

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

O.A.No.237 of 2017(SZ)

Manakkunnam Village Padasekhara

Samrakshana Samithy

: Applicant

Vs.

Thripunithura Municipality and others

: Respondents

ACTION TAKEN REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 3RD
RESPONDENT

I, S. Shaji, S/o. R. Sivadasan, aged 50 years, residing at "Thiruvonam",
Kavanad P.O., Kollam- 691003, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as
follows:-

1. I am the Secretary of the 3rd respondent Panchayat- Chottanikara Grama
Panchayat in the above Original Application. I am well conversant with
the facts of this case and competent to swear to this Action Taken Report
on behalf of the 3rd Respondent in the O.A.
2. In compliance to the direction of this Hon'ble Tribunal dated 04.10.2021,
this respondent is hereby submitting the Action Taken Report /Progress
Report on the basis of the action plan prepared by the Joint Committee
headed by the 15th respondent herein in the meeting held on 04.09.2021 ,
in respect of the protection from faecal contamination of Enoothupuzha
River.



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സെക്രട്ടറി
ചോട്ടാനിക്കര ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത്
ഫോൺ : 9496045789

3. It is submitted that the above original application is filed against the pollution caused Konothupuzha River which runs through different Local Self Government Institutions including 3rd respondent Panchayat. The main relief sought in the original application, that to protect the river and to do the necessary for permanent way of collecting and disposing of wastes and septage wastes.

4. In this *milieu*, it is most respectfully submitted that this Panchayat is doing earnest efforts to reduce the bio-degradable waste and non bio-degradable waste. Accordingly, a Bye –Law has been prepared by the Panchayat Committee. As per the Bye-Law, single used and plastic products having less than 50 micron is banned in the Chottanikara Panchayat. Apart from that, for the proper implementation of the above Bye-Law, a team headed by the Health Inspector is carrying out regular and periodic inspections and legal actions have been initiated against the offenders also.

5. It is submitted that in order to ensure that no contaminated/sewage water is discharged or flowed to the paddy fields or water sources within the territorial limits of Chottanikara Grama Panchayat, inspections were carried out with the aid of the workers of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Kudumbasree workers and



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notices were issued against the offenders under the various green laws. In this milieu, it is submitted that at present no contaminated water is discharged or flowed to the paddy fields or water sources.

6. It is submitted that Chottanikara Panchayat comprises of 14 wards. Population is 22,656. Number of households is 9767. It is submitted that 28 Haritha Karma Sena members (2 members for one ward) are engaged for collecting non bio-degradable wastes. Further, this Panchayat has already taken initiative for compulsory enrolment of all the houses, institutions and other commercial establishments/shops within the local limits of Chottanikara Panchayat to become a part/member of effective Solid Waste Management System.
7. The dry waste is collected once in a month from houses, shops and other establishments (door- to-door) by 28 Haritha Karma Sena members (2 members for one ward) and a nominal user fee has also been imposed for the same. The non bio-degradable wastes collected in the said manner is segregated in MCF (Material Collection Facility) installed at Panchayath Office premises and thereafter it is given to Clean Kerala Ccmpany for disposal.
8. With respect to the bio- degradable waste/wet waste, the Panchayat ensures that wet waste is disposed only through de-centralized disposal facilities such as bio bins, bio pit and compost pit etc. The Panchayat has



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also established **Thumboormuzhy model system** (an aerobic composting method).

9. In this context, it is also submitted that the Panchayat has also installed CCTVs (Closed –circuit television camera) near river banks, major junctions, water bodies and other hot spots where there are possibilities for depositing waste. It is submitted that Chottanikkara Grama Panchayat is vigilant with regard to the enforcement of waste disposal rules. Frequent inspections are carried out with the help of Public Health Wing of the Health Department and proceedings are initiated against the offenders who are found dumping waste in the road, canals, public places or rivers. Chapter 20 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 provides for public safety and health. Chottanikkara Grama Panchayat is enforcing the provisions of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and the rules made there under including Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

10. It is submitted that people are now very well aware of the impact of these unhealthy practices and very positive change is being seen in this regard. Ward level Health and Sanitation Committees constituted under “Arogya Jagratha – 2018” campaign also takes a very vigilant stand against these types of unhealthy practices. Further, the offenders are punished with fine also.



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11. It is submitted that Chotanikkara Grama Panchayat is taking all earnest efforts to keep the area under its jurisdiction free from solid and liquid wastes and has been constantly working to create awareness among local population about the importance of proper and scientific disposal of bio degradable as well as non-bio degradable wastes. Many campaigns are being carried out to literate all the households, shops and establishments in the Panchayat area about the effective and proper waste disposal. Moreover, the Panchayat is regularly conducting awareness classes among public, Kudumbasree workers, members of Haritha Karma Sena, the representatives of Residence Associations and members of various political parties.

12. In this context, it is also brought to the kind notice of this Hon'ble Tribunal that considering the goals attained by the Chottanikara Panchayat in respect of the decentralized approach in waste management, the Panchayat has bagged the award of "*Nava Kerala Puraskar-2021*" (the only Panchayat in Ernakulam District).

13. It is most respectfully submitted that Konothupuzha runs through different local self-government institutions including ward 1 and ward 14 of Chottanikara Grama Panchayat (a small portion of Konothupuzha runs through the territorial jurisdiction of Chottanikara Grama Panchayat). In order to evict illegal encroachments on the Konothupuzha, a survey was conducted and the report of the survey has also been received. Hence, the



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boundary of the Chottanikara Grama Panchayat through which Konothupuzha river passes has been identified and demarcated. On the basis of the above Survey report, the eviction notice has been served on the encroacher and directed him to demolish the existing encroachment within 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice. In response to the above notice, he submitted a reply before the Panchayat. On going through the reply submitted by him, some more clarity and assertion in respect of the encroachment was required. With regard to that, a clarification has been sought from the Tahsildar, Land Records, Kanayannoor Taluk, Ernakulam. The Panchayat is awaiting for his report in order to proceed with further action for removal of encroachment. It is submitted that all effort are being taken by the Chottanikara Panchayat to ensure the protection of Konothupuzha.

The above facts are submitted. This Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly accept this Action taken report/Status in to file and record that the 3rd respondent -Chottanikara Panchayat has duly complied with the directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Dated this the 22nd day of Octoberber, 2021.

Deponent

S.Shaji,

Secretary, Chottanikara Grama Panchayat,



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VERIFICATION

I, S. Shaji, S/o. R. Sivadasan, aged 50 years, residing at "Thiruvonam", Kavanad P.O., Kollam- 691003 and the Secretary, Chottanikara Grama Panchayat , do hereby verify that the contents above are true to the best of my knowledge, belief and information and that I have not suppressed any material facts. I am swearing this Action Taken Report on behalf of the 3rd Respondent and I am competent and authorized to do so.



S. Shaji,
Secretary, Chottanikara Grama Panchayat

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Solemnly affirmed and signed before me by the deponent at Ernakulam, who is known to me, on this the 22nd day of October, 2021.

Vineeth Komalachandran
Advocate [K/1521/2002],

Iyer & Iyer

Advocates,

Rajaji Road, Cochin- 682 035

Ph: 0484-2363759, 8606579879

Presented on: .10.2021

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ZONE, CHENNAI

O.A.No.237 of 2017(SZ)

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Samrakshana Samithy

: Applicant

Vs.

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: Respondents

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RESPONDENT- CHOTTANIKARA GRAMA PANCHAYAT**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONAL BENCH)
AT CHENNAI
O.A. No. 237 of 2017**

Manakunnam Village Padashekara
Samraksha Samithy

... Petitioner

-Vs-

Thripunithura Municipality & 15 Ors

... Respondents

**ACTION REPORT FILED BY
3rd RESPONDENT**

Counsel for 3rd Respondent