

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: 05.01.202, & In Dinamalar
Tamil Newspaper dt. 05.01.2021, "White foam observed in Coovum stretch near
Napier Bridge"

...Applicant(s)

Versus

- 1) The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu Govt.
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 - 600009.
- 4) Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600009
- 5) The Director
Department of Environment
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Ground Floor,
Saidapet, Chennai-600015
- 6) The Chairman
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, TamilNadu-600032
- 7) The Managing Director
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board
No.1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet, Chennai- 600031.
- 8) The Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu Coastal Zonal Management Authority
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building,
First Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600015

AREA ENGINEER - V
CMWSSB Board, AREA - V
#1, M.C. Road, Anna Poonga,
Chennai - 600 021.

9) The Member Secretary
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust
No.6, Adyar Eco-Park,
103, Dr DGS Dhinakaran Salai,
Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai-600028

10) The Director
National Centre for Coastal Research
2nd Floor, NIOT Campus,
Velachery – Tambaram Main Rd,
Pallikaranai, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu 600100.

11) The District Collector,
Chennai District,
District Collectorate Office,
No .62, Rajaji Salai, 4th Floor,
Chennai-600001


12) The Commissioner
Greater Chennai Corporation
Ripon Building,
Chennai-600003.

...Respondent(s)

INDEPENDENT REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF 7th RESPONDENT- CMWSS BOARD

I, G. Gajapathi, S/o.T. Govindaswamy, Hindu, aged 55 years working as Area Engineer V of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board having office at No.1, MC Road, Anna Poonga, Old washermenpet Chennai – 21, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the Area Engineer - V of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case.
2. I am filing this status report on behalf of the Managing Director, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai – 28, as per the orders issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai on 21.01.2021 & 29.07.2021.
3. I hereby submit that "White foam observed in coovum stretch near Napier Bridge" with High Phosphate content in water, rough sea due to sewage outfalls into coovum river will be eliminated by plugging of sewage outfalls by Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board. The status of works carried out by Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board for the mitigation of sewage outfalls into Coovum River in Chennai city. The progress of works are detailed below:


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CMWSSB Board, AREA - V
#1, M.C. Road, Anna Poonga
Chennai - 600 021.

Integrated Coovum River Eco – Restoration Project:

CMWSSB has taken up the implementation of 15 sub-projects. The work components consists of 10 nos. of Interception & Diversion arrangements along the river and 3 nos. of Modular Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for treatment of the diverted Sewage at College Road, Chetpet, Nungambakkam and Maduravoyal, one 10 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Langs Garden and 1 Under Ground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) at Nerkundram. The status of the progress of the 14 sub-projects are detailed below:

Sl. no.	Description of Work	Physical progress of work %	Expected date of completion
1	Package 1 – Chintadripet	100	Completed
2	Package 2 - I & D – Chetpet	100	Completed
3	Package 3 - I & D – Nungambakkam	100	Completed
4	Package 4 - I & D - Metha Nagar	84	30.09.2021
5	Package 5 - I & D - Anna Nagar	100	Completed
6	Package 6 - I & D - Langs Garden . Road	77	30.09.2021
7	Package 7 - I & D - South Coovum River Road	74	30.09.2021
8	Package 8 - I & D – Aminjikai	100	Completed
9	Package 9 - I & D - NSK Nagar	-	Shelved due to non removal of encroachments
10	Package 10 - I & D - Anna Nagar	100	Completed
11	Package 11 - Modular STP - College Road, Chetpet	95	31.08.2021. Testing and Trail operations commenced
12	Package 12 - Modular STP - Nungambakkam	65	31.12.2021
13	Package 13 - Modular STP - Maduravoyal	14	31.12.2021
14	Package 14 - Modular STP - TTUF at Langs Garden	30	16.05.2022
15	Package 15 - UGSS - Nerkundram	32	30.06.2022

On completion of the above works, 37 nos of Sewage Outfalls into River Coovum will be plugged by CMWSSB.

CMWSSB has taken up the Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to Nerkundram through which the outfalls from Nerkundram will be arrested on providing Sewerage Connection through “Illamthorum Innaippu Scheme”. This scheme will be completed in 2023.

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Apart from the above outfalls, based on the instructions from the Chief Secretary, a Joint committee comprising of officials from CMWSSB, PWD, GCC, DTP, CMA and CRRT, inspected the outfalls into River Coovum from Paruthipattu to its mouth and identified 81 nos. of additional outfalls carrying sewage.

CMWSSB, for the identified 61 nos. of additional outfalls within Chennai city, is in the process of preparing Interception and Diversion proposals to the nearest collection system / Sewage Pumping Stations as a short term measure and permanent Infrastructure Strengthening as long term measures. The DPRs for the short term proposals in River Coovum are planned to be completed in a phased manner by December 2021 and permanent long term measures by August 2022. On availing necessary funding from the Government, all these mitigation works will be completed by 2025.

Mitigation of Sewage Outfalls in Coovum Drains including Buckingham Canal and its Drains:

The Government has accorded In Principle approval for a total project cost of Rs. 2371 Cr for the Mitigation of Sewage Outfalls in the drains of River Coovum including River Adyar, and Buckingham canal and its associated drains 46 nos. Interception and Diversion works and 39 nos. of Infrastructure Strengthening works have been proposed under Phase I for a total project cost of Rs. 1001 crores covering 385 outfalls. In Phase II, long term works to cover inadequacies in the sewerage infrastructure are to be addressed.

Administrative sanction has been accorded by the Government for Rs. 1001 crores vide G.O. (Ms) No. 107 MA&WS (MW1) Dept, dt. 20.08.2019. Till date, tenders have been called for 11 nos. of I&D works and 41 nos. of Infrastructure totaling Rs. 755.41 crores. Work Order has been issued for 6 I&D works and 28 Infrastructure Strengthening works amounting to Rs. 342.39 crores.


51 numbers of outfalls will be plugged through the above 52 works under CRRT – Phase I and the ongoing CRRT works in River Adyar also.

In addition Coovum river scheme, CMWSSB has already completed the comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Schemes to Thiruvottiyur, Madhavaram, Puthagaram, Kathiruedu, Kathivakkam, Sholinganallur, Perungudi, Surapet, Karapakkam, Ullagaram, Puzhuthivakkam and have commenced the UGS Scheme for Ramapuram, Manapakkam, Nerkundram, Pallikaranai and Mugalivakkam, the outfalls into drains in these areas will be mitigated on providing Sewerage Connections through "Illamthorum Inaiippu" scheme.


Moreover, due to non-removal of encroachments along Buckingham canal and site constraints for proposals for drains of River Coovum and also Adyar, CMWSSB is in the process of revising the DPRs. The revision of the DPRs will be completed by March 2022. On completion of the DPRs, necessary funding will be obtained and all the works will be completed by 2025.

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Chennai - 600 020.

The action taken by CMWSS Board for the mitigation of Sewage Outfalls for prevention of pollution of River Coovum including River Adyar, and Buckingham Canal and the status of the ongoing works is hereby submitted before the Hon'ble Green Tribunal for consideration.


Respondent
AREA ENGINEER - V
CMWSSB Board, AREA - V
#1, M.C. Road, Anna Poonga,
Chennai - 600 021.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai
on this 17th day of Sept. 2021 and
signed his name in my presence

Before me,

Thiru. K. Gopi, Advocate,
E. No. 702/2006,
16, law chambers,
High Court Building,
Chennai-104.