

INSPECTION REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ) IN RESPECT OF O.A NO.48 OF 2020 TAKEN UP SUO MOTU BY THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone(SZ), Chennai has taken up suo motu case based on the News item in Dinamalar Newspaper dated 26.2.2020, Chennai Supplementary "Sewage in Buckingham Canal; will action be taken against Lorries?"

The Hon'ble Tribunal in its order dated 28.2.2020 in Original Application No.48 of 2020 has constituted a Joint Committee comprising of the (1) Engineer in Chief Water Resources Organisation (WRO) Public Works Department & Chief Engineer (General) Public Works Department (2) Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (3) Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation (4) Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board to inspect the area in question and submit a factual and action taken report.

The Committee shall also

"to furnish the mechanism that is being adopted by the local bodies to monitor the transport of sewage and garbage and also report on any mechanism to register the tankers with them, are only reregistered tankers being used for transportation of sewage to the treatment plant after getting acknowledgement from the local bodies, etc. and They must also ascertain as to whether they have got any mechanism of registering such vehicles with the local body or whether they are getting any prior permission from the local body before collecting and taking the same and what action is taken by the local body in case they find any violation committed by these transporters.."

Sholinganallur is a residential locality of Chennai, located on the IT corridor south of the city. The rapid growth of Sholinganallur's economy, population and infrastructure can be attributed to information technology business parks and dedicated special economic zones (SEZ). Sholinganallur is surrounded by other IT based suburbs such as Siruseri, Perungudi and Taramani. Tamil Nadu government's TIDCO is building a Financial City in Sholinganallur to house global financial corporations. Sholinganallur is one among the 42 local bodies added in the expanded area of Chennai city and under the administrative

jurisdiction of Greater Chennai Corporation and it is assigned as Zone 15 of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

1. Name of the Local Body..... Sholinganallur-(Zone 15) Greater Chennai Corporation
2. Total Area of the Zone 15 45 sq.km
3. Total Population of the Zone 15..... 3,98000Nos.
4. Total Household of the Zone 15.....89000 Nos.
5. Total No. of Major Hotels..... 12 Nos.
6. Total No. of wards..... 9 Wards
7. Generation of total Sewage in the Zone 156MLD (approximately)

Present Sewage Collection, Treatment & Disposal Mechanism

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board is in the process of providing underground sewer lines, partially completed in the Sholinganallur area and has already established, commissioned Sewage Treatment Plant at Kalignar Karunanidhi Salai, Sholinganallur to a capacity of 18 MLD, further proposed to establish another 54 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to handle the sewage generation from the Sholinganallur and nearby areas. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has accorded consent to operate to the above said 18MLD STP. After the establishment of the said STPs and the underground sewer network, the entire sewage generated from the Sholinganallur area will be handled scientifically. Presently the sewage generated from the individual households is collected in the septic tank arrangements and the sewage generated from the commercial sector is disposed through sewage tanker lorries which inturn decant the same in the decanting arrangements provided in the Perungudi STP complex which has the capacity of handling 126MLD of sewage for the treatment and disposal.

In compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), the Joint Committee as constituted, has carried out the inspection in the area in question on 5.9.2020 and the observed that there was no decantating of sewage in the Buckingham Canal by the Private Sewage Lorries near the Sholinganallur zone which includes Sholinganallur East Coast Road (E.C.R)- Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) area and then further the Committee has decided to conduct a meeting with the Private Sewer Lorry Owners Association.

Minutes of the meeting of the Private Sewage Lorry Owners Association held on 19.9.2020 at CMWSSB Area Office XV, Sholinganallur.

The Private Sewage Lorry Owners Association President complained that there is only one Sewage Treatment Plant at Perungudi which covers the area of entire South Chennai as a result of which the lorries need to travel so much distance from far off places and decant into the Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant. Some of these Private Sewage Lorries avoid this long-distance travel and dispose the sewage into the Buckingham Canal.

Another major issue alleged by the Private Sewage Lorry Owners Association is that the Corporation Road connecting the Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant has been deteriorated and needs to be re-laid immediately. This can avoid the waiting time of the Sewage Lorries as a result of which a greater number of Sewage loads can be decanted into the Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant. It is mentioned by the Association that there are around 150 Private Sewage Lorries are operated in Zone 15. Out of this around 50 lorries are operated in Sholinganallur.

The Association Representatives denied that no such illegal decanting is being carried out into the Buckingham Canal with their associated lorries and they claim some of the lorries not associated with the private sewage lorry owners association being indulged in such illegal decanting activities.

Action Plan to comply with directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 48/2020

1. The CMWSSB has informed that Underground Sewerage Scheme in Karapakkam and Sholinganallur has been completed and trial commissioning work is under progress. On completion of the trial commissioning action will be initiated for effecting the House Service Connections to all the premises covering Sholinganallur area
2. The CMWSSB has proposed to purchase and operate 20 Nos of Sewage Lorries for Sholinganallur area for which tendering works are under progress. Once the CMWSS Board lorries start operating, the need for private sewage lorries would be reduced and the menace of illegal decanting into Buckingham Canal would also be stopped.

3. The CMWSSB has intimated that in the existing system all private sewage lorries operating at Sholinganallur Area are decanting through 11 decanting points available at Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant after collecting an amount of Rs.150/- per trip for treatment and disposal. Further it is submitted, in order to avoid waiting time of sewage lorries, an additional 13 Nos of decanting points are proposed at Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant and the work will be commenced by November 2020.
4. The CMWSSB has stated that in order to avoid long distance travel to Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant, it is proposed to provide decanting facilities in the newly constructed Sholinganallur Sewage Treatment Plant and the work will be commenced by November 2020. By creating a new infrastructure at Sholinganallur Sewerage Treatment Plant itself, the menace of illegal decanting activities into the Buckingham canal will be stopped.

RECOMMENDATIONS: -

The Joint Committee has considered the action proposed by the CMWSSB and submit the following recommendations before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

- i. The CMWSSB shall expedite the process of establishment of Underground sewer lines with Sewage Treatment Plant to handle the sewage generated from the Sholinganallur area.
- ii. The CMWSSB shall regulate the sewage tanker lorries operating in their jurisdiction by properly registering them and streamlining the sewage tanker lorries in co-ordination with Greater Chennai Corporation, Public Works Department and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- iii. The Regional Transport Officers shall take immediate action to cancel the license issued to the sewage tanker lorries found decanting the sewage in the Buckingham Canal and shall issue necessary instruction to the sewage tanker lorry owners in this regard.

- iv. The Police Department shall keep a vigil in the area in question and take action on the sewage tanker lorries decanting the sewage other than the Perungudi and Sholinganallur STPs.
- v. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall collect water samples periodically in the Buckingham Canal and monitor the said area in question.

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The Area
Engineer,
CMWSSB,
Area-XV
Sholinganallur

D. V. Ramesh

District
Environmental
Engineer,
Tamilnadu
Pollution Control
Board,
Maraimalainagar

[Signature]

The Executive
Engineer,
PWD, WRD
Araniyar Basin
Division,
Chepauk,

D. J. Kumar

The Zonal
Officer,
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Zone-15,
Sholinganallur.

**PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING THE INSPECTION BY JOINT COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN
ZONE) IN O.A. NO.48 OF 2020**



MEETING WITH PRIVATE TANKER LORRY OWNERS ASSOCIATION.

