

IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE

O.A.No. 144 of 2021 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own Motion-Based on the News item Published in the Times of India, Newspaper edition dt: 15.04.2021, "Squatters gone, but Coom in Otteri", the Hindu Newspaper, Chennai edition dt:20.06.2021, "Encroachments are back along the Coom in Chetpet,"

----- Applicants(s)

-Versus-

The Chief Secretary to Govt.of Tamilnadu, Secretariat, Fort St.George Chennai, Tamilnadu-600009 and others.

----- Respondents

STATUS REPORT SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE

1st RESPONDENT

I. I B.Sivakumar S/o Balakrishnan, Hindu aged about 56 years, having office at Greater Chennai Corporation, Ripon Buildings, Chennai – 600 003, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:


Executive Engineer
Storm Water Drain Department
Greater Chennai Corporation

2. I am the Executive Engineer, Storm Water Drain Department of Greater Chennai Corporation and I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records and as such I am filling this status report on behalf of the respondent.

3. I respectfully submit that, under the CRRT project of Eco restoration of Cooum river, Construction of Compound wall Boundary fencing of the Cooum river) have been taken up for a length of 23.92 Km for preventing encroachments and preventing dumping of Garbage and solid wastes and so far 14.15 Km length compound wall has been completed and works are in progress for a length of 2.25 Km and the expected date of completion is by December 2021.

4. I respectfully submit that, under the CRRT project of Eco restoration of Cooum river , Trash booms have been provided at 8 locations across Cooum river for intercepting and collecting the Hyacinth and other floating materials from entering the sea and are removed periodically using poclaein and Lorries and so far around 30000 Mt Hyacinth and floating materials have been removed from this 8 locations .

5. I respectfully submit that, under the CRRT project of Eco restoration of Cooum river, 1,00,485 Mt. of debris and garbage dumped along the banks of Cooum river has been removed at a cost of Rs.6.25 Crore.

6. I respectfully submit that, Special Equipments such as Amphibian and Robotic Excavators purchased by GCC are periodically deployed for removing Hyacinth and floating materials in Cooum river and in Otteri nullah.

7. I respectfully submit that, 14257 project affected families have been identified as encroached along the banks of Cooum river. So far 12149 slum families encroached along the banks of Cooum river have been resettled in TNSCB tenements. Action is being taken for shifting of the balance slum families to TNSCB tenements. Further it is submitted that action is being taken for shifting of the slum families at Spurtank road.


Executive Engineer
Storm Water Drain Department
Greater Chennai Corporation

8. I respectfully submit that, as per Solid Waste Management Bye Laws 2019 Greater Chennai Corporation has fixed the fine charges for illegal dumping of garbage in water bodies as Rs.500 and illegal dumping of construction and demolition waste in water bodies as Rs.2,000/- (upto 1 Tone) and as Rs.5,000/- (for more than 1 Tone). Based on the above, a circular has been sent to all Zones.

9. I respectfully submit that, Penalties for violation of By-laws shall be levied in accordance with the Solid Waste Management By-Laws 2019, and is implemented in all Zones. Fines are being levied on those who dump garbage and construction and demolition waste illegally on the water courses and water bodies.

10. I respectfully submit that, through regular cleaning work and periodical special drive, garbage accumulated in the bunds are cleared from the banks of Cooum River.

Dated at Chennai this the 9th Day of November 2021



Counsel for Respondent



Respondent
Executive Engineer
Storm Water Drain Department
Greater Chennai Corporation

Verification

It is verified that what is stated above paragraphs are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

Dated at Chennai this the 9th Day of November 2021



Respondent
Executive Engineer
Storm Water Drain Department
Greater Chennai Corporation

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TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE
original application No.144 of 2021
(SZ)**

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--- Petitioner

-Vs-

**The Chief Secretary to
Govt.of Tamilnadu, Secretariat,
Fort St.George Chennai, Tamilnadu-
600009 and others.**

--- Respondents

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF
OF THE 1ST RESPONDENT**

Ms. Ramadevi

Counsel for Respondents