

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

(Southern Zone)

Original Application No.168 of 2020 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU

Based on the News item in Indian Express Newspaper,
Chennai Edition dated 25.08.2020, " Sewage discharge into
Open SWDs irks Porur residents".

... Applicant(s)

Versus

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600009.

2. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600009.

3. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Health and Family Welfare Department,
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 Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600032,

6. The District Collector,
Chennai District,
District Collectorate Office,
No.62, Rajaji Salai, 4th Floor,
Chennai- 600 001.

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

... Respondents


Zone Officer
Zone-XI
Greater Chennai Corporation

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

I, S.Sasikala, Wife of Mr.G.Suresh Babu, Hindu, aged about 43 years, the Joint Director/Assistant Commissioner, Zone - XI, Greater Chennai Corporation, having office at No.33, Arcot Road, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 600 087, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I am the Joint Director /Assistant Commissioner, Zone - XI, Greater Chennai Corporation and as such am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the available records and I am filing this joint inspection report on behalf of Greater Chennai Corporation as per the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
2. I submit that a news article was published in the English Daily "Indian Express" on 25.08.2020 under the caption "Sewage discharge into open SWDs irks Porur residents" stating that the various private tankers which carry raw sewage collected from private apartment complex and houses have been spotted discharging the waste into open SWDs alongside the Porur Link Road.
3. I submit that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone has taken a Suo-Motu case in O.A.No.168 of 2020 by appointing the Greater Chennai Corporation as nodal agency and has passed an order dated 07.09.2020 as follows:-

"...10. In order to ascertain the real state of affairs, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of 1) the District Collector, Chennai District, or a Senior Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or Revenue Divisional Officer deputed by the District Collector, 2) The Superintending Engineer, Public works Department and Water Resources Organisation who is in charge of that area 3) a Senior Officer


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deputed by the Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board and 4) a Senior Officer from Greater Chennai Corporation to be deputed by its Commissioner to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found.....”

4. I submit that the National Highway's Department constructed the Chennai Bypass which was completed in the year 2010, interconnects four radial Indian National Highways around Chennai, India covering a distance of 32 km from Perungalathur on NH45 to Madhavaram on NH 5 via Maduravoyal.
5. I submit that the Porur Link Road/Bypass Service Road having a length of 3200 meters which runs from Porur to Maduravoyal is being maintained by the National Highways Department and the National Highways Department had constructed and maintaining the Storm Water Drain starting from the Porur and the drain ends at Coovum River at Maduravoyal. Further around 300 meters comes within the limits of the Greater Chennai Corporation and the balance 2900 meters of the Porur Link Road/Bypass Service Road comes under the limits of Vanagaram Panchayat.
6. I submit that pursuant to the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal a joint inspection was carried out by the officials of Greater Chennai Corporation on 23.10.2020 along with the Revenue Divisional Officer Central Chennai, Area Engineer, Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Block Development Officer, Vanagaram Panchayat, Assistant Engineer Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Work Inspector Public Works Department and also Project Director, National Highways Department.
7. I submit that at the time of joint inspection the Area Engineer - XI, Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board, has informed that


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they have formed a team of Depot Engineers to monitor the Porur Link Road/Bypass Service Road and directed the Depot Engineers to take action against the illegal outlet of the sewer water in the Storm Water Drain.

8. I submit that after joint inspection the Area Engineer - XI, Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board, has addressed a letter dated 22.10.2020 stating that they had conducted a joint meeting with the private sewer lorries owners association and instructed them to dispose the sewage to nearby pumping station at Ganga Nagar, Mogappair and Nespakkam STPs and warned the lorry owners not to dispose the sewage into Storm Water Drain.
9. I submit that after joint inspection the Block Development Officer, Villivakkam Panchayat Union has addressed a letter dated 02.11.2020 stating that the disposal point is coming under the limit of Chennai Corporation and the Panchayat limit ends before it and also stated that they will keep vigilant watch on the illegal disposal of the sewage into the storm water drain and severe action will be taken against the people and companies violating the rules.
10. I submit that after joint inspection the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has addressed a letter dated 27.10.2020 stating that the NHAI is not a respondent in the above case and also stated that the referred location from Km 15.820 to Km 18.980 is part of the Service Road of the Chennai Bypass of which Km 15.820 to Km 16.120 falls under the jurisdiction of Chennai Corporation and from Km 16.120 to Km 18.980 falls under the jurisdiction of Vanagaram Pachayat. Further it was stated that earlier the NHAI had taken action by filing a CSR to the Police Department with respect to the illegal discharge of sewage into the Strom Water Drain at Km 21/700.


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11. I further submit that the monitoring of sewer lorries comes under the jurisdiction of Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) and Greater Chennai Corporation is not a competent authority to take action against the sewer lorries.
12. I submit that Greater Chennai Corporation had taken action by filing a CSR to the Police Department with respect to the illegal discharge of sewage into the Storm Water Drain. I Submit that a letter from Greater Chennai Corporation dated 09.11.2020 addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Police, SRMC Range requesting to direct the Police officials to monitor the Porur Link Road/Bypass Service Road and to file a case against lorries who are illegally letting out the sewer water into the Storm Water Drain.
13. I submit that referred location is part of the service road of the Chennai Bypass, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Department.

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 4th day of November 2020 ()
And signed his name in my presence ()


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Greater Chennai Corporation
Before Me

Advocate : Chennai

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

SUO MOTU

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ON BEHALF OF
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

P.T.RAMADEVI
Counsel for Chennai Corporation