

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 171 of 2021 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU Based on the
News item published in The New Sunday Express News Paper
Edition Dated: 11.07.2021, "Illegal diversion of sewage into
Storm water drains continues."

...Applicant(s)

Versus

1. The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Government Secretariat, Fort, St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
2. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Public
Works Department,
Government Secretariat, Fort, St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
3. The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Climate Change & Forests,
Government Secretariat, Fort, St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
4. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Government Secretariat, Fort, St. 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 Member Secretary,
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust,
6/103, Dr. D.G. S. Dinakaran Salai,
Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai – 600 028.


Superintending Engineer (North East)
C. M. W. S. S. Board,
Chennai-600 002.

7. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
Rep, by its Managing Director,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet, Chennai 600 031.
8. The District Collector,
Chennai District,
District Collectorate Office,
No. 62 Rajaji Salai, 4th Floor,
Chennai – 600 001.
9. Greater Chennai Corporation,
Rep, by its Commissioner,
Ripon Building, Chennai – 600 003.
10. The Superintending Engineer,
SWD, CRRT & Mechanical,
Greater Chennai Corporation,
Ripon Building, Chennai – 600 003. Respondent(s)

Report filed by the 7th Respondent

I, R. Kandasamy, S/o. K.Ratnaswamy, Hindu aged about 56 years now working as Superintending Engineer (North East) in the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

1. I am the Superintending Engineer (North East) of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Chennai and 7th Respondent herein are well acquainted with the facts of the case from the connected files.
2. I am filing the report on behalf of the Managing Director, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai-28.
3. I submit that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone has given a direction to the committee members as follows:
In order to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations made in the News Paper report and also the violations, if any committed by the persons, we feel it appropriate to appoint a Joint Committee consisting of.,
 - i. A senior officer from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) deputed by its Chairman.


Superintending Engineer (North East)
C. M. W. S. S. Board,
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25 Nos. of Village Panchayat to the Greater Chennai city. The implementation of Under Ground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) to these newly added areas are under operation in certain places and at various stages of completion in the remaining places.

8. I submit that Joint Committee members inspected at Langs Garden road, Electricity office Link road and Binny road on 17.09.2021.
9. I submit that there is no encroachment in these stretches.
10. I submit that the sewage outfall near Langs Garden road at pudupet (photo depicted in the News Paper) was plugged by CMWSSB by attending leakages in the existing 300mm ϕ CI sewage pumping main from Link road pumping station to Langs Garden pumping station.
11. I submit that the work of interception and diversion of sewage at EB link road from storm water drain to gravity sewer system is under progress and it will be completed by 31.10.2021.
12. I submit that waste water flow was observed in the storm water drain at Binny road junction of EB link road which will be addressed in the mitigation of sewage outfall works.
13. I submit that Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has taken up the work of implementation of 15 sub projects under CRRT fund and details are as detailed below.,

CMWSSB has been entrusted with the implementation of 15 sub-projects under Integrated Coovum River Eco-Restoration Project. The work components consist of 10 Interception and Diversion systems along the river, 3 Modular Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at Chetpet, College Road and Maduravoyal, one 10 MLD sewage treatment plant at Langs Garden and 1 Under Ground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) at Nerkundram. Work on the 14 sub-subjects is in progress as detailed below:

i. Interceptors and Diversion pipelines:

- Package I (Chintadripet) – 100% of works have been completed. 1 No. of outfall plugged.
- Package II (Chetpet) – 100% of works have been completed. The outfalls will be plugged after commissioning of the STP.


Superintending Engineer (North East)
C. M. W. S. S. Board,
Chennai-600 002.

15. I submit that 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.
16. I submit that 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 crore 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 crore 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 crore. Work Orders have been issued for 6 I&D works and 28 Infrastructure Strengthening works and these works are under progress.
17. The action taken by CMWSS Board for the mitigation of Sewage Outfalls for prevention of pollution of River Coovum is submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for consideration.
18. It is therefore prayed that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may be pleased to accept my response on behalf of the CMWSS Board and thus render justice.


Respondent

Superintending Engineer (North East)
C. M. W. S. S. Board,
Chennai-600 002.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai *
on this 21st day of September 2021 *
and signed his name in my presence *

Before me



K.Gopi, Advocate, E.No.702/2006,
16, Law Chambers, High Court Building,
Chennai-104

**Before the National Green
Tribunal (Southern Zone)**

Chennai,

O.A.No.171 of 2021 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own
motion-SUO MOTU
Based on the News item
published in The New
Sunday Express News
Paper Edition Dated:
11.07.2021, "Illegal
diversion of sewage into
Storm water drains
continues."

:Applicant

Vs.

Chennai Metropolitan
Water Supply and
Sewerage Board
(CMWSSB) represented
by its Managing Director,
Santhome Road, MRC
Nagar, Chennai – 28.

:Respondent

**REPORT FILED BY
7TH RESPONDENT**

**G.JANAKIRAMAN
Advocate
Counsel for 7th Respondent**

Report of the Joint Committee

(As per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai
Order dated 10.08.2021 in OA No. 171/2021)

A case has been Suo Motu registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Southern Zone on the basis of the News Paper report published in "The Sunday Express" edition dated 11.07.2021 under the caption "Illegal diversion of sewage into storm water drain continues".

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Southern Zone in the matter of O.A.No.171 of 2021 vide order dated 10.08.2021 has directed as follows:

In order to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations made in the News Paper report The Hon'ble NGT feel it appropriate to appoint a Joint Committee.

In accordance to the Hon'ble NGT directions CMWSSB communicated the order and requested for nomination from respective departments nominations were received and the committee constituted with the following members.

1. Dr.R.Umayakunjaram, District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB.
2. Dr.S.Viswanathan, Environmental Specialist, CRRT.
3. R. Kandasamy, Superintending Engineer(N.E), CMWSSB.
4. V.Kannaian, Executive Engineer (SWD,CRRT),Greater Chennai Corporation.

Inspection of the committee members

An inspection was carried out by the committee members along with the department officials at Langs Garden road, E.B Link road and Binny road on 17.09.2021 (photos enclosed).

Observations

1. It is submitted that there is no encroachment in these stretches.
2. The sewage outfall near Langs Garden road at pudupet (photo depicted in the News Paper report) was plugged by CMWSSB by attending leaks in the 300mm ϕ CI pumping main from Link road pumping station to Langs Garden pumping station.


Superintending Engineer (North East)
C. M. W. S. S. Board,
Chennai-600 002.

3. The work of interception and diversion of sewage at EB Link road from SWD to gravity sewer system is under progress by CMWSSB and it will be completed by 31.10.2021.
4. Waste water flow was observed in the storm water drain at Binny road junction of EB link road.
5. In order to mitigate sewage outfalls for prevention of pollution of river Cooum, CMWSSB is carrying out the work of interception and diversion of storm water drain to the nearest collection system / pumping station.
6. The interception and diversion arrangements had been proposed with weir arrangements by which any lean sewage flow will be intercepted and conveyed through interceptor pipelines to the nearest pumping station and excess flow from the storm water drain will automatically flow into the river especially during rainy seasons.
7. The projects under implementation are as follows:

- **Laying of interceptors and diversion of sewage at Langs Garden from chainage 2500-4200m left bank and allied works – Package VI**

This project comprises of Construction of 30 nos of machine holes, 855m of gravity sewer main at Langs Garden road of size 600mm dia to 1200mm dia , 900m of Pumping main from Gandhi Irwin bridge road to Langs Garden road pumping station, Construction of sewage pumping station at Gandhi Irwin bridge road. The work is 90%completed, and scheduled date of completion is 31.10.2021.

- **Laying of interceptors and diversion of sewage at South Cooum road from chainage 4300-5400m left bank and allied works – Package VII**

This project comprises of 26 nos of machine holes, 710m of gravity sewer main at Langs Garden road of size 500mm dia and 700mm dia, 800m of Pumping main from South Cooum river road to Langs Garden road pumping station, Construction of sewage pumping station at South Cooum river road. The work is 97%completed, and scheduled date of completion is 31.10.2021.


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C. M. W. S. S. Board,
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8. Further CMWSSB is executing the work of construction of 10MLD sewage treatment plant at Langs Garden road. The scheduled date of completion is 15.03.2022.

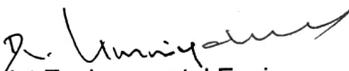
Upon completion of interception and diversion works at Langs Garden road, South Cooum river road, construction of 10MLD sewage treatment plant at Langs Garden road 6 Nos. outfalls at Langs Garden road 4 Nos. of outfalls at South Cooum river road will be plugged.

Mitigation of Sewage Outfalls:

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 Cooum including River Adyar, and Buckingham canal and its associated drains. 46 nos of 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 crore covering 385 outfalls. In Phase II, long term works to cover inadequacies in the sewerage infrastructure are to be addressed.

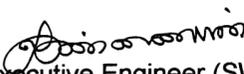
Administrative Sanction has been accorded by the Government for Rs. 1001 crore vide G.O. (Ms) No. 107 MA&WS (MW1) Dept, dt: 20.08.2019. Till date, tenders have been called for 11 nos of I&D works and 41 nos of Infrastructure totaling Rs. 755.41 crore. Work Order has been issued for 6 I&D works and 28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

The action taken by CMWSS Board for the mitigation of Sewage Outfalls for prevention of pollution of River Cooum is submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for consideration.


District Environmental Engineer
TNPCB, Chennai


Environmental Specialist, CRRT


Superintending Engineer (N.E)
CMWSSB/Nodal Agency


Executive Engineer (SWD, CRRT)
GCC