

**Inspection Report of the Joint Committee
(As per Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai
Order dated 20.11.2020 in OA no. 244/2020)**

1. Background

The Honourable National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, in the matter of OA no. 244 of 2020 directed on 20.11.2020 as;

"...7 .So, under these circumstances, in order to ascertain this aspect, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of the District Collector, Thiruvallur Superintending Engineer, PWD, Water Resources Organisation of that area, Senior Officer from Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority and Senior Officer from Greater Chennai Corporation and Senior Professor having expertise in Hydrology, deputed by Anna University, to inspect the area in question and submit a factual and action taken report if there is any violation found. The Committee is directed to consider the nature and extent of the lake as shown in the revenue records, nature of encroachment and the measures required for the purpose of restoring the lake and to provide better storing capacity to increase the storage level, apart from improving the water recharge system of the lake. Nature of encroachment and the nature of action to be taken against the illegal encroachment in the water body and the remedial measures proposed to be taken rejuvenation of the existing water body by providing any mechanism to regulate the flow of water in to the lake without affecting the water in the water body and the regulate the existing water body and prevent further encroachment into the water body and also directed to ascertain the quality of the water and if there is any contamination, then they are directed to provide suggestions and recommendations for improving the

quality of water. The committee is also directed to consider the inlet and out let which was in existence earlier to carry on the water to the water body and the water channels to drain the water and if there is any such drain or channel have been encroached, then steps to be taken to restore the same or providing alternate method by which the excess water during rainy season to drain into the existing lake to improve the recharge capacity.

8. The Committee is also directed to ascertain as to whether there was any illegal dumping of garbage in any portion of the existing water body and whether there is discharge of any trade effluents into the water body which is likely to contaminate the existing water body and suggest remedial measures to rectify the same. The Public Works Department will be the nodal agency for the coordination and also providing necessary logistics for this purpose.

9. The Pollution Control Board is also directed to find out as to whether there is any violation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and take action against those persons who are responsible in accordance with law and also as directed by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal in O.A.No. 606 of 2018..."

Based on the receipt of the order, the joint committee has conducted an inspection on 24.12.2020 in the area of Kolathur Lake in question and submitted the report as follows. The Kolathur lake is situated in S.F.No:53 of Kolathurvillage in Madhavaram taluk of Thiruvallur District. Kolathur lake has one surplus weir and a free catchment area of 3.21 Sq.km as per memoir. As per memoir, the water spread area is 71 Ha and maximum discharge is 110 Cusecs and the capacity of the tank is 1.06Mcm.

Officers Present:

1. A.N.Lavanya, Revenue Divisional Officer,
Chennai Central Division, Chennai.
2. Er.C.Podupanithilagam, M.E.,
Executive Engineer, W.R.D., P.W.D.,
Kosasthalayar Basin Division, Thiruvallur.
3. Er.Tmt.T.Manimekalai, Assistant Environmental Engineer, O/o
DEE, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai.
4. Er.Tr.R.Senthilnathan, Executive Engineer, GCC,
Thiru-Vi-Ka NagarZone-6.
5. Er.K.C.VijayPrakash, Executive Engineer,
Area-6, CMWSSB, Chennai.
6. Dr.G.Ravikumar,
Professor- Hydrology, Anna University, Chennai-25

The following observations were made by the committee during the site visit:

The surplus water from the weir of the Kolathurlake leads to Thanikachalam Nagar drain and then leads to Bay of Bengal. It is located near the tail end of the Kosasthalaiyar River and also is located at the end of Kosasthalaiyar Basin.

The committee observed that no irrigation activities are being carried out due to urbanisation. The Committee observed that sewage/sullage water are being let into the Kolathur lake through storm water drain along the GNT road and Korattur surplus channel in the Kolathur Redhills main road. Both the Executive Engineer, Zone-6, GCC and Area Engineer, Area-6 CMWSSB assured to take action against the persons those who are illegally letting the sewage/sullage water into the storm water drain and plug the same within a short period. The Revenue Department submitted the plan showing the encroachments. The surveying of Kolathur lake was already done by the Revenue Department. The enumeration of encroachments should be done by forming a

committee includes the members from Greater Chennai Corporation, Slum Clearance Board, Revenue Department and Public Works Department. After the enumeration work is over the resettlement should be planned accordingly by the Revenue and Slum Clearance Board Department.

The Assistant Environmental Engineer, O/o District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, collected the water sample to ascertain the water quality of the lake to find out as to whether it confirms to standard provided which must include the quantity of E-coli, Total coliform (Tc) and Fecal coliform. The Committee instructed the Corporation to check if any other sewage inlets or trade effluents are being let into the lake. The encroachments found in the form of RCC building, thatched roofs, tiled roofs, and shed inside the lake and foreshore of the lake. The Committee instructed the Revenue Department to take necessary steps to issue the form I & II notices to the encroachments.

During inspection, the hydrology expert from Anna University suggested that a hydrology study may be undertaken (i) to estimate the likely quantum of runoff reaching the Kolathur Lake during high rainfall period, (ii) Present capacity of lake may be estimated through a hydrographic survey and (iii) A hydraulic channel may be designed to discharge the inundation water (with elevation data collection) till restoring the Lake into original water holding capacity.

Based on the inspection by the Committee, following actions are suggested to be taken in short term (Hydrology and General) and long term and requested the concerned departments to submit the action taken report to the nodal agency ie., Public Works Department.

SHORT TERM PLAN - Hydrology			
1	Hydrologic study for runoff estimation, hydrographic survey and design of drainage channel	Anna University, Chennai - 25	6 months

SHORT TERM PLAN			
S.No.	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	DEPARTMENT	TIME SCHEDULE
1	Plugging the illegal sewage inlets in Kolathur lake through storm water drain along the GNT road	Zonal officer, GCC, Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar Zone-6 & Area Engineer, Area-6, CMWSSB.	3 months
2	Enumeration of encroachments by forming committee	Executive Engineer, GCC, Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD & Thasildar, Aynavaram	3 months
LONG TERM ACTION PLAN			
1.	Construction of under ground sewage system for the residents residing adjacent to Korattur tank.	Area Engineer, CMWSSB, Chennai	2 Years
2.	Eviction of encroachments in the Koarattur lake	Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD, Thiruvallur	1 Year
3.	Restoration of lake by desilting the bed after the eviction process and providing protection arrangements in the foreshore area.	Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD, Thiruvallur	2 Year

24/12/20
Executive Engineer, GCC,
Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar Zone-6,
Chennai.

J. M. M. 24/12/20
Assistant Executive Engineer, O/o DEE,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai.

24/12/20
Executive Engineer, W.R.D., P.W.D.,
Kosasthalayar Basin Division,
Thiruvallur.

K. Vijay Prakash 24/12/20
Area Engineer, CMWSSB,
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f. R. 24/12/20
Dr. G. RAVIKUMAR, M.E., Ph.D.
Professor in Civil Engineering
Centre for Water Resources
CEG, Anna University, Chennai - 25

S. 24/12/20
Revenue Divisional Officer,
Chennai Central Division,
Chennai.