

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.124 of 2020 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu Based on the news item in Tamil Newspaper Dinamalar, Chennai Edition dated 15.07.2020, "Can anyone enter into set right? The trouble that has come for Sunnambu Kolathur Lake."

With

The Principal Secretary to Government  
Public Works Department  
Govt. Secretariat  
Fort St. George  
Chennai and Others.

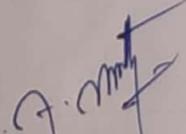
...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
WATER RESOURCES ORGNAIZATION, CHENNAI**

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I, A. Muthiah, s/o. Asokan, aged about 58 years residing at "C" Block, 207, Casagrand Aristo Apartments, Nobel Street, Nanganallur, Chennai-61, do, hereby, solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

I am the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5 and the administrative control of the Sunnambu Kolathur Tank lies within my control and I am filing this individual report pursuant to the order dated 08.07.2022 of this Hon'ble Tribunal in the Original Application herein.

  
Superintending Engineer, PWD.,  
PALAR BASIN CIRCLE, WRD.,  
Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.

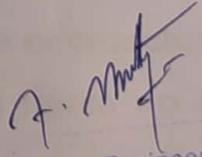
Based on the news report dated 15.07.2020 in the Dinamalar daily under the caption ,“Can anyone enter into set right the trouble that has come for Sunnambu Kolathur Lake?’ the Hon’ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone has suomotu taken up the case on the following observations made from the news report:

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) There after the Public Works Department had undertaken that work. But they were not even doing the minimum maintenance work. After the extension of South Chennai area, the encroachers started engulfing this lake and reduced the extent of the lake and approximately 20 acres of land is in the hands of the encroachers.

(iv) Further, without getting any document for ownership of land, electricity, street light, Road and drinking water facilities have been provided to these encroachers by the concerned departments.

  
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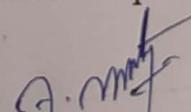
(v) Further, the lake has become a dumping ground for garbage and waste as well. The sewage water of encroachers and other residents are also directly released into the water body without treatment. All these things are affecting the existence of the lake apart from polluting the water. Besides the above, illegal withdrawal of water is being done by the people in that locality without getting necessary permission.

(vi) These encroachments are being done with the active connivance of local political party leaders and the official respondents are reluctant to take action against the encroachers on account of this.

(vii) Though, a survey was carried out to identify the encroachment, but no steps were taken to remove the encroachment and recover and restore the water body to its original position.

2. The Sunnambu Kolathur eri in S.F.No. 429 of Sunnambu Kolathur Village of Sholinganallur Taluk is a tank maintained by the PWD/WRD with the storage capacity of 0.19 Mcm to feed the originally intended ayacut in 65.99 Ha. Its water spread area is 0.26 sq.mile and has catchment of 0.44 sq.mile. In view of the agglomeration of the Chennai City and the development of Sholinganallur tank has become IT hub, most of the ayacut has been converted as housing colonies and apartments.

3. As regards the directions made by this Hon'ble Tribunal dated 08.07.2022 in the above O.A., with regard to the encroachments, it is stated that the survey of the tank has been taken up and is

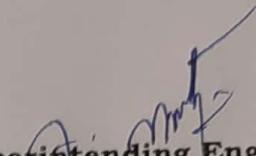
  
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in progress for identification of encroachments as of now. The WRD is co-ordinating with the survey works taken up by the survey officials in the impugned tank. When once the survey is completed and encroachments are identified, the concerned Tahsildar has to issue Form I and II as per the Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Rules, 2007. The eviction process would be taken up in accordance with law by issue of Notices under Form III to the encroachers based on the particulars of encroachments etc., in Form I furnished by the Tahsildar after identification. The photographs taken during the survey made in the tank are filed herein.



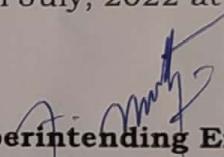
*[Signature]*  
 Superintending Engineer, PWD.,  
 PALAR BASIN CIRCLE, WRD.,  
 Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.

4. It is, therefore, prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take on record the above report and pass appropriate further orders as deemed fit in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

  
**Superintending Engineer, WRD  
Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5**

VERIFICATION

I, A. Muthiah, s/o. Asokan, aged about 58 years officiating as Superintending Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5, do verify that the submissions made are correct to the best of my knowledge and from records and I signed this on this 23.....Day of July, 2022 at Chennai.

  
**Superintending Engineer, WRD  
Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5**