

“Mogappair : Private tankers still dump sewage into Cooum”

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Chennai: Illegal disposal of raw sewage into the Cooum river by private tankers continues unabated in Mogappair despite the intervention of the National Green Tribunal. Over the past week, residents have caught on camera tankers parked along the bridge off George Rathinam Road in Mogappair early in the morning and letting out untreated sewage into the river.

Vehicle registration numbers of some of these trucks are: TN 16 BC 6860, TN 09 AE 3064 and TN 25 W 6038. The NGT southern zone (SZ), while hearing a similar case in the past, had asked the state transport department to cancel permits of such trucks.

Ideally, sewage trucks should dispose of the waste at the local pumping station run by Chennai Metro Water and Sewage Supply Board (CMWSSB). But only 35-odd of the more than 200 sewage trucks use the facility, according to officials. The remaining private tankers, which charge ₹500 to ₹800 per trip from apartments and commercial establishments, pollute the environment in broad daylight.

Mogappair residents allege that complaints made to local police regarding this have gone unattended. “Police should increase patrolling

along these stretches or install CCTV cameras at multiple points along the rainwater canal to stop such violations. If not, the illegality will continue and rainwater won't drain properly. This is a health hazard too,” said Mohan Babu, a resident of Mogappair East.

Earlier this month, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) told the NGT-SZ that it has removed 23,527 tonnes of municipal solid waste from Cooum river banks and that trash boom systems were installed at eight different locations to collect waste floating



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in the river.

CMWSSB informed the tribunal that sewerage pipeline work near Anna Nagar and Mogappair areas were completed, and that efforts are underway to set up more modular sewage treatment plants (STPs).

Referring to this, Babu said while the state government is spending crores on the 'Integrated Cooum River Eco-Restoration Project', such violators are allowed to go scott-free. State agencies must slap heavy fines on such violators, he said.

CHENNAI: Illegal disposal of raw sewage into the Cooum river by private tankers continues unabated in Mogappair despite the intervention of the National Green Tribunal. Over the past week, residents have caught on camera tankers parked along the bridge off George Rathinam Road in Mogappair early in the morning and letting out untreated sewage into the river. Vehicle registration numbers of some of these trucks are: TN 16 BC 6860, TN 09 AE 3064 and TN 25 W 6038. The NGT southern zone (SZ), while hearing a similar case in the past, had asked the state transport department to cancel permits of such trucks.

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