by the committee for rectifying the same.

9. The committee is also directed to conduct the water analysis to ascertain the quality of the water in the water body and if there is any contamination, the remedial measures required may also be suggested by the committee apart from taking action against the persons responsible for contaminating the water body

10. The committee is also directed to look into the question as to whether that there was any inlet and outlet for draining the water or regulate the water from Adambakkam Lake as alleged in the paper report and if there is any blockage of the same, the steps to be taken to restore the same as well, so as to regulate the water flow during the rainy season.

11. The committee is also directed to issue directions to the local authorities or the person concerned to take immediate steps if any required for the purpose of making it a rain water harvest system during the monsoon which is fast approaching.

12. The committee is also directed to suggest an action plan with short term and long term measures with shorter time lines to restore the water body including establishing bio-diversity park/tree-planting around the water body and other protective measures to be taken to protect the water body against future encroachments as well.

13. The Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department will be the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing all necessary logistics for this purpose

14. The Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board is also at liberty to conduct independent inspection to ascertain as to whether there was any violation in the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 including dumping of waste and discharging untreated sewage into the water and also collecting water samples so as to ascertain the present quality of the water and sources for contamination apart from assisting the committee in this regard."

Subsequently the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai in its order dated.15.12.2020 further directed the following

"However, with great reluctance, we grant some more time to the committee to submit the report. The committee is directed to submit the report to this Tribunal on or before 19.01.2021 through e-filing at ngtszfilling@gmail.com.

2. COMPLIANCE OF THE DIRECTION

In due compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, water samples were collected by the officials of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board from the Gangaiyammam Temple's pond in Movarasampattu Village Panchayat on 30/09/2020.

Collection of water sample to ascertain the quality of water in the Gangaiyammam Temple's pond in Movarasampattu Village Panchayat



Statement showing the value of the Physico chemical parameters analysed

Sl. No	Parameters	Units	Point of Collection	TNPCB Standards (Inland Surface Water)
			Gangaiyammam Temple's pond in Movarasampattu Village Panchayat	
1	pH @ 25°C	No.	7.53	5.5-9
2	Total Suspended Solids @ 105°C	mg/L	13	100
3	Total Dissolved Solids @ 180°C	mg/L	435	2100
4	BOD @ 27°C	mg/L	6	30
5	COD	mg/L	80	250
6	Copper as Cu	mg/L	<0.033	3
7	Zinc as Zn	mg/L	0.13	1
8	Cadmium as Cd	mg/L	<0.05	2
9	Lead as Pb	mg/L	<0.07	0.1
10	Nickel as Ni	mg/L	<0.05	3
11	Total Chromium Cr	mg/L	<0.01	2
12	Hexavalent Chromium Cr ⁺⁶	mg/L	<0.01	0.1
13	D.O	mg/L	7.5	5mg/l and above

Statement showing the value of the Bacteriological parameters analysed

Sl. No	Parameters	Units	Point of Collection	Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board
			Gangaiyammam Temple's pond in Movarasampattu Village Panchayat	
1	Total Coliform	MPN /100 ml	2200	500 or less.
2	Faecal Coliform	MPN /100 ml	940	500 (desirable) 2500 (Maximum Permissible)

The Report of analysis of the water samples collected from the said water body reveals that the Physico chemical parameters analysed satisfy the Inland surface water standards prescribed by the Board. Furthermore the water sample collected from the **Gangaiyammam Temple's pond in Movarasampattu Village Panchayat** analysed for Bacteriological parameter Total Coli form and the (Faecal Coliform) **exceeds the** Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters Standards prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board.

3. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT:

It is respectfully submitted that the Public Works Department/ Water Resources Department, who is one of the member of the Joint Committee and also nodal agency, has submitted that the

said Gangaiyammam Temple's pond in Movarasampattu Village Panchayat is being controlled and monitored by the Block Development Office of St. Thomas Mount.

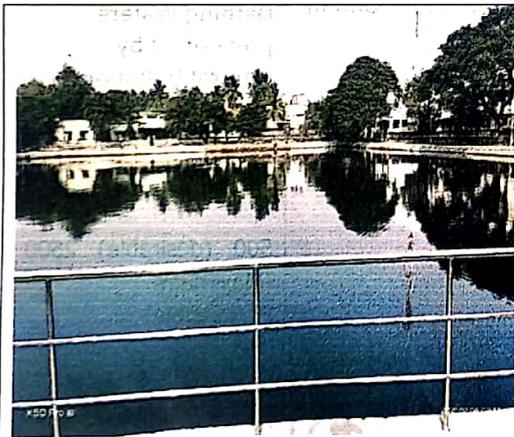
4. REPORT OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ST. THOMAS MOUNT PANCHAYAT UNION (MOVARASAMPATTU VILLAGE PANCHAYAT)

It is respectfully submitted that the Block Development Officer, St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union, has submitted the present status along with the remedial measures:

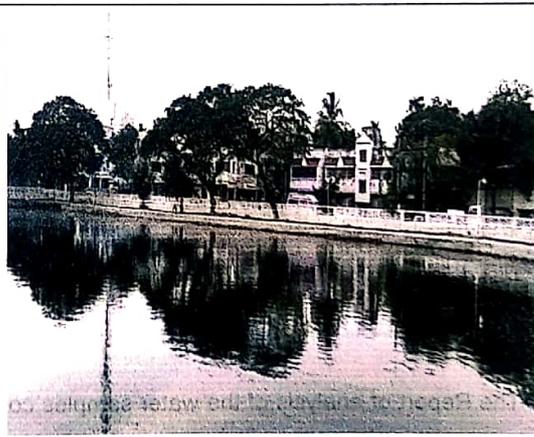
1. **Location of the Site: Survey No.32/1 of Moovarasampattu Village (12.969548-0.185610)**
2. **Extent of Gangaiyammam Temple's pond : 2.445 Acres**
3. **Total Area of the Moovarasampattu Village Panchayat : 61.56 Acre**
4. **Total Population of the Panchayat : 10368**
5. **Total Household of the Panchayat : 3064**
6. **No of Wards: 12**
7. **Solid waste generation: 8 T/day**
8. **Sewage generation: 0.6 MLD**

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE WATER BODY:

Under MLA CD's Scheme (Year 2019-2020), Gangaiyammam Temple's pond was improved, the Improvement works comprises of providing retaining wall and walking pathway all around the water body with an estimate of Rs.40.89 Lakhs. Presently retaining wall and walking pathway with handrail all around the water body was completed, lighting arrangements all around the pathways were also completed and the sullage water entering into the water body through the storm water drain was completely stopped.



Full view of the water body



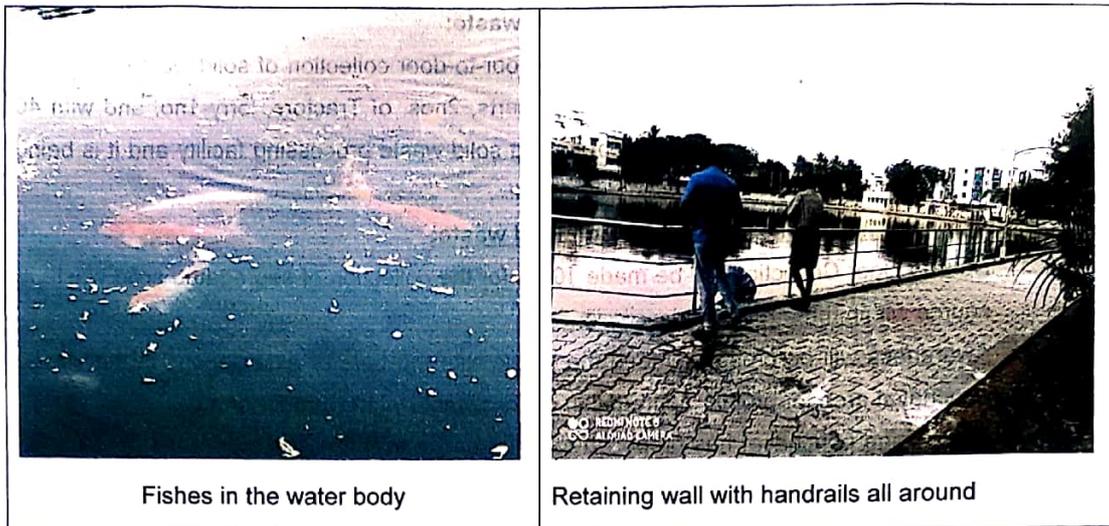
Full view of the water body



Walking Pathway provided for the public



Lighting arrangements all along the pathway



Remedial measures for the protection of the Water Body:

1. Sanitary staff will be posted in the said site throughout the day to carry out monitoring of the said water body to prevent any dumping of waste within a month time.
2. Village Panchayat of Moovarasampattu will be issuing notices to the Road side Public and to the Households in the vicinity of the water body creating awareness, not to dump any waste into the water body within a month time.
3. Persons dumping solid waste in the said water body and in the village panchayat area will be identified and fine will be imposed. Due to this, the instances of dumping of wastes in public places other than the designated areas will be reduced to a great extent.
4. Warning boards will be placed in the vicinity of the water body to prevent the dumping of solid waste/sullage water within a month time.

SEWAGE GENERATION AND DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Sewage generation from the Village Panchayat area: 0.6 MLD

The households and commercial establishments in the village panchayat area have their own individual septic tank and soak pit arrangements for the treatment and disposal of the sewage. However certain households/ commercial establishments dispose the sewage/sullage through storm water drains.

Action plan to prevent the disposal of sewage/sullage through storm water drain

1. The Village panchayat has proposed to identify the households/commercial establishment letting out sullage/sewage into the storm water drain and action will be taken to plug the same, and fine will be imposed under the provisions of the Local Body Act within a month time.
2. The Village panchayat has proposed to identify vulnerable locations and community soak pit arrangements will be provided within a month time.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid waste generation from the Village Panchayat area: 8 T/ day (Biodegradable waste - 3 MT/day and Non Biodegradable waste - 5 MT/day)

Present status of collection and disposal of solid waste:

Presently the Village Panchayat carries out door-to-door collection of solid waste of 8T/day deploying 4nos. of E-Cart Tricycles, 6nos. of push carts, 2nos. of Tractors, lorry-1no. and with 40 sanitary Workers. The village panchayat is not having solid waste processing facility and it is being transported and disposed in the designated dump site.

Action plan for the treatment and disposal of solid waste:

1. Door to Door Collection will be made 100% for the collection of segregated solid waste at source within three months.
2. Awareness will be created among the public with the help of associations in the village panchayat area for proper segregation of solid waste within three months.
3. The Village panchayat has proposed to issue notice to the public and to the households not to dump the waste on the road sides and to issue pamphlets regarding the source segregation of the solid waste within a month time.
4. Micro composting centre will be created in the village panchayat area within three months to compost the segregated Biodegradable wastes of 3 T/day. Non degradable waste of 5 T/day including plastic waste will be collected and will be sent to recycling facility within three months.
5. The Village Panchayat has proposed to levy fine on the violators dumping solid waste under Local body Acts

5. JOINT INSPECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The joint committee as constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) inspected the area in question on 30.09.2020 and 06.02.2021

6. OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

During the time of inspection, the committee observed the following

1. The Village panchayat has carried out improvement works in the Gangaiyamman Temple's Pond at a cost of Rs.40.89 Lakhs using MLA CD's Scheme (Year 2019-2020) by providing retaining wall all around the pond with handrails, walking pathway with lighting arrangements.
2. The Village panchayat has taken action to plug the sullage water and there is no discharge of any sullage/sewage into the water body.
3. There is no dumping of garbage in the water body and fringe of the water body is found neat and clean, public use the pathway provided all around the water body for walking exercise.
4. The Village panchayat has already developed greenbelt with grownup trees all around the water body.
5. The Village panchayat has not having any solid waste processing facility and the solid waste generated from the local body area is properly collected and disposed in the designated solid waste dumping facility.
6. The households and commercial establishments in the village panchayat area have their own individual septic tank and soak pit arrangements for the treatment and disposal of the sewage. However certain households/ commercial establishments dispose the sewage/sullage through storm water drains which reaches Kovilambakkam surplus channel.
7. The temple pond is found full of water which is being used by the public for bathing and also act as a rain water harvesting structure.
8. Due to urbanization the inlet channel from the Moovarasampattu lake and the outlet channel to the Adambakkam lake as alleged in the paper report were not traceable.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the above observation, the joint committee submits the following recommendation before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone)

1. The Village Panchayat shall implement the remedial measures for protecting the water body within the time frame as assured.
2. The Village Panchayat shall implement the action plan to prevent the disposal of sewage/sullage through storm water drain within the time frame as assured.
3. The Village Panchayat shall implement the action plan for the treatment and disposal of solid waste strictly complying with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 within the time frame as assured.
4. The Village Panchayat shall maintain the water body and the walking pathway provided for the public with lock and key arrangement and deploying dedicated security guards at all times.
5. The Village Panchayat shall take steps to trace and rehabilitate the inlet channel from the upstream water body and the outlet channel to the downstream water body to regulate the water during rainy season.


Executive
Engineer
Movarasampattu
Village
Panchayat


Block
Development
Officer, St.
Thomas Mount
Panchayat
Union


District
Environmental
Engineer,
Tamil Nadu
Pollution
Control
Board,
Maraimalai
Nagar


Revenue
Divisional
Officer,
Tambaram,
Chengalpet
District


Superintending
Engineer
Public Works
Department
and Water
Resources
Organisation


District Collector
Chengalpattu