

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 168 of 2020 (SZ)  
With  
Original Application No. 25 of 2021 (SZ)  
With  
Original application No. 140 of 2021 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU

Based on the News item in Indian Express Newspaper,  
Chennai Edition dated 25.08.2020,

“Sewage discharge into Open SWDs irks Porur residents”.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary to Government  
Public Works Department,  
Govt. Secretariat,  
Fort St. George  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600009.

...Respondent(s)

With

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU

Based on the News item in Times of India,  
Chennai Edition, Dated 19.01.2021,

“Private tankers in Chennai brazenly dump Sewage  
into storm water drains in broad daylight”.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Health and Family Welfare Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George Chennai and Others...

... Respondent(s)

With

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU

Based on the News item in The Times of India Newspaper,  
Chennai Edition Dated: 31st May 2021,

“Sewage being dumped Into Buckingham Canal illegally”.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department,  
Government Secretariat,  
Fort, St. George, Chennai and others.

...Respondent(s)

Superintending Engineer (South West)  
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,  
Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE BASED ON THE JOINT INSPECTION CARRIED  
OUT ON 06.09.2021**

1. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone(SZ), Chennai has taken up on its own motion – SUO MOTU) based on the News item in The Times of India Newspaper, Chennai Edition Dated: 31st May 2021 under the caption “Sewage being dumped Into Buckingham Canal illegally” and further pointed out that a newspaper report in the Times of India, dated 29.07.2021, under the caption, ”Mogappair: Private tankers still dump sewage into Coovum” wherein it was mentioned that inspite of cases pending before the tribunal and directions given, the decanting of sewage into water bodies by private tankers still continues and directed the Authorities concerned to come with concrete proposal as to how these things can be monitored and regulated and recurrence of same can be avoided in future which is required for the purpose of protecting the water bodies against pollution and further directed the committee appointed by the Hon'ble Tribunal in O.A.No.25 of 2021 to go into the issue regarding Newspaper report mentioned above and submit a status report as well as action taken report in this regard before the next hearing date.
2. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone has appointed a Joint committee in the O.A.No.25 of 2021 comprising of the following Officials of various departments viz.,

(1) The District Collector, Tiruvallur District or a Senior Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or Sub Divisional Magistrate to be deputed by the District Collector,



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- (2) a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as designated by its Chairman,
  - (3) The Superintending Engineer from Public Works Department (PWD) and Water Resources Organisation (WRO) who is in charge of that area
  - (4) a Senior Officer from Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) and
  - (5) a Senior Health Officer from Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to be deputed by its Commissioner who is dealing with such issues in the Corporation to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found..."
3. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has been appointed as the Nodal agency for co-ordination and also for providing necessary logistics for this purpose in the O.A.No.25 of 2021.
4. The Joint committee has been directed to submit a status report as well as action taken report on the above incident before the next hearing on 14.09.2021. Accordingly, the Joint Committee members had fixed the date of Joint Inspection on 06.09.2021 to ascertain the genuineness of Newspaper report and the following Officials have assisted the Joint Committee at the time of Inspection.

1. Thiru S.Ravindranathan, Superintending Engineer (South West), CMWSSB
2. Thiru N.Ilangovan, RDO (Central), Chennai District, as the complaint site comes under Chennai District Jurisdiction.



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**Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,**  
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3. Thiru Senthur Pandey, District Environmental Engineer (Thiruvallur), TNPCB
4. Thiru R.Arunmozhi, Asst.Executive Engineer, PWD, Water Resources Dept.
5. Thiru Dr.Rajkumar, Additional City Health Officer (Central), GCC.
5. As ordered by the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, the direction has been given to the official concerned to co-ordinate with the committee members. Accordingly, the committee members have inspected the subject area on 06.09.2021. The status report on the above incident and necessary action plans to be taken to monitor and to prevent the activities of private tankers who are dumping the sewage into storm water drains were explored in detail.
6. The Complaint site, bridge off Golden Rathinam road, Mogappair (West) is located next to the National Highways service road which falls under the Chennai revenue District and the private sewer tanker lorries illegally dump sewage collected from certain unsewered locations of Chennai City and its abutting areas including few village panchayats and municipalities. In compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), the Joint Committee as constituted with CMWSSB as its Nodal Agency, the Superintending Engineer (South West) of CMWSSB has carried out the inspection in the area in question on 06.09.2021 along with the Joint committee members. On enquiry with the CMWSSB officials,



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Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,  
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it is ascertained that the local Depot Engineer has been monitoring the complaint site, bridge off Golden Rathinam road in Mogappair and found three private sewer tanker lorries bearing registration no. TN16BC 6860, TN09AE3064 and TN25W6038 involving in illegal dumping of sewage and filed a complaint with the Nolambur police station on 29.07.2021. Further, the Regional transport Officer of Ambattur Range has been requested on the same day to seize the above mentioned vehicles for their illegal and objectionable activities.

7. CMWSSB is having a sewage pumping station located near to the complaint site at Mogappair (East) for decanting of sewage collected by private sewer tanker and an average of 55Nos of Sewage Tanker lorries collect sewage in and around Maduravoyal, Nolambur, Mogappair (West) areas including its abutting areas including few panchayats and Municipalities at a nominal rate of Rs.150 per Load.
8. In spite of continuous monitoring and stringent action including seizure of erring vehicles taken by the line departments, few greedy private sewer tanker operators resort to unscrupulous and illegal dumping of collected sewage into water bodies, which the authorities concerned are making continuous monitoring and determined to regulate to avoid recurrence.



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Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,  
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9. In respect of the regulation of Private sewer tanker lorries, the monitoring and controlling the illegal discharge can be established only through the co-ordinated action of various Departments. The Transport Commissionerate and the State transport Authority (RTO) is the licensing authority for a sewer lorry. The responsibility of facilitation for the discharge of the septage collected by the sewer lorry vests upon CMWSSB and the respective local bodies concerned. The possession and maintenance of the water bodies and the drains/ canals leading to the water bodies belongs to the Public Works Dept – WRO, whereas the storm water drains are constructed by the GCC and Highways Department. The monitoring and prevention of the illegal discharge can also be done by the patrolling wing of the Police Department by installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable locations. The issues in regulation and monitoring of sewer lorries for septage management have to be addressed collectively by the line departments viz., CMWSSB, PWD, TNRDC, RTO, Police, GCC, Local bodies, TNPCB, etc., for effective implementation and control of illegal dumping of sewage into water bodies. Hence a comprehensive Operative Guidelines for septage collection, transportation and disposal within and outside Chennai City with the following strategies has been prepared by CMWSSB and put forward to the Government for approval.



**Superintending Engineer (South West)**  
**Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,**  
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The details of the same are as follows

- i. Registration of Private sewer tanker Lorries with CMWSSB or with the respective local bodies depending upon their Authorised disposal location for further treatment and disposal.
- ii. Issue of Registration Certificate by the State Transport Authority (RTO) only after getting No Objection Certificate from the respective Utility Board/ Local bodies.
- iii. License of the sewer lorry booked for Illegal discharge in the water body issued by the Transport Commissionerate and State Transport Authority (RTO) be cancelled forthwith if reported by either CMWSSB/ Local body/ PWD/ TNPCB/ Police Department/ NHAI.
- iv. To monitor and control the illegal disposal of septage in water bodies GPS devices has to be mandatorily installed in all the sewage tanker lorries and the consumer booking has to be through only online or approved mobile application that will be developed to book both sewer lorries operated by the CMWSSB/ local body at their tariff allowed. The booking for the operator will be enabled only if the last disposal of septage is certified or closed in an approved facility. This will help in stopping or identifying the illegal discharge of septage in the water body.



Superintending Engineer (South West)  
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,  
Chintamani, Chennai-600 002.

(1297/11/2018)  
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1297/11/2018

v. Continuous monitoring of the water bodies has to be carried by the PWD-WRD, TNPCB, GCC, Police, Highways Departments through NGO/ Public participation

10.As ordered by the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, all necessary actions are being taken by the Line departments in co-ordination with CMWSSB, GCC, PWD and Police officials to prevent illegal discharge of sewage water into storm water drains/ water bodies by the private tankers in its Jurisdictional areas of the Greater Chennai City.

  
RDO CENTRAL  
CHENNAI DISTRICT.

**Revenue Divisional Officer**  
**Central Chennai Division**

  
7/19/2021  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER(SW)  
CMWSSB/ NODAL AGENCY

**Superintending Engineer (South West)**  
**Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,**  
**Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.**

  
DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
THIRUVALLUR

  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
PWD (WRO)  
Superintending Engineer, PWD.,  
Palar Basin Circle, WRD.,  
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

  
ADDITIONAL CITY HEALTH OFFICER (CENTRAL)  
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

**ADDL. CITY HEALTH OFFICER**  
**Regional Office (Central)**  
**Greater Corporation of Chennai**  
**Chennai - 600 30.**

**Before the National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone)**

**Chennai,**

**Original Application No. 168 of 2020 (SZ)**

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dated 25.08.2020, "Sewage discharge  
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Applicant

Vs.

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply  
and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB)  
represented by its Managing  
Director, Santhome Road, MRC  
Nagar,  
Chennai – 28.

:

Respondent

**REPORT FILED BY JOINT COMMITTEE**

**G.JANAKIRAMAN**

Counsel for 5th Respondent