

**IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE**

**Original Application No. 144 of 2021 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF :

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 Cooum in Otteri" , the Hindu Newspaper, Chennai edition dt:20.06.2021, " Encroachments are back along the Cooum in Chetpet".

-----Applicants(s)

-Versus-

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

-----Respondents

**ADDITIONAL STATUS REPORT SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

1. S.P.Balasubramanian S/o Subbiah, Hindu aged about 58 years, having office at Greater Chennai Corporation, Ripon Buildings, Chennai- 600 003, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

  
Superintending Engineer,  
Storm Water Drain Department  
Greater Chennai Corporation

2. I am the Superintending 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 filing this status report on behalf of the respondent.

3. I respectfully submit that, 14257 project affected families have been identified as encroached along the banks of Cooum river. So far 12,207 slum families encroached along the banks of Cooum river have been resettled in TNUHDB tenements. Action is being taken for shifting of the balance slum families of TNUHDB tenements.

4. I respectfully submit that, Enumeration and Bio metric survey have been completed and furnish to TNUHDB and received allotment orders for 289 slum families in the Radha Krishnan nagar balance enumeration and Bio metric survey of slum families is in progress.

5. I respectfully submit that, under the CRRT project of Eco restoration of Cooum river, Construction of Compound wall ( Boundary fencing of the Cooum river) along the banks of the Cooum river have been taken up for a length of 23.92 Km for preventing any further encroachments and for preventing dumping of Garbage and solid wastes.

6. I respectfully submit that, so far 15.50 Km length compound wall has been completed and works are in progress for a length of 1.22Km and the expected date of completion is by March 2022. The balance length was taken up simultaneously while removing the encroachment.

  
Superintending Engineer  
Storm Water Drain Department  
Greater Chennai Corporation

7. I respectfully submit that, under this 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. The work has been completed. In the regard, it is submitted the debris and garbage was dumped earlier before the project was proposed. Hence during preparation of Detail project Report the quantity of debris, garbage was assessed and provision are made in the estimate for removal of the same.

8. I respectfully submit that, due to construction of compound wall dumping of waste and debris is prevented.

9. I respectfully submit that, as per Solid Waste Management by 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.

10. 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.

11. I respectfully submit that, so far fine amount have been collected for amount of Rs.23,97,900/- ( Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand only) for illegal dumping of garbages and for Rs. 19,59,000/- ( Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand only) for illegal dumping of debris.

  
Superintending Engineer  
Storm Water Drain Department  
Greater Chennai Corporation

12. I respectfully submit that now Special Equipments such as Amphibian and Robotic Excavators have been purchased by Greater Chennai Corporation and these machines are periodically deployed for removing Hyacinth and floating materials in Cooum river and in Otteri nullah and Adyar river.

13. 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.

Dated at Chennai this the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

  
Counsel for Respondent

Verification

  
Respondent  
Superintending Engineer  
Storm Water Drain Department  
Greater Chennai Corporation

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 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

  
Respondent  
Superintending Engineer  
Storm Water Drain Department  
Greater Chennai Corporation

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--- Petitioner

-Vs-

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

---- Respondents

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF  
OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT

Ms. Ramadevi

Counsel for Respondents