

**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 2 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 FILED BY THE 5<sup>th</sup> RESPONDENT**

I, S.Ravindranathan, S/o.K.Subbaian, Hindu, aged about 58 years now working as Superintending Engineer (South West) in the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai do here by solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

1. I am the Superintending Engineer (South West) of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Chennai and 5<sup>th</sup> Respondent herein and well acquainted with the facts of the case from the connected files.
2. I humbly submit that 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 authorities concerned to file the action taken on the Newspaper report mentioned above before the next hearing date.
3. I further humbly submit that the Complaint site, bridge off Golden Rathinam road, Mogappair (West) and Nolambur are located next to the National Highways service road and the private sewer tanker lorries illegally dump sewage collected from certain unsewered locations of Chennai City and its abutting areas including



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

few village panchayats and municipalities. In compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), a Joint inspection was carried out in the area in question on 06.09.2021 along with the Joint committee members and it was ascertained that the local Depot Engineer has been monitoring the complaint site, bridge of 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.

In an another incident the CMWSSB officials have identified a private sewer, belonging to M/s.J.K.S sewer lorry, bearing registration no. TN12Y6355 for dumping sewage into the storm drain along Maduravoyal bypass service road and filed a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Thirumangalam on 23.06.2021 and a complaint registered vide CSR No.442/2021 on 24.06.2021 with Ambattur Estate Police station on the above incident.

4. I humbly submit that, 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.
5. I humbly submit that, inspite of continuous monitoring and stringent action including seizure of erring vehicles taken by the Board officials, few greedy private sewer tanker operators resort to unscrupulous and illegal dumping of collected sewage into water bodies, which the Board officials are making continuous monitoring and determined to regulate to avoid recurrence.

S. M. M.

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

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

6. I further humbly submit that, 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, TNPCB, PWD, TNRDC, RTO, Police, GCC, Local bodies 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. 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 disposal location.
- ii. Issue of Registration Certificate by the State Transport Authority (RTO) only after getting No Objection Certificate from the respective Utility Board/ Local bodies.



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

- 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 sewer 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.
- v. Continuous monitoring of the water bodies has to be carried by the PWD-WRD, TNPCB, GCC, Police, Highways Departments through NGO/ Public participation
7. As ordered by the Hon`ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, all necessary actions are being taken by the Board in co-ordination with 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.
8. It is therefore humbly prayed that, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept my response on behalf of the Board and thus render Justice

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this  
9th day of Sep'2021 and signed  
his name in my presence

S. N. M.  
9/9/2021

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

BEFORE ME

K.  
09/09/21

K. GOPI,

ADVOCATE E.NO. 702/2006,  
1b, LAW CHAMBERS,  
HIGH COURT BUILDINGS,  
CHENNAI - 104.

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

**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)**

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

Vs.

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

: Respondent

**REPORT FILED BY 5TH RESPONDENT**

G.JANAKIRAMAN  
Counsel for 5th Respondent