

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION No 231 of 2020 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion

Suo Moto based on the News Item in The New Indian Express

Newspaper, Chennai Edition dt: 12.10.2020,

"Another Coom in the making? Illegal landfills take  
life out of the Muttukadu Backwaters"

... Applicant(s)

**-VERSUS-**

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,

Government Secretariat, Fort St. George,

Chennai, Tamilnadu and Ors.

... Respondent(s)

**INDEPENDENT REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF CMWSS BOARD (14<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT)**

I, V.Thilagavathi, Daughter of Thiru. V. Vellaiyappan, Hindu aged of 58 years, of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board having office at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Urban Administrative Building, MRC Nagar, Chennai 600 028 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the Superintending Engineer (P) V of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case.
2. I am filing this status report on behalf of the Managing Director, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai – 28, as per the orders issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai on 21.02.2022.

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(CONSTRUCTION)  
CMWSS BOARD, CHENNAI

3. I respectfully submit that, Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) has visualized a holistic approach to restore the degraded water bodies of Chennai city and hence appointed consultant for preparation of DPR for Interception and Diversion of Sewage, Solid Waste Management and R&R in Major drains in Buckingham Canal, River Adyar and River Cooum. M/s. NSS Associates has prepared DPR for Buckingham Canal and its associated drains from Ennore Creek to Muttukadu Backwaters. The consultant has identified 75 sewage outfalls in South Buckingham Canal and its drains and prepared DPR for 10 nos of I&D proposals amounting to Rs.85.24cr and 6 nos of Infrastructure Strengthening works amounting to Rs.129.56cr.
4. I respectfully submit that, Administrative Sanction has been accorded by the Government vide G.O. (Ms) No. 107 MA&WS (MW1) Dept, dt: 20.08.2019.
5. I respectfully submit that, Work Order has been issued for 5 nos. of Infrastructure Strengthening works amounting to Rs. 103.31 crores and works are under progress.
6. I respectfully submit that, the Interception and Diversion works proposed by the Consultant can be taken up only after removal of encroachments along Buckingham canal by TNUHDB / PWD.

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7. I respectfully submit that, CMWSSB has already completed the comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Schemes as detailed below.

Sl. No	Description of Work	Work in Progress and %	Status of Work/Remarks
1	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to Sholinganallur	100%	Work completed and partially commissioned.
2	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to Karapakkam	100%	Work completed and partially commissioned.
3	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to Perungudi	100%	Work completed and under trial and commissioning.
4	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to UllagaramPuzhuthivakkam	100%	Work completed and the house service connections are being effected.
5	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to Pallikaranai	Package-I-2%  Package II to IV-13%	Work is terminated due to slow progress of work by the contractor. A new contractor is engaged and works are under progress in 4 packages. Expected date of completion 31.12.2023
6	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to Madippakkam	Work order issued. Work will be commenced shortly	-

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8. I respectfully submit that, in addition to the above schemes, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been prepared for Schemes detailed below.

Sl.No	Description of Work	Status of Work/Remarks
1	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to OkkiumThoraipakkam	Administrative approval accorded by Government. Clearance from the External Funding Agency is awaited for inviting tender.
2	Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to Kottivakkam, Palavakkam, Neelankarai, and Injambakkam.	The DPR for providing UGSS to Kottivakkam, Palavakkam, Neelankarai and Injambakkam have been posed to the funding agencies for financial assistance and the same has been appraised. The project has been placed in the State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) meeting and also in the State High Power Steering Committee (SHPSC) under (AMRUT 20) held on 27.06.2022. The High Level meeting has given sanction to proceed with the project. CMWSSB is awaiting the minutes from the said meeting for taking further action.

The outfalls into the drains in these areas will be mitigated on completion of underground sewerage scheme works.

  
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9. I respectfully submit that, the key public health and environmental concern faced by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) is the unsafe disposal of septage in water bodies, open lands, etc. To prevent the illegal discharge of septage into water bodies, canals, and vacant lands, CMWSSB has provided decanting facilities primarily in Nesapakkam and Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plants and in few sewage pumping stations - Ganga Nagar SPS (Madurovoyal), Mogappiar SPS, Manali Puthunagar SPS, Kadappa Road SPS (Madhavaram), Jawahar Nagar SPS (Kolathur), Kilijosiyam Nagar SPS (Thiruvotriyur).
10. I respectfully submit that, the decanting facility allows both private sewer lorries and sewer lorries operated by local bodies to discharge the septage collected from the septic tanks of residential and commercial establishments. Currently 7MLD and 2MLD of septage is being collected from the sewer lorries at the decanting facility at Perungudi and Nesapakkam respectively. The decanted sewage in these facilities is co-treated along with the sewage collected through the Under Ground Sewerage System at the existing Sewage Treatment Plants. CMWSSB has also additionally constructed a Decanting Facility at Sholinganallur STP. The works are completed and under operation.
11. I respectfully submit that, further, CMWSSB has submitted the Septage Management draft operative guidelines and regulations proposal to GoTN. Several rounds of discussion and deliberation have been done and the Government is in the process of issuing appropriate orders in this regard.

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12. I respectfully submit that, with respect to the phytoremediation and insitu treatment arrangements CMWSSB is now working on upgrading its existing treatment plants to include nutrient removal and improved discharge standards with respect to the oxygen demand and suspended solids. The necessary process modification in the existing plants and with appropriate technology for new plants are being implemented to achieve this objective.
13. I respectfully submit that, with regard to the inflow of sewage into B-canal from the unsewered areas of Chennai city, through Storm Water Drains, it is to be pointed out that penal action on polluters can be undertaken by GCC under clause (5) of sec 202 RW 351(1) schedule VII of CCMC Act 1919, who let out sewage into Storm Water Drains within GCC limits.
14. I respectfully submit that, it is also to be mentioned that the ULBs such as Navalur, Thalambur and Kelambakkam are beyond Chennai Corporation limits and do not come under the jurisdiction of CMWSSB.

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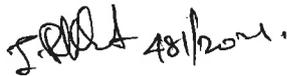
Solemnly affirmed at Chennai

on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022 and  
signed his name in my presence

7<sup>th</sup> and last page.

  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
(CONSTRUCTION)  
CMWSS BOARD, CHENNAI

Before me

 30/6/2022.

Advocate: Chennai  
I. Rolence Samuel,  
5F, LC, MMC, CH-104.

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RESPONDENT)**

**M/s. GAUTAM S RAMAN  
COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENTS**