

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN  
ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 145 of 2020 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU

Based on the News item in Dinamalar Newspaper,  
Chennai Edition dated 05.08.2020, "Retteri Lake become a Sewage  
water pond - Will Jayalalitha's dream project be fulfilled?"

...Applicant(s)

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 George Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 009.
3. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Environment,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai,  
Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
4. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort. George Chennai,  
Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
5. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
No. 76, Anna Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 032.
6. The District Collector,  
Chennai District, District Collector Office,  
No. 62, Rajaji Salai, 4th Floor, Chennai 600 001.

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

7. Greater Chennai Corporation,  
Rep. by its Commissioner,  
Ripon Building, Chennai 600 003.

....Respondents

**INTERIM REPORT FILED BY THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF,  
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, TAMIL NADU.**

I, K. Ramamoorthy, son of A.C. Kulandaivelu, Hindu, aged about 59 years, residing at CE-15, Public Works Department Staff Quarters, Todhunter Nagar, Saidapet, Chennai-15 do, solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

2. I state that, I am the Engineer in Chief, Water Resources Department, Chepauk, Chennai-05 and I am filing this report in order to comply with the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 29.04.2022. I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from records.

3. It is submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 29.04.2022 ordered as follows:

*"5.Though, the State Steering Committee will convene a meeting once in a month and the issues should be taken up for discussion along with all Secretaries in the meeting. It appears that after the formation of State Steering Committee no meeting was convened. Therefore, we direct the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resource Department, who is a member of the State Steering Committee to file a detailed*

*report and the action taken in this regard within a period of two weeks failing which the Engineer-in-Chief has to be personally present before this Tribunal."*

4. It is submitted that, during the joint inspection, made by the Executive Engineer, WRD., with line department officials, on 11.01.2021 in Retteri Lake in Madhavaram Taluk in Chennai District an action plan has been drafted by the Committee and the same was submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal to remove the encroachments and to restore the lake by providing protection arrangements in the fore shore areas. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Water Resources Department, Tamil Nadu has submitted in the previous status report, that by considering the lacking of inter departmental co-ordination, the Revenue and Disaster Management Department has recently issued the order in G.O. (Ms) No.64 dated 08.02.2022 for formation of committee for effective reporting / monitoring of developments in identifying and evicting of encroachments in water bodies and other Government lands.

5. It is submitted that the State Level Steering Committee as per G.O.(Ms) No.64 dated 08.02.2022 shall monitor and review the overall progress in removal of encroachments and compliance of Court orders in respect of encroachments in water bodies and other highly objectionable porambokes. The Committee will convene once in a month and the issues will be taken up for discussion along with the All Secretaries meeting. The Committee has been instructed to look into the issues and the

encroachments will be identified, in order to remove them at the earliest. The Chief Secretary to Government is convening meeting once in a month. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Water Resources Department is convening meeting twice in a month for reviewing the progress of eviction of Encroachments in the Tanks and water bodies pertaining to Water Resources Department.

6. It is submitted that, as per G.O. (Ms) No.64 dated:08.02.2022 the District level and Divisional level Committee meeting are being conducted. The details of the District level meetings conducted during April 2022 and that proposed for May 2022 is enclosed. In the regular monthly All Secretarie's meeting conducted by the Chief Secretary to Government, Eviction of Encroachment is being taken as additional subject and discussed in the meeting conducted on 28.04.2022. As directed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras the eviction has to be done after the Resettlement and Rehabilitation process is over. Identification of vacant land for construction of houses for the encroachers and funds allocation for the construction of houses are being done and has to be finalized at the Government level based on the budget of the financial year. The Government is taking all the steps to evict the encroachers in all water body poramboke lands throughout Tamil Nadu comprehensively.

7. It is submitted that the G.O. (Ms) No.64 dated 08.02.2022 is applicable for removal of encroachments in Government lands throughout the State of Tamil Nadu. Detailed Format of Divisional level, District level,

State level Committees will be issued separately by Revenue Department. In the meanwhile as per the above the field officers of WRD (along with Taluk Tahsildar and other line departments) have initiated eviction process after identifying encroachments in tanks and water bodies under the control of WRD. Accordingly, the identification of encroachments in water bodies are being done in the field level as instructed by the Government and the progress of eviction of encroachment from WRD tanks and Water bodies are as follows-

Eviction of Encroachments in Tanks in the State as per The Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Act, 2007 (Status as on 30.04.2022)

i)	Total No. of WRD Tanks	-	14138
ii)	No. of Tanks under encroachment	-	6595
iii)	Total No. of encroachments identified till now	-	98740
iv)	Extent of the area of encroachment identified ( in hectare) till now	-	6933.03
v)	No. of encroachment evicted till now	-	15488
vi)	Extent of area evicted (in hectare) till now	-	2256.54
vii)	No. of encroachment evicted from February 2022 to April 2022	-	4713
viii)	Extent of area evicted (in hectare) from February 2022 to April 2022	-	910.22

Eviction of Encroachments in other Water bodies as per The Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act, 1905 (Status as on 30.04.2022)

i)	No. of water bodies under encroachment till now	-	1675
ii)	No. of water bodies for which eviction commenced till now	-	245
iii)	Total No. of encroachment identified	-	92612

iv)	Extent of area of encroachment identified (in hectare)		2482.21
v)	No. of encroachment evicted	-	9790
vi)	Extent of area evicted ( in hectare)	-	690.78
vii)	No. of encroachment evicted from February 2022 to April 2022	-	6136
viii)	Extent of area evicted (in hectare) from February 2022 to April 2022	-	538.47

In view of the above, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may be pleased to accept this report and pass orders as this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

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

### Verification

I, K. Ramamoorthy, Engineer in Chief, Water Resources Department, Chepauk, Chennai, do hereby verify that the contents of the paragraphs stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief as per records and I verify the same at Chennai on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

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