

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTH
ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI**

Original Application No.17 of 2020 (SZ)

With

Original Application No.128 of 2020 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the news item in The New Indian Express , Newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 23.01.2020, "City Lakes filled with Sewage and Garbage"

.....Applicant

Versus

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
2. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
3. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
4. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply
Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai Tamil Nadu – 600 009
5. The Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76,Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 032.



**District Collector
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6. The District Collector,
Chengalpattu District
Collector Office,
GST Road,
Chengalpattu – 603 001.
7. Greater Chennai Corporation,
Rep.by its Commissioner,
Ripon Building, Chennai – 600 003.

..... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE 6th RESPONDENT

I, Thiru.A.R.Rahul Nadh, IAS, Male aged about 34 years S/o.Thiru.Reghu Nadh discharging duties as the District Collector, Chengalpattu, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows :-

I am, The District Collector, Chengalpattu, the sixth respondent herein and well conversant with the facts of the case from the connected files and I am submitting this present report for the consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

1. ORDERS OF THE HON 'BLE TRIBUNAL

It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Tribunal, (SZ) Chennai in its order dated.24.01.2020, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) had Suo Motu registered the case (OA.No.124/2020) on the basis of the newspaper report published in the "The New Indian Express", Chennai edition, dated. 23.01.2020 under the caption "City's Lakes filled with sewage and garbage". Simultaneously. the Tribunal constituted a Joint Committee to go into the question and to comply with the directions promulgated by the tribunal.

On the basis of the news published in the Dinamalar newspaper, Chennai edition under caption "Will the encroachment of Medavakkam Lake be removed without bias?" dated. 20.07.2020, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (South Zone) had Suo Motu registered a case (O.A.No.128/2020). The Block Development Officer, St.Thomas Mount Block was added as an additional respondent in the above mentioned case according to the Tribunal's Order dated.26.10.2021.



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2.Compliance of the Direction

It is submitted as per the directions of the Tribunal in the case O.A.17/2020, the Joint Committee carefully examined the area in question and based on the factors, committee had filed a report with their observations and recommendations.

Based on the recommendations by the committee, the local bodies have taken appropriate actions as listed below.

(i) It is submitted Medavakkam Village panchayat and Vengaivasal Village panchayat is executing 100% door to door collection of solid wastes being generated by households, commercial shops, MSMEs and from the roads coming under the jurisdiction of the panchayat.

(ii) It is submitted Respective local bodies are segregating the solid wastes collected and disposing the same based on the type. Both the village panchayats are sending the solid wastes to the Kolathur panchayat dumping yard, which comes under the jurisdiction of Katangulathur Panchayat Union. An amount of Rs.1000/- is paid per Load /Lorry to dump the wastes in the Kolathur dumping yard. Plastic wastes which are segregated from the collected solid wastes are taken to the Plastic Shredding Unit situated in Singaperumal Koil in an interval based on the amount of the plastic wastes.

(iii) It is submitted Everyweek, Mass cleaning activities are carried out by the panchayat administrations with the panchayat sanitary workers as a path to a neat and clean environment.

(iv) It is submitted Presently, the above said local bodies are not dumping any wastes in any of the lakes. Solid wastes being dumped in the lakes by any other private organisations, individuals, etc., are also monitored and as a measure of prevention, notices were issued to the


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public and nearby private organisations to create awareness. In public places and near the lakes, notice boards were placed stating, "Do not litter wastes in the water body / public places, failure to comply with, action will be initiated".

(v) It is submitted the Medavakkam and Vengaivasal village panchayats have commissioned 1.5 Ton capacity Micro composting centre (MCC) in the month of March 2022 estimating to an amount of Rs.25,90,000/- located in the Survey numbers 146/2 and 240/4 respectively. Village panchayat are segregating the wastes into biodegradable and non-biodegradable and to an extent biodegradable wastes are sent to the Micro composting centre and the rest are sent to the respective places for processing.

(vi) It is submitted Solid wastes dumped in the survey number 416/2 were transported to the Kolathur dumping yard using rented lorries and JCBs.

(vii) As per the ref (4) cited above, Individual notices were issued to the public situated around the area in question to stop illicit disposal of sewage water into lakes.

3.Implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules

(i) Medavakkam Panchayat:

It is submitted that Medavakkam village panchayat which comes under the jurisdiction of St.Thomas Mount Block, Chengalpattu District consists of a total of 52 habitations divided into 12 sections classified as wards. This village panchayat having a total of 14019 households and a dense population of 68333 in number. As this village is situated in the boundary of the Chennai corporation, floating population is numbering to about 4000 - 5000 approximately. Total number of commercial shops are around 600. 55 Hotels are present in the panchayat. A total of 3 MSMEs are also functioning in this panchayat. Due to these factors and the dense population, solid wastes



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generated in this panchayat is huge, amounting to about 20 metric tonnes (10 - Biodegradable and 10 - Non - Biodegradable wastes). Door-to-door collection of solid wastes generated as mentioned above is carried out by the panchayat. With the 63 sanitary workers employed in the panchayat, all the streets, households and commercial establishments are covered in the activity. Apart from these, Bins were also placed in the main places for the public use. Collected solid wastes are segregated based on the type, bio and non biodegradable, and sent to the respective places for processing. For the purpose of processing Biodegradable wastes to an extent, 1.5 tonne capacity

Micro composting centre (MCC) estimating to an amount of Rs.25,90,000/- is commissioned in the panchayat and daily functioning of MCC is monitored by the corresponding officials. In the door to door collection of Solid wastes, 13 E-carts, 21 pushcarts, 4 tricycles and 3 tractors were used in implementing the solid waste management. Collected solid wastes were mostly sent to the Kolathur dumping yard, coming under the jurisdiction of Katangulathur Panchayat Union (20 km far from the panchayat approximately) and an amount of Rs.1000/- per load is paid to the dumping yard for processing the wastes. Plastic wastes which are segregated separately are sent to the Plastic Shredding Unit situated in Singaperumal Koil.

(ii) Vengaivasal Panchayat:

It is submitted that Vengaivasal village panchayat which comes under the jurisdiction of St.Thomas Mount Block, Chengalpattu District consists of a total of 26 habitations divided into 12 sections classified as wards. This village panchayat having a total of 8662 households and a population of 33782 in number. As this village is situated in the boundary of the Chennai corporation, floating population is numbering to about 2000 approximately. Total number of commercial shops are around 90. 8 Hotels are present in the panchayat. A total of 9 MSMEs are also functioning in this panchayat. Due to these factors and the dense population, solid wastes generated in this panchayat is huge, amounting to about 12 metric tonnes



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(6 - Biodegradable and 6 - Non - Biodegradable wastes). Door-to-door collection of solid wastes generated as mentioned above is carried out by the panchayat. With the 75 sanitary workers employed in the panchayat, all the streets, households and commercial establishments are covered in this activity. Apart from these, Bins were also placed in the main places for the public use. Collected solid wastes are segregated based on the type, bio and non biodegradable, and sent to the respective places for processing. For the purpose of processing Biodegradable wastes to an extent, 1.5 tonne capacity Micro composting centre (MCC) estimating to an amount of Rs.25,90,000/- is commissioned in the panchayat and daily functioning of MCC is monitored by the corresponding officials. In the door to door collection of Solid wastes, 6

E-carts, 12 pushcarts, 5 tricycles and 5 tractors were used in implementing the solid waste management. Collected solid wastes were mostly sent to the Kolathur dumping yard, coming under the jurisdiction of Katangulathur Panchayat Union (20 km far from the panchayat approximately) and an amount of Rs.1000/- per load is paid to the dumping yard for processing the wastes. Plastic wastes which are segregated seperately are sent to the Plastic Shredding Unit situated in Singaperumal Koil.

4. Eviction of encroachments in the Medavakkam Eri:

The total extent of the impugned lake in S.F.Nos. 261, 262/3, 265 and 267 is 60.5.0 Hec and as per the survey conducted in the lake, an extent of 1.38.5 Hec has been encroached upon by **1396** persons. The details along with the sketch after identification of encroachments in Form I and II of the Tamil Nadu Protection of Tank and Eviction of Encroachments Act and Rules, 2007 were sent to the Assistant/Junior Engineer, WRD, Irrigation Section, Padappai on 30.07.2022. The Junior Engineer has started issuing show cause notice to the encroachers as per the directives of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in similar cases previously so as to give an opportunity to the encroachers to file documents/credentials for staking claim in the land occupied by them and to show it is not encroachment. After receipt of the documents, if any, filed by the encroachers, the same would be sent to the



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Tahsildar, Tambaram to verify the same with reference to the revenue records. If the encroachments are confirmed by the Tahsildar, action will be taken by the Junior Engineer, WRD to issue Notice in Form III of the ibid Act and Rules to the encroachers and if the encroachers do not come forward to vacate the occupancy of the land, the same will be evicted under the due process of law with the co-operation of Tahsildar and the Police.

It is, therefore, prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept this report and finally close the Original Application No.17 of 2020 (SZ) with Original Application No.128 of 2020 (SZ) and thus render justice.

VERIFICATION

I, Thiru.A.R.Rahul Nadh, IAS, District Collector, Chengalpattu do hereby verify that the contents of above Paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and are believed to be true on legal advice and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Verified at Chennai on this the day of August, 2022



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