

FURTHER REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE) IN RESPECT OF O.A. NO. 231 OF 2020 (SZ) SUO MOTU BASED ON THE NEWS ITEM IN THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS NEWSPAPER, CHENNAI EDITION DATED 12.10.2020, UNDER THE CAPTION "ANOTHER COOUM IN THE MAKING? ILLEGAL LANDFILLS TAKE LIFE OUT OF THE MUTTUKADU BACKWATERS"

1. ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL

It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai in its order dated 25.08.2021 in the matter of O.A.No.231 of 2020 inter alia stated that:

"3. In the mean time, we came across another newspaper report published in The Hindu, Chennai Edition dated 23.08.2021 under the caption "A deadly bloom in Muttukadu Estuary".

4. It is seen from the newspaper report that due to non-maintenance of the Muttukadu Estuary, aquatic life is being affected. The formation of algae and plants affected the quality of water in that water body as well.

5. So, the committee is directed to ascertain this aspect as well and file a further report regarding the nature of action to be taken for remedying the situation.

6. The committee is also directed to suggest short term measures to improve the situation till the permanent provision for removal of encroachments and protecting the water body against the pollution are implemented as recommended so as to save the water body against further pollution."

2. COMPLIANCE OF THE DIRECTION

In due compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, water samples were collected by the officials of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board along with the officials of MoEF& CC, CPCB and PWD department in backwaters on 21/09/2021.

Photographs showing collection of water sample taken during inspection to ascertain the quality of water



in Muttukadu Boat House



in Muttukadu Estuary

Table Showing Analysis Results of the Samples collected during the inspection

Sl.No.	Parameters	Units	Point of Collection	
			Muttukadu Boat House	Muttukadu Estuary
1	pH @ 25°C	No.	7.79	8.15
2	Total Suspended Solids @ 105°C	mg/L	78	65
3	Total Dissolved Solids @ 180°C	mg/L	2030	3413
4	BOD @ 27°C	mg/L	26	25
5	COD	mg/L	224	216
6	Copper as Cu	mg/L	<0.033	<0.033
7	Zinc as Zn	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05
8	Cadmium as Cd	mg/L	<0.013	<0.013
9	Lead as Pb	mg/L	<0.07	<0.07
10	Nickel as Ni	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05
11	Total Chromium as Cr ⁺³	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01
12	Hexavalent Chromium Cr ⁺⁶	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01
13	Dissolved Phosphate	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05
14	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	<2	<2
15	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	mg/L	5.3	5.4
16	Total Coliform	MPN/100 ml	110	93
17	Faecal Coliform	MPN/100 ml	20	<1.8

The analysis result indicates that water quality is affected due to the discharge of untreated sewage. Due to this discharge the Algae bloom formation happens at the stagnated area. The water quality falls under the primary water quality criteria for class SW-111 waters [for industrial cooling, recreation (non-contact) and aesthetics] specified in water quality standards for coastal waters marine outfalls.

4. OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

During the time of inspection on 21.09.2021, the committee observed that the following

1. Buckingham Canal branch off from the Adyar River, flows through the southern part of Chennai Metropolitan area and also the overflow of the Palikarani Marsh land join with the Buckingham Canal at Okkiam-Maduvu, traverse through the Sub urban area of the Chennai, confluence Muttukadu Lake and joins Kovalam Estuary.
2. Buckingham canal which is a carrier of storm water and also carries sewage generated from unsewered areas of Chennai Metropolitan area and the sub urban areas of Chennai confluence with Muttukadu lake and, joins Kovalam estuary.

3. During the discussion with PWD officials, it is learnt that w.r.t to control of sewage pollution, it is already covered under the Buckingham Canal Action Plan being prepared by CRRT.
4. In Muttukadu lake and Kovalam Estuary, formation of algae was found in the water which may be due to obstruction of flow at the bar mouth of Kovalam Estuary. The giant sand bars redeposited over time at the mouths of rivers leads to obstruction of in & outflow flow at confluence.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the above observation, until implementation Buckingham Canal Action Plan by CRRT, the joint committee submits the following short term measures to improve the situation / recommendation before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone)

1. Greater Chennai Corporation & CMWSSB shall plug the sewage/sullage inflow generated from the unsewered areas of southern part of Chennai Metropolitan area into the Buckingham Canal. The diverted sewage/sullage may be collected through tankers by providing a collection pit or tank for treating it in STP.
2. Possibilities shall be explored by Greater Chennai Corporation & CMWSSB for providing temporary treatment system like phytoremediation, insitue treatment etc. before discharging the sewage/sullage into canal.
3. Greater Chennai Corporation & CMWSSB shall ensure that the sewage/sullage inflow generated from the unsewered areas of southern part of Chennai Metropolitan area does not reach the storm water drain leading to the Buckingham Canal.
4. Tiruporur Panchayat Union shall identify the residences/commercial establishments letting out sewage into the storm water drains leading to Buckingham Canal and plug the outlets.
5. Tiruporur Panchayat Union shall take necessary action under the Local Body Acts against the Sewage tanker lorries discharging sewage into Buckingham Canal
6. Tiruporur Panchayat Union shall provide display board at vulnerable points not to discharge sewage/sullage into Buckingham Canal.
7. Tiruporur Panchayat Union shall identify and provide decentralized community soak pit arrangement at vulnerable locations to prevent the entry of sewage/sullage into the Buckingham Canal as a short term measure.
8. Tiruporur Panchayat Union shall levy fine on the violators found disposing sewage/sullage into the said water body and also dumping solid waste under Local Body Acts
9. PWD shall keep the bar mouth always open by carrying out periodic dredging (removing of redeposited sand/silt) as there will be constant exchange of sea water leading to dilution of the nutrients in the estuary, resulting in reduction of eutrophication leading to reduction of algal bloom and there will be no choking of Kovalam bar mouth.


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Block Development Officer,
Thiruppur

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Revenue Divisional Officer,
Chengalpet Taluk

REGISTRATION NO. 100/2019

Reference is made to the letter dated 10.05.2019 from the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Maraimalai Nagar, regarding the above mentioned subject.

The District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Maraimalai Nagar, has advised that the above mentioned subject is not covered under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Act, 1974.

In view of the above, it is advised that the above mentioned subject is not covered under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Act, 1974.

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