

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
Original Application No. 128 of 2020 (SZ)  
(Through Video Conference)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU Based on the News Item in Tamil Newspaper Dinamalar Chennai Edition dated 20.07.2020, "Will the encroachment of Medavakkam Lake be removed fairly".

-versus-

The Principal Secretary to Government  
Public Works Department,  
Govt. secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

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

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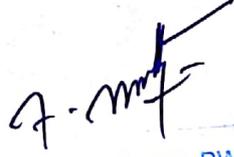
I, A. Muthiah, s/o. Asokan, aged about 58 years residing at "C" Block, 207, Casagrand Aristo Apartments, Nobel Street, Nanganallur, Chennai-61, do, hereby, solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

2. I am the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5 and the administrative control of the Medavakkam Tank lies within my control and I am filing this individual report pursuant to the order dated 29.04.2020 of this Hon'ble Tribunal in the Original Application herein.

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

3. I state that based on the news report dated 20.07.2020 in the Dinamalar daily under the caption ,“Will the encroachments in Medavakkam lake be removed without bias?’ this Hon’ble Tribunal, has *suo motu* taken up the case on the following observations made from the news report:

- (i) The paper report was that Medavakkam big Lake is located in survey No. 261 under the control of Public Works Department originally having an extent of 200 acres. The lake water was being used to irrigate the agriculture lands in Medavakkam, Vadakkupattu, Vellakkal and Kovilambakkam.
- (ii) The public were safeguarding the lake earlier by desilting and strengthening the banks of the lake once in every 12 years. When the development of the suburbs of Chennai began to increase, the size of the agricultural lands declined and the lake has been neglected, in spite of fact that it was acting as a rain water harvesting system to safe guard the ground water level in that area.
- (iii) Some years back, the North and South banks of this lake were broken by the encroachers and sold the lake lands. The encroachment of lake as per Government records is 145 acres and extent of the lake has been reduced to 50 acres.
- (iv) It is also mentioned that a false fake survey no. was given as survey no. 261/7 and Patta is being issued to many people. The Government authorities are also issuing land tax receipt for the encroached lands to the encroachers and using that Electricity connections had been

  
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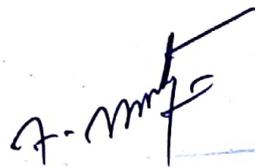
obtained for the houses unauthorisedly constructed by the encroachers..

- (v) It is also alleged in the report that the local politicians had provided road facility and drinking water facility in order to please the encroachers. Ration Cards were also issued to the residents who have unauthorisedly put up constructions there. When huge water crises happened, due to the intervention of the local people and also the well-wishers of the locality, certain amounts have been spent for the purpose of cleaning the water bodies located in that area.
- (vi) The Public Works Department also told that Rs. 4 core were allotted to reform the Medevakkaam Lake. But, no work has been started so far. No steps have taken to remove the encroachments as well.

4. I further state that this Hon'ble Tribunal by the order dated 30.07.2020 has appointed a Joint Committee and directed that:

(i) The Committee to ascertain the total original extent of the lake as per the Revenue records and the extent of encroachment and the steps taken to remove the encroachment and also to ascertain as to whether there was a scheme launched by the State Government or the District administration to protect this water body and if so what is its stage of implementation.

(ii) The committee has also been directed to consider the question as to whether there was any illegal discharge of any untreated effluents or sewage into the water body and also to ascertain the quality of the water in the lake

  
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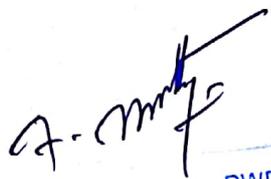
and if there is any contamination suggest the ways and means to remedy the same.

(iii) The committee shall trace out the encroachers and suggest the ways and means to remove such encroachment including the persons responsible to carry out the same and to prepare an action plan with short term and long term measures with shorter time lines to restore the water body including removal of encroachment and possibility of establishing biodiversity park/tree-planting. around the water body and other protective measures to be taken to protect the water body against future encroachments as well.

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

5. As regards the Water Resources Department is concerned it is stated that the Medavakkam Periya Eri in S.F.No. 261 of Medavakkam Village of Tambaram Taluk has the storage capacity of 0.69 Mcm to feed the originally intended ayacut of 80.57 Ha. It's water spread area is 3.7sq.km and has its own catchment in an extent of 0.55 sq.km. In view of the development of Chennai City and its peripheral areas, the ayacut has been substantially reduced now.

6. With regard to the action taken for eviction of encroachments, it is stated that the revenue and WRD officials in the presence of Revenue Divisional Officer, Tahsildar and Assistant Executive Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin Sub Division, Chengalput and the Assistant Engineer, WRD, Irrigation Section,

  
Superintending Engineer, PWD.,  
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Padappai have made a survey of the tank by the Taluk Surveyor and identification of encroachments is in progress by the Revenue Officials. As per the Tamil Nadu Protection of Tank and Eviction of Encroachment Act, 2007 and rules made there under, the Tahsildar has to send the particulars of encroachments in Form I and II and after which the Assistant Engineer, WRD, Irrigation Section, who is the authorized Officer has to issue form No. III to the encroachers and take eviction proceedings as per law. The photographs taken during the survey of the tank are filed herein.

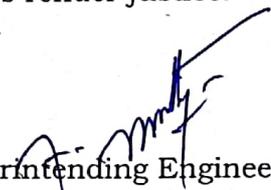


  
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7. PLANS FOR REHABILITATION OF THE LAKE:

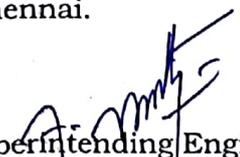
It is stated that the Government has issued G.O.(4D).No. 28, Water Resources Department dated 28.04.2022 sanctioning the rehabilitation works in 7 tanks in Tambaram and Sholinganallur Taluks in anticipation of NABRD loan assistance under RIDF XXVII for 2021-2022. The copy of the Government order is filed herein. Tenders will be called for after allocation of fund by the Government.

It is, therefore, prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take on record the report filed herewith 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, officiating as Superintending Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5, do verify that the submissions made from paragraphs 1 to 7 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and from records and I signed this on this.....Day of May, 2022 at Chennai.

  
Superintending Engineer, WRD  
Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5



### **ABSTRACT**

Water Resources Department - Announcement made by Hon'ble Minister (Water Resources) for 2021-2022 - 8 Nos. of Rehabilitation Works in Chennai Region at an estimated cost of Rs.15.2842 Crore- Sanction accorded - Orders issued.

### **Water Resources (S1) Department**

**G.O. (4D) No.28**

**Dated 28.04.2022**

சுபகிருது, சித்திரை 15

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2053

Read :

1. From the Chief Engineer, Plan Formulation, Water Resources Department, Letter No. B4 / 2308 / Anno 21-22 / Rehabilitation / AE 1/ AEE 2, dated. 21.10.2021.
2. Government Letter No. 59276 / Fin (Res-II)/ 2021-1, Finance Department, dated. 16.02.2022.

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### **ORDER:**

During the Demand for Grants for Water Resources Department for the year 2021-2022 held on 23.8.2021, the Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources on the floor of the Assembly has announced that "Based on the types of rehabilitation works for irrigation structures and for new major schemes mentioned in the 'Vision document for a New Dawn' for State and District level programme, 207 tanks, supply channels, ponds and their structures spread over 17 basins of 31 Districts will be rehabilitated in a phased manner under NABARD assistance"

2. Based on the above announcement, the Chief Engineer, Plan Formulation, Water Resources Department has sent a proposal for 8 Nos. of Rehabilitation Works in Chennai Region at estimated cost of Rs.55.146 Crore as detailed below :

- I. Capacity enhancement by deepening & Rehabilitation of Kovilambakkam Tank, S.Kolathur Tank, Medavakkam Tank, Sithalapakkam Tank, Jalladaiyanpettai Tank, Narayanapuram Tank & Perungudi Tank in Sholinganallur Taluk of Chennai District at an estimated cost of Rs.19.00 Crore.

a. Kovilambakkam Tank

Kovilambakkam Tank is one of the Non-system tanks in Kovalam Sub Basin in Chennai Basin. It is located near Kovilambakkam Village in

Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District. This tank gets its supply from the upper tank of Medavakkam big Tank. The surplus of the tank flow through the surplus course of Keelkattalai odai and finally drains into Pallaikkaranaï Swamp.

b. S.Kolathur Tank

S.Kolathur Tank is one of the Non-system tanks in Kovalam Sub Basin in Chennai Basin. It is located near S.Kolathur Village in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District. This tank gets its supply from the upper Tank of Medavakkam kalleri. The surplus of the Tank flow through the surplus course of Narayanapuram Tank and finally drains into Pallikkaranaï Swamp.

c. Medavakkam Tank

Medavakkam Tank is one of the Non-system tanks in Kovalam Sub Basin in Chennai Basin. It is located near Medavakkam Village in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District. This Tank gets its supply from the free catchment area. The surplus of the tank flow through the surplus course of Kovilambakkam big Tank and finally drains into Pallaikkaranaï Swamp.

d. Sithalapakkam Tank

Sithalapakkam Tank is one of the Non-system tanks in Kovalam Sub Basin in Chennai Basin. It is located near Sithalapakkam Village in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District. This tank gets its supply from the Madambakkam Tank. The surplus of the tank flow through the surplus course of Perumbakkam Tank and finally drains into Pallaikkaranaï Swamp.

e. Jalladaiyanpet Tank

Jalladaiyanpet Tank is one of the Non-system tanks in Kovalam Sub Basin in Chennai Basin. It is located near Jalladaiyanpet Village in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District. This tank gets its supply from the free catchment area. The surplus of the tank flow through the surplus course of Pallaikkaranaï swamp.

f. Narayanapuram Tank

Narayanapuram Tank is one of the Non-system tanks in Kovalam Sub Basin in Chennai Basin. It is located near Pallikkaranaï Village in Sholinganallur Taluk of Chennai District. This tank gets its supply from the S.Kolathur Tank. The surplus of the tank flow through the surplus course of Pallaikkaranaï Swamp.

g. Perungudi Tank

Perungudi Tank is one of the Non-system tanks in Kovalam Sub Basin in Chennai Basin. It is located near Perungudi Village in Sholinganallur Taluk of Chennai District. This tank gets its supply from the free catchment area. The surplus of the tank flow through the surplus course of Pallaikkaranaï Swamp.

- II. Rehabilitation of Thippampatti Anicut, Bannikulam Anicut, Nagasamudhram Anicut in Karimangalam Taluk of Dharmapuri District at an estimated cost of Rs.0.50 Crore.

The Kambainallur River is one of the main tributary of River Pennaiyar Poolapatti River is a branch tributary of Kambainallur River. It flows through Thumbalahalli dam to Kambainallur River. Thippampatti Anicut, Bannikulam Anicut, Nagasamudhram Anicut are constructed across Poolapatti River. This project lies in Kambainallur sub basin of Pennaiyar basin. These anicuts are in highly damaged condition, leaking through body wall and water could not be stored in them. Hence, anicuts are proposed to be rehabilitated by providing skin wall for the weir portion and providing shutters for the scour vents. By rehabilitation of these 3 anicuts a total ayacut of 144.27 Acres will be benefited.

- III. Rehabilitation of Weir, Strengthening of Tank bund and Desilting of Supply Channel in Kodur Tank in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District at an estimated cost of Rs.0.25 Crore.

The Kodur tank is situated about 0.50 km north of Kodur Village in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District. One weir is completely damaged and needs to be reconstructed. The tank bund is also eroded and water may overtop during floods. By rehabilitation of this tank an ayacut of 613 Acres of land will be benefited.

- IV. Rehabilitation of Sluice, Weir, Field Channel and Desilting of Supply Channel in Kolathur Tank in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District at an estimated cost of Rs.0.286 Crore.

The Kolathur tank is situated about 0.50 km north of Kolathur Village in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District. Out of two sluices, one sluice is completely damaged and needs to be reconstructed. The tank bund is also eroded and water may overtop during floods. By rehabilitation of this tank an ayacut of 112.31 Acres of land will be benefited.

- V. Rehabilitation of Sluice, Weir, Field Channel and Desilting of Supply Channel in Mugaiyur Tank in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District at an estimated cost of Rs.0.31 Crore.

The Mugaiyur tank is situated about 0.40 km north of Mugaiyur Village in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District. Out of two sluices, one sluice is completely damaged and needs to be reconstructed. The tank bund is also eroded and water may overtop during floods. By rehabilitation of this tank an ayacut of 112.31 Acres of land will be benefited.

- VI. Rehabilitation of Sluice, Weir, Field Channel and Desilting of Supply Channel in Nedumaram Valaveneri in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District at an estimated cost of Rs.0.30 Crore.

The Nedumaram tank is situated about 0.50 km north of Nedumaram Village in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District. Out of two sluices,

one sluice is completely damaged and needs to be reconstructed. The tank bund is also eroded and water may overtop during floods. By rehabilitation of this tank an ayacut of 137.23 Acres of land will be benefited.

VII. Rehabilitation of Ellis Anicut in Thiruvannainallur Taluk of Villupuram District at an estimated cost of Rs.30.00 Crore.

The River Pennaiyar originates in the Chennakesava Hills in Karnataka State and enters Tamil Nadu near Bagalur Village of Hosur Taluk. The total length of river is 432 Km out of which 112 Km is in Karnataka State. Ellis anicut is constructed across this river near Enaderimangalam Village. There are 5 off takes from this anicut. The Ellis anicut was constructed in the year 1950 and no major repairs were carried out for this anicut. The maximum discharges observed during the year 1972 was 2,17,000 cusecs and subsequently during the year 1983, 1985, 1996, 2005 large quantity of flood discharge have been discharged through this anicut. By rehabilitation of this anicut an ayacut of 13094 Acres will be benefited.

VIII. Strengthening of embankment, Aqueduct portion & construction of Cut & Cover in Baleguli – Santhur Canal of Pochampalli Taluk in Krishnagiri District at an estimated cost of Rs 4.50 Crore

Baleguli lake and Santhur lake is located in Pochampalli Taluk in Krishnagiri District. The left main canal of Krishnagiri dam was extended and runs in between Baleguli lake and Pochampalli santhur lake which irrigates 334.82 hectares through 28 lakes. By implementing this scheme about 28 tanks with an ayacut of 334.82 hectare from Baleguli lake to Santhur lake will be benefitted.

3. The Chief Engineer, Plan Formulation, Water Resources Department has stated that no land acquisition is involved in these Schemes and the estimates have been prepared based on the Schedule of Rates for 2021- 2022 and requested for administrative sanction for 8 Nos. of Rehabilitation Works in Chennai Region at estimated cost of Rs.55.146 Crore

4. In the letter second read above, the proposal of the Chief Engineer, Plan Formulation, Water Resources Department for the above Rehabilitation works has been forwarded to NABARD for loan assistance under RIDF XXVII for the year 2021-2022 at a restricted cost of Rs.15.2842 Crore.

5. The Government, after careful examination, have decided to accept the proposal of the Chief Engineer, Plan Formulation, Water Resources Department in anticipation of loan assistance from NABARD under RIDF. Accordingly, administrative sanction is accorded for 8 Nos. of rehabilitation works in Chennai Region at an estimated cost of Rs.15,28,42,000/- (Rupees Fifteen crore twenty eight lakh and forty two

thousand only) in anticipation of NABARD loan assistance under RIDF XXVII for 2021-2022 as follows :

Sl No.	Name of the Work	Amt. (Rs. in Crore)
1)	Capacity enhancement by deepening & rehabilitation of Kovilambakkam Tank, S.Kolathur Tank, Medavakkam Tank, Sithalapakkam Tank Jalladaiyanpettai Tank, Narayanapuram Tank & Perungudi Tank in Sholinganallur Taluk of Chennai District	10.1282
2)	Rehabilitation of Thippampatti Anicut, Bannikulam Anicut and Nagasamudhiram Anicut in Karimangalam Taluk of Dharmapuri District	0.50
3)	Rehabilitation of Sluice, Weir, Field Channel and Desilting of Supply Channel in Kodur Tank in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District	0.25
4)	Rehabilitation of Sluice, Weir, Field Channel and Desilting of Supply Channel in Kolathur Tank in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District	0.286
5)	Rehabilitation of Sluice, Weir, Field Channel and Desilting of Supply Channel in Mugaiyur Tank in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District	0.31
6)	Rehabilitation of Sluice, Weir, Field Channel and Desilting of Supply Channel in Nedumaram Valaveneri in Cheyyur Taluk of Chengalpattu District	0.30
7)	Rehabilitation of Ellis Anicut in Thiruvannainallur Taluk of Villupuram District	1.30
8)	Strengthening of Embankment, Aqueduct portion & construction of cut & cover in Baleguli - Santhur canal of Pochampalli Taluk in Krishnagiri District.	2.21
Total		15.2842

6. The Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Engineer (General), Water Resources Department, Chennai and the District Collectors shall involve the farmers in the rehabilitation works and ensure that proper documentation is done in all the above works to avoid complaints and pilferage.

7. The details of rehabilitation of water bodies should be uploaded in the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Information and Management System Portal under the control of Chief Engineer, Institute of Water Studies,

Hydrology and Quality Control, Water Resources Department for effective data management.

8.This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O. No. 18225/PW-II/2022, dated.26.04.2022.

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**SANDEEP SAXENA,  
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To

The Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Engineer (General), Water Resources Department, Chennai-5.

The Chief Engineer, Plan Formulation, Water Resources Department, Chennai-5.

The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chennai Region, Chennai-5.

The Chief Engineer, Institute of Water Studies, Hydrology and Quality Control, Water Resources Department, Taramani, Chennai-113.

The Chief General Manager, NABARD, 48, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Post Box No.6074, Nungambakkam, Chennai -34.

The District Collectors, Chennai / Dharmapuri / Chengalpattu / Villupuram / Krishnagiri.

The District Treasury Officers, Chennai / Dharmapuri / Chengalpattu / Villupuram / Krishnagiri.

The Pay and Accounts Officer (East), Chennai-8.

The Principal Accountant General (A&E), Chennai-18.

The Principal Accountant General, (Economic and Revenue Sector Audit), Chennai-18.

The Resident Audit Officer, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

Copy to

The Secretary-II to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Water Resources), Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Finance (P.W.II / B.G.-I / II / Res-II / W&M-I) Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Water Resources (OP-II) / I-Spl) Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

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**// Forwarded by Order //**

*M. Anil Kumar*  
28/04/2022  
**Section Officer**  
KPS  
28/04/2022