

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

**IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 27 OF 2021 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF

**Tribunal on its own motion
Suo Motu based on the news
item in The Hindu E-Paper, Edition
dt. 28.01.2021, "Faecal contamination
high in Perandoor, Edappally Canals" : Applicant(s)**

Verses

The Chairman, SPCB & Others : Respondent(s)

**UPDATED STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEER, REGIONAL OFFICE, ERNAKULAM FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE 4th RESPONDENT IN OA No.27 of 2021**

Dated this the 18th day of April 2022

**Adv. Rema Smrithi,
ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE 4th RESPONDENT**

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VOLUME 1

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Dated this the 18th day of April 2022

Adv. Rema Smrithi,
ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE 4th RESPONDENT

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN BENCH, CHENNAI**

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**UPDATED STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE CHIEF
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, REGIONAL OFFICE, ERNAKULAM
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE 4th RESPONDENT IN OA 27 of 2021**

I, M.A Baiju, 55 years, S/o M.K Aravindakshan, now working as Chief Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Ernakulam. I am competent to and duly authorized to represent the 4th Respondent in OA 27 of 2021. I know the facts and circumstances of the case. The factual submissions made here under are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. In these circumstances, it is just and necessary that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept the accompanying information on file and it is so humbly prayed in the interests of justice in this case.

1. In continuation to the report filed on 22.05.2021 and 28.07.2021, it is respectfully submitted that the Board had initiated actions to further monitor the Perandoor and Edappally streams. Board had fixed five stations for analysis. In addition to the above two more stations were fixed which were exclusively chosen along stream mouths, where it joins the rivers (Periyar and Chithrapuzha). The two new stations were fixed to take into account the disposal of sewage into the water




M. A. BAIJU
Chief Environmental Engineer

bodies inside the city area. During monitoring the condition of the streams seem to be further deteriorated. The analysis reports also support the findings. Copy of photographs of different stations along Edappally thodu and Perandoor Canal are submitted herewith as **Annexure 1 & 2** respectively and analysis reports on important parameters of these stations are submitted herewith as **Annexure 3**.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the “Integrated Urban Regenerated Water Transport Project” (IURWTS), have already been initiated to rejuvenate the canals where “Water Metro” has already been launched in 2022 and is expected to be commissioned in July this year. Regarding rejuvenation of canals, envisaged projects viz. the development of the Edappally Canal (11.23 km), Thevara – Perandoor Canal (9.8 km), Chilavanoor Canal (11.15 km), Thevara Canal (1.405 km) and Market Canal (0.664 km) in Kochi are progressing and they have already started trial run of boat service as proposed under IURWTS.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon’ble Tribunal also made some comments on the committed offence by responsible agencies which is as follows,

“The committee is also directed to ascertain the remedial measures to be taken, damage caused to the environment and assess the environmental compensation to restore the damage caused including the expense required for implementing the remedial measures and who is responsible to pay the same as well”.

Here, it may be explicitly noted that several establishments and dwelling houses are situated along the banks of these streams. Many of these establishments have not obtained consent to establish prior to installation of their unit or consent to operate after commissioning with or without adequate pollution control facilities.

I may humbly submit that the Board had identified different establishments along the banks of these streams that can cause untreated effluent discharge in to these streams and not obtained consent of the Board. Separate notices were issued to all units who are continuing unauthorized operation. List all such identified establishments and follow up actions by the concerned office are submitted herewith as **Annexure 4**. Necessary directions were given to Regional Director (who has the overall coordination of the functioning of Municipalities and Municipal Corporations) and Deputy Director of Panchayath (who has the overall coordination




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of the functioning of Grama Panchayaths) to ensure that no establishments are functioning along the area under their jurisdiction without the consent of the Board. Along industrial estates, District Industries Centre is able to insist such documents from the Board while giving sanctions and all GMs, DIC were already insisted during various DLMC meetings to comply with such directions.

4. It is also respectfully submitted that there are specific guidelines prepared by the CPCB for the assessment of Environmental Compensation and Damage assessment towards sewage management. This will be discussed in the next committee meeting constituted by Hon'ble NGT. Kochi Corporation is the Nodal Agency of the committee. The Secretary, Corporation had agreed during previous meeting to identify and to stop the individual sullage/sewage outlets which is the main reason by which these streams are getting polluted. There are other factors too which contribute to pollution viz. stagnation of water in these streams due to tidal effects, uncontrolled weeds growth, unauthorized disposal of septic tank effluent and clandestine discharges from establishments situated along the banks of these streams.

5. It is respectfully submitted that the growth of weeds has to be controlled as this leads to water stagnation and consequent increase in the pollution load. This come under the purview of Irrigation Department. Also, by installing CCTVs at certain strategic points, illegal disposal of effluent / solid waste can be prevented thereby reduce pollution load along these streams.

6. I may humbly present here that the reports furnished above is correct and best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated this the 18th day of April 2022




For and On behalf of the 4th respondent

Chief Environmental Engineer

M. A. BAIJU
Chief Environmental Engineer