

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 191 OF 2015 (SZ)
WITH
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 178 OF 2014 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

S.P. Muthuraman
Tirunelveli District.

... Applicant

Versus

The Union of India and others.

... Respondents

WITH

T. Rajamanickam,
Tirunelveli.

... Applicants

Versus

The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Tirunelveli and Ors.

... Respondents

**STATUS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN
SUBMITTED BY THE TIRUNELVELI CORPORATION**

I, __Kannan , Son of Mr. Ganesan, Hindu, aged about 40 years, presently holding the post of the Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I state that I am the Commissioner of Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation, and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from available records.
2. I humbly submit that this Hon'ble Tribunal in its order dated 17.01.2020 constituted a Joint Committee to go into the allegations in the application and also consider the question of pollution caused to the Tamirabarani River and the remedial measures to be taken.


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3. I humbly submit that the Joint Committee conducted a joint inspection and filed its report before this Hon'ble Tribunal. This Respondent is also a member of the Joint Committee, has submitted the present status of the projects which are under progress along with necessary documents, to the members of the Joint Committee and the same was also a part of the Report. However, this Hon'ble Tribunal has specifically directed this Respondent to file the present status and time line in respect of the projects, hence this Respondent filling the present status report.

4. I humbly submit that the Report submitted by the Joint Committee may be treated as part and parcel of this Status Report.

5. The action taken against the issues which are raised in O.A. No. 191 of 2015 are as follows:

a. As directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, the following is the time schedule for completion of the permanent and temporary measures proposed to control the direct discharge of sewage into river Thamirabarani:

i. Permanent Action Plan:

The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation has proposed the UGSS Scheme. The present ongoing underground sewerage system for the left out area Tirunelveli Corporation is divided with respect to the River Tamirabarani flowing from south to north of the city. The West of Tamirabarani is covered under **Phase II** and East of Tamirabarani is covered under **Phase III**.

Area covered under Phase II	Status of work and Time schedule for completion
The West of River Tamirabarani covers Tirunelveli administrative zone (full), Melapalayam administrative zone (partial) and Thachanallur administrative zone (partial).	The UGSS work is carried out by M/s. L & T Constructions at cost of Rs.291.81 Crores Date of Commencement : 26.07.2018 Date of Completion : 31.01.2022

	Work Under Progress : 55 % Completed
Area covered under Phase III:	
East of River Tamirabarani covers Palayamkottai administrative zone (full), Melapalayam administrative zone (partial) and Thachanallur administrative zone (partial).	The UGSS work is carried out by M/s. Simplex Infrastructure Limited at a cost of 421.54 Crores. Date of Commencement : 23.01.2019 Date of Completion: 31.07.2022 Work Under Progress : 15.1 % Completed

ii. Temporary Action Plan

Work	Status of work and Time schedule for completion
The point sources of sewage entering into the river system are intercepted and a localized treatment system employing DEWATS technology at 8 locations is proposed.	Work completed at 6 Locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kailasapuram • Meenakshipuram • Sindhupondhurai • Kokkirakulam (opp. to Collectorate) • Kokkirakulam – Mariamman Koil Street • Meenakshipuram – Anna Nagar
In this process floated materials are retained, and the sewage is allowed for Sedimentation and further treated with anaerobic process and the processed water is filtered using Pebble Media. Three layers of filter media from bottom of chamber is provided such as first layer 40mm jelly for 30 cm. thick laid, over to this layer 20 mm. jelly for 30 cm. thick laid and over to this layer coarse sand 30 cm. thick laid. Finally filtered water let into the river after the same is utilized for vegetation.	Work under progress at 3 locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vannarpet – Ramalingar Street • Vannarpet – Valayapathi Street • Kurukkuthurai <p>Time by completion – 28.02.2021</p>

6. The action taken against the issues which are raised in O.A. No. 178 of 2014 are as follows:

a. WASHING OF OLD SAREES AND OLD DRESS MATERIAL WITH THE USE OF POISONOUS ACIDS

i. Permanent Measures

This Respondent Corporation has proposed to construct Dhobi Khana in three locations to prevent washing of clothes by washer men, under Smart City Mission to a project cost of Rs.4.20 crore. Retender fixed on 27.01.2021.

➤ ETP Installation capacity & Timeline for implementation for cloth washing waste water :

A. Laundering clothes is one of the oldest profession in India. There are almost more than 500 families of the city corporation is depending on the profession of laundering. In order to protect the river from soap oil and detergent pollution, Dhobi Khana was proposed at three different locations of the City namely as (1) Karupanthurai, (2) Vannarpettai - Thirukkurippu Street and (3) Vannarpettai Salai Street. Each Dhobi Ghana is designed in such way to meet the needs of the washer community of the locality.

B. In order the remove the soap oil and suspended solids as prescribed, Oil water separator is proposed which will eventually remove the soap oil, suspended solids as well as dissolved solids. In order to attain high rate of treatment and low maintenance, Oil Water Separator Machine is proposed at all three sites according to the effluent discharge which will take care of the effluent treatment. The above said three units retendered fixed on 27.01.2021.


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ii. Temporary Measures

The largest numbers of families are depending on the profession of laundering, the people are being educated not to wash the clothes directly in the river water.

b. MIXING OF SEPTIC TANK WASTES:

i. Permanent Measures

To prevent mixing of final effluent from the outlet of the Septic tank in river Tamirabarani, UGSS schemes are being executed in Phase-II and Phase-III. The Phase-II work has been commenced on 26.07.2018 at a project cost of Rs. 291.81 crores, 55% of work Completed and expected to be completed by 25.01.2022. The Phase -III work has been commenced on 23.01.2019 at a project cost of Rs. 421.54 Crores, 15.1% of work Completed and expected to be completed by 22.07.2022.

ii. Temporary Measures

DEWATS Technology is being implemented at 8 locations namely [Kailasapuram, Meenakshipuram, Sindhupondhurai, Kokkirakulam (opp. to Collectorate), Kokkirakulam Mariammam Koil Street, Vannarpettai, Udayarpatti and Kurukkuthurai as temporary measures to treat the domestic sewage discharged in to river. Work completed at 4 locations and in progress at 2 locations and yet to be started at 1 location, **expected to be completed by 28.02.2021.**

7. I respectfully submit that this Respondent is taking earnest steps to protect the water body situated within its jurisdiction without any default and complying with the environmental rules in letter and spirit and without any default. This Respondent will comply with any directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal and the statutory authorities, to protect the Tamirabarani River and improve its water quality.


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Under the above circumstances, I respectfully pray that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the above submission and close the application and pass any such further or other order as it may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 17th day of January, 2021


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VERIFICATION

I, Kannan , Son of Mr. Ganesan , Hindu, aged about 40 years, presently holding the post of the Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation, do hereby verify that the contents of Paragraph Nos. 1 to 7 are true to the best of my knowledge and Paragraph Nos. 1 to 7 are believed to be true on legal advice and that I have not suppressed any material fact.

Verified at Chennai on this the 17th day of January, 2021


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