

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

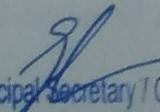
Original Application No.15 of 2021 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU Based on the
News item in the Hindu English Newspaper
dated:05.01.2021 & In Dinamalar Tamil Newspaper dt:
05.01.2021, "White foam Observed in Cooum stretch near
Napier Bridge".

VERSUS

- 1) The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Government Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
- 2) The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Department of Environment,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600 009.
- 3) The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Department of Industries,
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 St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
- 5) The Director
Department of Environment
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building,
Ground Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015.
- 6) The Chairman
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600 032.
- 7) The Managing Director
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet, Chennai - 600 031.


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8) The Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu Coastal Zonal Management Authority
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building,
First Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015.

9) The Member Secretary
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
No.6, Adyar Eco-Park, 103,
Dr DGS DhinakaranSalai,
Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai – 600 028.

10) The Director
National Centre for Coastal Research
2nd Floor, NIOT Campus,
Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd,
Pallikaranai, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu – 600 100.

11) The District Collector
Chennai District
District Collectorate Office,
No.62, Rajaji Salai, 4th Floor,
Chennai – 600 001.

12) The Commissioner
Greater Chennai Corporation
Ripon Building,
Chennai 600 003.

... Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY THE TWELFTH RESPONDENT

I, Gagandeep Singh Bedi, I.A.S., Son of Dr.Tarlochan Singh Bedi, Hindu aged about 52 years, the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, having office at Ripon Buildings, Chennai – 600 003, do hereby solemnly and sincerely affirm as follows:-

1. I am the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and as such am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case from the available records.
2. I submit that the newspaper reports published in the Hindu English newspaper dated 05.01.2021 under the caption “White foam Observed in Cooum stretch near Napier Bridge”, wherever it is

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stated that high phosphate content, in water, rough sea and high wind conditions cited as possible reasons. Further, The report states the following :-

Since Sunday, visitors to Marina beach saw the waves bring in thick, white foam. The foam, containing bacteria and phosphates, is not to be played in.

Sources in the Water Resources Department said such foaming occurred after heavy rain since the run-off would deposit detergents from land into the rivers. A combination of factors, including high winds, rough seas and high level of phosphates, found in detergents, are causing the foaming.

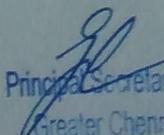
The portion of the Cooum, which empties into the sea near Napier Bridge, has been filled with thick foam, and the south-ward moving ocean current near the marina brought this to the beach. This phenomenon can be seen as far as Nochikuuppam, near the light house, which is a little over 3 km away.

During the past two months, a considerable flow of rainwater in the Cooum had helped dilute pollutants, including sewage, sources said.

3. I submit that this Hon'ble Tribunal has taken a Suo Moto case on the paper publication in O.A.No.15 of 2021 (SZ) and has passed an order dated 29.07.2021 as follows:-

"...10. Further it is also seen from today's "Times of India" newspaper report that efforts for the conservation of Pallikaranai Marsh Land are inadequate and the goals are not met in the last three years as well.

11. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) is directed to file their independent reports as to the nature of actions taken by them from their side to prevent such activities, to save coastal and river eco-systems which are being affected by the discharge of untreated sewage and pollution due to dumping and other solid wastes.


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12. The above officials are directed to file their independent reports in this regard. The State Pollution Control Board is also directed to file an independent report regarding the action taken by them in this regard.

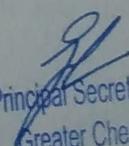
13. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) and the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) are directed to file a report regarding the action taken by them against the miscreants whose illegal actions have been reported in the newspaper report which was referred to by us in this case.....”

4. I submit that the Cooum river is one of the shortest classified rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal. This river is about 72 km in length, with 32 km flowing in the Greater Chennai Corporation and the rest in rural part of Chennai District. Further the river trifurcates the City of Chennai and separates Northern Chennai from Central Chennai. I further submit that the Cooum River comes under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department. Further the Public Works Department is carrying out de-silting work in the Cooum river every year.
5. I submit that the Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board viz., the 7th respondent herein is the competent authority for maintenance of service connections, water mains, water distribution stations, water treatment plant, sewerage treatment plant etc. Accordingly, the Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board is in the process of implementation and maintenance of water distribution, sewage collection and disposal network within the limits of the Greater Chennai Corporation, including the extended limits of Greater Chennai Corporation. Further the Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board is implementing an Under Ground Sewerage Schemes (UGSS) in the newly extended areas of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

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6. I submit that the sewage generated at the unserved areas i.e., where the 7th respondent has not implemented the Under Ground Sewerage Schemes (UGSS), the 7th respondent is collecting the sewage generated with the help of tanker lorries and decanting at the nearest Sewage Pumping Station/Sewage Treatment Plant. Further the Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board viz., the 7th respondent herein is collecting charges for the above.
7. I submit that the total solid waste generation presently in Greater Chennai Corporation is approximately 5100 TPD out of which wet and dry waste is around 2550 TPD each. In the Greater Chennai Corporation, garbage removal work is being carried out in all Zones systematically under the overall supervision of the Zonal Officers. Even door to door collection of waste is done by sanitary workers with tricycles and battery operated vehicles (BOVs). The segregated waste is processed in the Micro Composting Center (MCCs) and Resource Recovery Center (RRCs) located in each Zone. The unsegregated waste is collected in compactor bins and sent to the processing sites of Kodungaiyur Dumping Ground and Perungudi Dumping Ground.
8. I submit that the new Concessionaire engaged by Greater Chennai Corporation for primary and secondary collection of municipal waste garbage in 11 Zones out of 15 Zones is paid on Key Performance Indicator (KPI) as per concession agreement where in for segregation of waste a sub weightage of 19.23% is given. Greater Chennai Corporation has achieved 42% of source segregation. I submit that Greater Chennai Corporation has commenced the removal of legacy waste of 30,63,123 m³ above ground level in Perungudi dumping ground through bio mining process at an estimated amount of Rs.350.64 Crores.


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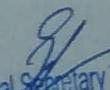
9. I submit that in order to reduce the dumping at the dumping grounds, the Greater Chennai Corporation is taking numerous steps for processing wet waste, The Greater Chennai Corporation has established decentralized processing units such as Micro Composting Centers, Vermi Composting Centers, Bio-Gas Plants, Bio-Methanation Plants, Bio CNG plants, Windrow Centre of total design capacity of 776 TPD, and also under Swachh Bharat Mission, construction works are going on for various decentralized units for additional capacity of 417 TPD. Apart from this, Greater Chennai Corporation has empanelled Service Providers for processing wet waste generated by Bulk Waste Generators Also, for processing the wet waste and converting to Bio-CNG, 6 nos. of Plant each 100 TPD for a total design capacity of 600 TPD is under progress.

For processing dry waste, Greater Chennai Corporation has decentralized units such as Material Recovery Facility (114 nos) and Resource Recovery Centers (90 nos) of total design capacity 510 TPD, and also under Swachh Bharat Mission, construction work is going on for various decentralized units of capacity 120 TPD. Apart from this Greater Chennai Corporation has empanelled Service Providers for processing dry waste generated by Bulk Waste Generators. And also for scientific disposal of dry waste, installation of 6 nos. of Incinerator 100 TPD capacity each, total design capacity of 600 TPD is in tender stage. Pyrolysis Plant (2 nos. of design capacity 20 TPD each) for converting plastic waste to Fuel oil is under progress. Greater Chennai Corporation has tied up with Dalmia Cement for utilizing the segregated non recyclable combustible dry waste of 300 TPD for co-processing in cement factories.

10. I submit that the Government of India, in the year 2014, has formulated a scheme namely Swachh Bharat Mission with an aim to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities,

towns, and rural areas. Under the said scheme, Government of India is providing funds for constructing compost yards for preparing manure from the biodegradable waste in the Chennai City limits. Further the bio-degradable waste (Organic Waste) is being composted in a decentralized manner at ward level by Ordinary and Vermi compost plants and Bio methanation plants and manure used for Greater Chennai Corporation parks and greeneries besides open sale to public also.

11. I submit that the Greater Chennai Corporation has removed 84744 metric ton of debris and 15741 metric ton of garbage from the Cooum river till 2021. I further submit that, in order to avoid further encroachment and dumping of garbage in the Cooum river the Greater Chennai Corporation has constructed 14.4 Kilometers compound wall on the bund of Cooum river.
12. I submit that the Greater Chennai Corporation, along with the Public Works Department, has removed the encroachments made by the slum dwellers in the bund of Cooum river and relocated them to the tenements allotted by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board at Perumbakkam and Kanagi Nagar.
13. I submit that the Government of Tamil Nadu formed the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT). The responsibilities of the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) are as follows;-
 - o To facilitate the development, conservation and maintenance of the 'Adyar Poonga' eco park at Adyar and other places in Tamil Nadu.
 - o To establish best practices and create a replicable model project of international standards.
 - o To fulfill the need for open and recreational spaces in Chennai, creating a new international landmark.


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- To restore the Adyar estuary to its natural state and to enable the citizens of the city and others to interact with nature and learn about sustainability.
- To formulate plans and implement programmes for the preservation of natural and ecological resources, with a view to mitigating pollution.
- To provide assistance, including infrastructure and support systems, to facilitate the setting up of eco-parks.

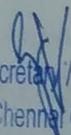
14. I submit that the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) is entrusted with plantation of mangroves, mangrove associates and terrestrial plants alongside the river. The plantation work will be taken after the completion of desilting and stabilization of bunds by Public Works Department and other riverfront development works by Greater Chennai Corporation. Further the Plantation along the banks of the Cooum River for a length of 60 km (both the banks), agreement was executed on 30.09.2020. So far around 1700 nos. of plants have been planted and the work is expected to be completed at the earliest.

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept the report and to pass suitable order or orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper under the circumstances of this case and thus render Justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai ()

On this the 23rd day of August 2021 ()

And signed his name in my presence ()


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Before Me

APRIL E.N.O: 2291/2019
119, Add. Law Chambers,
Advocate : Chennai High Court, Ch-104.

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SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

SUO MOTU

Original Application No.15 of 2021 (SZ)

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION**

P.T.RAMADEVI
Counsel for Chennai Corporation
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