

INSPECTION REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE) IN RESPECT OF O.A NO. 124 OF 2020 (SZ) SUOMOTU ON THE BASIS OF THE NEWS PAPER REPORT PUBLISHED IN DINAMALAR CHENNAI CITY SUPPLEMENT EDITION DATED, 15.07.2020, UNDER THE CAPTION "CAN ANYONE ENTER INTO TO SET RIGHT? THE TROUBLE THAT HAS COME FOR SUNNAMBU KOLATHUR LAKE"

1. ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL

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.124 of 2020 inter alia stated that

It is alleged in the paper report that there are large scale encroachments into the Sunnambu Kolathur lake of Kovilambakkam. The lake was having originally an extent of 80 acres, which was under the control of Public Works Department

It was prior water source for agriculture activities in Vadakkupattu, Sunnambu Kolathur, Narayanapuram and Pallikaranai area. During past years, farmers and village peoples were jointly safeguarding the lake by desilting the lake and strengthening the banks of the lake once in twelve years.

And directed the following,

"In order to ascertain the present state of affairs and genuineness of the allegation in the report and also the steps taken by the authorities to remove the encroachments if any and restore the water body,

We feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of

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

The committee is directed to ascertain the total extent of the area as per the revenue records and the extent of encroachments if any made, steps taken by the authorities to remove the encroachments, and also if there is any violation in respect of implementing the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, then the source of such violators and action if any taken for that purpose including imposing environmental compensation and submit a factual as well as action taken report to this Tribunal.

The committee is also directed to ascertain the water quality of the water body and if there is any contamination, find out the source and suggest the remedial measures to be taken to remedy the same and take action against the persons who is responsible for the same along with action plan with long term and short term measures with shorter time lines, so as to protect the water body.

The committee is also directed to ascertain as to whether there was any scheme launched by the State Government and District administration to restore this water body and if so its present stage of implementation.

The committee shall also suggest the feasibility of creating biodiversity parks/ tree-planting around the banks of the water body, so as to protect the lake against the future encroachment.

The Public Works Department will be the nodal agency for coordination and for providing all necessary logistics for this purpose.

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 bodies and also collect water samples so as to ascertain the present quality of the water and contamination if any and if there is any contamination, find out sources for contamination apart from assisting the committee in this regard".

Subsequently the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai in its order dated.07.10.2020 further directed the following

"The committee as well as the Pollution Control Board are directed to submit the report as directed by this Tribunal as per order dated 27.7.2020 before this Tribunal on or before 3.11.2020 through e-filing at ngtszfilling@gmail.com".

2. REPORT OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ST. THOMAS MOUNT PANCHAYAT UNION (KOVILAMBAKKAM VILLAGE PANCHAYAT)

It is respectfully submitted that the Block Development Officer, St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union, who is one of the member of the Joint Committee, has submitted the present status and the remedial measures (Action Plan - Short term & Long term):

SI NO	DISCRIPTION	DETAILS
1	Total Population in as per 2019	52600 Male : 27142 Female : 25458
2	Total solid waste generation per day	15 Tones
3	Total House Holds	11580
4	Total No of Panchayat Wards	12 Nos

I. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Generation of total Solid Waste in the panchayat: 15.00 MT/day (Biodegradable waste - 7 MT/day and Non Biodegradable waste - 8 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 15 T/day deploying 12 E-Card Tricycles, 21 push carts, 3 Tractors and with 42 sanitary Workers. Out of 15

T/day solid waste, biodegradable solid waste is 7T/day and the non biodegradable wastes is 8 MT/day. The village panchayat is not having solid waste processing facility and is being dumped in its dump yard in an extent of 2.5 acres located adjacent to S Kolathur main road in Suvery no.432 of Kovilambakkam Village and it is estimated approximately 200T of legacy waste dumped in the said dump yard provided with all round by a compound wall. The said site is classified as "Anadhinam" as per Government records.

Action Plan for Solid Waste Management

Short Term

1. The Village panchayat has proposed to collect all the solid waste dumped in the road sides and in the area in question Sunnambu Kolathur Lake within a month time.
2. 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 in the area in question, and to issue pamphlets regarding the source segregation of the solid waste within a month time.
3. Persons dumping solid waste in the road side and in the area in question will be identified and fine will be imposed as per the provisions of the Local Body Act within a month time.
4. The Village panchayat has proposed to identify the households letting out sullage/sewage into the Sunnambu Kolathur Lake and to take action to plug the same, and to impose fine under the provisions of the Local Body Act within a month time.

Long Term :

- 1 The Village panchayat has proposed to carry out Door to Door Collection of segregated solid waste from the village panchayat area to 100% within three months.
- 2 The Village panchayat has proposed to carry out establishment of a Micro-Composting centre for composting of the segregated biodegradable waste at survey no. 432 of Kovilambakkam Village and to dispose the non biodegradable waste through the recycling facilities within three months.
- 3 The Village panchayat has proposed to provide a treatment system to intercept sewage entering the lake and to treat the same within three months.

3. REPORT OF PWD

It is respectfully submitted that the Public Works Department/ Water Resources Department , who is one of the member of the Joint Committee, has submitted the details on the Sunnambu Kolathur Lake and the encroachment of the said water body as below:

I. Total extent of the area of the water body as per the revenue records

The Sunnambu Kolathur Tank in S.No. 429 of the Kovilambakkam village, Tambaram Taluk of Chengapet District is a PWD lake with a water spread area in an extent of 20.63.0 Ha. It was feeding an extent of 65.99 Ha of agriculture lands much long before and it has lost its irrigational command area over the period with the advent of extension of housing colonies in the periphery of Chennai city. Another special feature of this tank is that it has no surplus course to drain when the water reaching beyond the Full Tank Level conditions at times of torrential rains in N.E. Monsoonal periods. Presently, the tank is serving as an aquifer only. Works are carried out as and when there were erosion of tank bund and other repairs needed

II. Details of extent of encroachments

As per the survey undertaken in the year 2009, there were 204 encroachments by huts, asbestos roofed dwelling units and other kinds in an extent of 0.65 acres, which works out to 1.67 acres in the impugned tank. But, in the news item reported in the Tamil Daily dated 15.07.2020, the encroachments were stated to be in 20 acres or 8.26 Ha.

III. Any scheme launched by the State Government and District administration to restore the water body and if so its present stage of implementation

There are plans for rehabilitation and restoration of all tanks in overall Kovalam basin (comes under Chengalpatu and Chennai District) under Comprehensive Flood Mitigation Project with an amount of Rs.2000 Crores which also involves creating biodiversity parks/ tree-planting around the banks of the water body protecting the lake against the future encroachment. Detailed Project Report has been sent to Government and after approval from the World Bank, the said project scheme will be executed

4. 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 Sunnambu Kolathur Lake in Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat on 30/09/2020.

Collection of water sample to ascertain the quality of water in the Sunnambu Kolathur Lake



Statement showing the value of the Physico chemical parameters analysed

Sl. No	Parameters	Units	Point of Collection	TNPCB Standards (Inland Surface Water)
			Sunnambu Kolathur Lake in Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat	
1	pH @ 25°C	No.	7.29	5.5-9
2	Total Suspended Solids @ 105°C	mg/L	6	100
3	Total Dissolved Solids @ 180°C	mg/L	931	2100
4	BOD @ 27°C	mg/L	4	30
5	COD	mg/L	80	250
6	Copper as Cu	mg/L	<0.033	3
7	Zinc as Zn	mg/L	0.17	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	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
			Sunnambu Kolathur Lake in Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat	
1	Total Coliform	MPN /100 ml	40	500 or less.
2	Faecal Coliform	MPN /100 ml	<1.8	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 Sunnambu Kolathur Lake analysed for Bacteriological parameter (Faecal Coliform) meets the Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board.

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 01.11.2020.



6. OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

During the time of inspection, the committee observed the following

1. The Village panchayat is not having solid waste processing facility and the solid waste generated from the Village panchayat area is dumped in a dumping yard in an extent of 2.5 acres located adjacent to S Kolathur main road in Suvery no.432 of Kovilambakkam Village.
2. The Village panchayat has taken action to clear the solid waste dumped by the nearby residents in the fringe of the said water body and provided garbage collection bins to prevent the throwing of solid waste into the water body. Further provided warning boards "not to dump the solid waste in the water body, failure to comply with, action to be initiated".
3. One storm water drain carrying sullage/sewage generated from the village panchayat area was found discharging the same into the water body in the western side.
4. Encroachment was noticed in the water spread area of the water body.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

01. The Village Panchayat shall ensure 100% collection of solid waste being generated within its jurisdiction with proper segregation, door to door collection, processing and disposal by complying with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 within three months time.
02. The Village Panchayat shall not dump solid waste under any circumstances in the said area in question i.e. at Sunnambu Kulathur Lake of Kovilambakkam Village.
03. The Village Panchayat shall establish Micro composting centre within three months within the village panchayat area to compost the segregated Biodegradable wastes and to take steps to dispose the non degradable waste including plastic waste to the recycling facility complying with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

04. The Village Panchayat shall take steps within three months to carry out Bio-Mining/Composting of the legacy waste dumped in the Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat dumping facility.
05. The Village panchayat shall provide a treatment system to intercept sewage entering the lake and to treat the same within three months.
06. The Revenue Authorities shall make fresh survey to identify the exact no of encroachments and their extent in the impugned tank and furnish the details thereof to the WRD to issue Form III notice to the encroachers for taking eviction proceedings under the Tamil Nadu Lake Protection Act, 2007 within three months.
07. The PWD shall take steps to create biodiversity parks/ tree-planting around the banks of the water body, so as to protect the lake against the future encroachment or in coordination with NGO's.
08. The Village Panchayat shall levy fine on the violators dumping solid waste and disposing sewage into the water body under Local body Acts

 Panchayat Secretary of Kovilambakkam 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 of Public Works Department and Water Resources Organisation	 District Collector, Chengalpattu District
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