

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

**Original Application No. 26 of 2021 (SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU Based on the News item in The New Indian Express, Chennai Edition, Dated 23.01.2021, "Biomedical waste dumped near Chennai's Thiruneermalai Lake not removed even after a week".

... Applicant

**Versus**

1. The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Govt Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
2. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Environment, Govt. Secretariat,  
Fort St. George, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
3. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Health and Family Welfare Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
4. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 009.
5. The Chairman,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
No. 76, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai,  
Tamil Nadu - 600 032.
6. The District Collector,  
Chengalpet District,  
Collector Office, GST Road,  
Chengalpattu - 603 001.
7. Pallavaram Municipality,  
By its Municipal Commissioner,  
New Colony, Chrompet,  
Chennai - 600 044.
8. Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat,  
Rep. by its Executive Officer,  
No. 6A, Main Road, Thiruneermalai,  
Chennai - 600 044.

... Respondents

Under Secretary to Government  
Municipal Administration and  
Water Supply Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009

Deputy Secretary to Government  
M.A. & W.S. Department  
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

**STATUS REPORT AND ACTION TAKEN REPORT FILED BY THE 4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

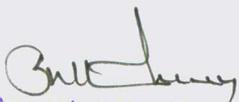
I, S.Ramanathan, S/o Thiru SV. Sundram, Hindu aged about 53 years, residing at No.15, Nammalvar Street, Choolai, Chennai - 600112, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

2. I am the Deputy Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Fort St. George, Chennai 600009 and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the available records. On behalf of the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Chennai - 600009, I have been authorized to file this Status Report and I am filing this Status Report on behalf of the 4<sup>th</sup> respondent herein.

3. I humbly submit that this Hon'ble Tribunal has taken suo moto cognizance based on the News item in The New Indian Express, Chennai edition Dated 23.01.2021, "Biomedical waste dumped near Chennai's Thiruneermalai Lake not removed even after a week" and in its order dated 05.02.2021 has directed the Joint Committee which was constituted in OA No. 50 of 2019, to visit the area in question and submit its factual and action taken report and also directed the Respondents to file its response as to the allegations made in the paper report.

4. I humbly submit that pursuant to the direction of this Hon'ble Tribunal, this Respondent is filing the status report as follows:-

Thiruneermalai is a Special Grade Town Panchayat in Chengalpattu District with a population of 30,702 as per 2011 Census and the present population is estimated about 40,000. The extent of the Town is 4.80 sq.km and is administratively delimited into 18 wards. There are 10308 House Holds and 254 commercial establishments, 1 Government Urban Health Centre, 1 Government Primary Health Centre, 1 Private Hospital and 9 Small Health Clinics situated within the Town. The Town Panchayat owns 39.538 km length of Roads besides 4.00 km of roads belong to State Highways Department. There is 32.860 km length of storm water drains maintained by the Town Panchayat. It is the duty and responsibility of the Town Panchayat for the better maintenance of Sanitation, Solid waste Management, Water Supply, Street lights and other basic services to the people of the Thiruneermalai.



Under Secretary to Government  
Municipal Administration and  
Water Supply Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009



Deputy Secretary to Government  
M.A. & W.S. Department  
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

## **I. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - QUANTITY OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE GENERATED**

The Town Panchayat generates 9 Metric Tonnes of Solid waste every day as mentioned below:

Bio - Degradable Waste - 5 MT

Non Bio degradable waste - 4 MT

The Non bio degradable waste daily generated consists of the following categories of wastes.

1	Plastics	1.700 MT
2	Glass, Rubber and Tyres etc	0.450 MT
3	Clothes, Bed, wood waste etc	0.400 MT
4	E-waste	0.400 MT
5	Others	0.450 MT

Apart from the above, Construction and Debris waste about 0.3 M.T is collected separately and 0.3 M.T silt from Road sweeping and storm water drain cleaning are collected and stored separately at Resource Recovery Park.

### **Availability of staff and Vehicle strength for Solid Waste Management**

Sanitary Workers (permanent)	22
Sanitary Workers (on contract basis)	88
<b>Vehicles</b>	
Mini Lorry	1
Compactor	1
Tata Ace	2
Battery Operated Vehicle	9
Tri cycle	24
Push cart	15
Tractor (Hire basis)	4
Sanitary Napkin Incinerator NB 100 Capacity	4

## **II. RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK**

The Resource Recovery park is located in Town Survey No: 147/1G/2 in an extent of 1.18 acres. The same is established in the land, classified as Government Land, which has been in possession and maintenance of the Town Panchayat for more than 30 years. The Solid waste generated at source of 10308 households and 254 commercial establishments at 216 streets/roads of the Town Panchayat has been collected by Sanitary Workers

  
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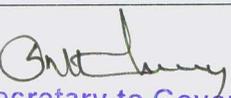
  
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at the Doorsteps and segregated, processed to the maximum extent at the Resource Recovery Park. The route chart for primary collection of solid waste from households to RRP is in place for strict monitoring of movement of solid waste.

The primary collection at source by using Tri cycle/Battery Operated Vehicles/Push Cart is immediately transported by the secondary vehicles from strategic points to the Resource Recovery Park mentioned above for final disposal. The entire process is handled by 110 Sanitary Workers of Town Panchayat and 47 vehicles in different configurations, presently fit to run on road. An average of 5 metric Tons of Bio Degradable are processed through windrow method and 4 Metric Tons of Non Bio Degradable solid wastes are collected in a day from all the above 216 Streets/Roads. Bio degradable wastes are processed at the Resource Recovery Park (RRP) and sold as Bio Compost and Vermi Compost to the farmers and other urban families for roof top garden. An average 2.0 Tones of Plastic wastes are segregated at RRP and supplied to the privates. Thermocol and other re-processable non bio degradable items are handed over to scrap collectors.

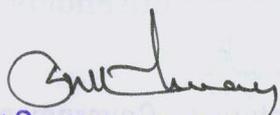
### **III. PRESENT SYSTEM OF WASTE PROCESSING & DISPOSAL.**

Category of wastes	Quantity generated per day in M.T	% of processing for 75% collected garbage's	Present method of processing	Method of disposal
Bio Degradable Waste	5.000 M.T	100%	Windrow composting	Manure produced
Non Bio Degradable Waste (a) Plastic-Saleable/ Recyclable	1.000 M.T	100%	Stored at Resource Recover Park and sold to potential Recyclers/ vendors	By sale
(b) Plastics-Reusable	0.350 M.T	100%	Stored at Resource Recover Park and sold to potential Recyclers/ vendors	By sale
(c) Plastics-Non saleable/Non Reusable/ combustible	0.350 M.T	100%	Stored and sent to Privates for processing	To Private operators

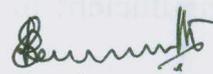
  
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	(d) Glass, rubber, tyre	0.450 M.T	100%	Daily collected waste stored in RR Park	Resource Recover Park
3	Domestic Hazardous waste (a) Electric wires/chokes/ Battery/ paint containers/ Bulbs	0.400 M.T	100%	Stocked at Resource Recovery Park and sold to TNPCB authorised vendors	Sold to TNPCB authorised vendors
	(b) Napkins/ Diapers etc	0.250 M.T	100%	Daily collected waste through Sanitary Napkin Incinerator NB 100 Capacity	Sanitary Napkin Incinerator NB 100 Capacity
4	Other Dry waste Unused Bed/Pillows/Mats/ clothes/Wood pieces etc	0.300 M.T	100%	Collected and stored separately in the Resource Recovery Park.	Resource Recover Park
5	Construction and Debris Wastes	0.500 M.T	100%	Separate place is earmarked in the Town Panchayat. Quantity generated per day is very less and hence used for low-lying areas in the wards.	Low-lying areas filling
6	E-waste	0.150 M.T	100%	Collected and stoked at Resource Recovery Park. Sold to potential Recycling vendors authorised by TNPCB	Sold to TNPCB Vendors



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7	Inert Drain silt etc	0.300 M.T	100%	Collected separately and filled up in low-lying areas	Low-lying areas filling
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The Town Panchayat has set target of 100% achievement in Door to Door Collection before 30/9/2021. Similarly the target for segregation at source is set for 100% achievement before 30/9/2021 by engaging required manpower.

#### **IV. LEGACY WASTE**

The Town Panchayat has been maintaining 216 No. of streets/roads and 32.860 running kms of storm water drain. As presented above, an average 9.000 Mt of solid waste generated in a day is processed through Windrows method. The solid waste collected for more than two decades were deposited at the western side of Adayar river bank in the enroute of Thirumudivakkam-Thiruneermalai Main Road. The National Green Tribunal directed the Town Panchayats to reclaim the land and develop the processing facilities as stipulated under the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. The estimated quantity of historical waste at the old site is about 8100 cum.

The Government originally accorded administrative sanction to remove the legacy waste dumped on the Adayar river bank at an estimate cost of Rs.90.00 lakhs under CRRT Scheme vide G.O.(Ms)No.72, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, dated 12.07.2017. Subsequent study conducted by engineering team at Anna University has revised the estimate to Rs.60 Lakhs. The Bio mining of historical waste at the adayar river bund was already started and so far 3750 cum has been completed out of estimated 8100 cum. The firm assigned for bio mining of historical wastes is advised to complete the rest of process at the earliest. An extent of 70 Cents of land will be reclaimed after completion of the Bio mining process.

#### **V. ACTION TAKEN ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The Town Panchayat is peripheral local body and the number of permanent/sanctioned posts is inadequate, considering its development. As of now, the sanctioned post of Sanitary Worker is 22, out of which 3 is vacant. The process of filling vacancies requires considerable time and compliances, in accordance with Rules. As the existing staff in sanction posts are insufficient to meet the requirement of rapid growth in households



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and population, the services of SHG and NGO were roped in to supply required personnel for solid waste management.

1. Since the State formulated Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (Management and Handling), the Town Panchayats were authorized to engage self help groups and Non Government Organisations to handle Solid Waste Management Activities as per Na.Ka.No:5030/08/B4 dt 24/6/2008, issued by the Director of Town Panchayats, Chennai.

2. Accordingly, the service of an NGO named "Ramanujam Social Service society" was engaged to supplement the existing sanitation team and to ensure proper implementation of Solid Waste Management activities as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

3. The process of Solid Waste Management from Door to Door collection to final process at RRP has been monitored by the Executive Officer, Town Panchayat, as mentioned supra.

4. All solid waste management activities in this Town Panchayat went on well, till the general lockdown declared from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 on account of Covid 19 pandemic. However, the effective implementation was affected due to COVID19 pandemic and general lock down. Since the entire sanitation team was busy in containment of COVID-19 and the SHG could not provide additional personnel required at the lockdown period, the Town Panchayat had to place some more temporary arrangements on contractual basis, with little orientation to those personnel. Due to the above reasons, the Door to Door collection and waste segregation at source activities were naturally disturbed. Nevertheless, the Door to Door collection and segregation at source are being addressed, restored and improved now. In spite of consistent efforts of Town Panchayat, the response and cooperation of public still need to be improved, for which awareness is continuously created.

(a) Present Door to Door collection - 75%

(b) Segregation at source - 75%

The Town Panchayat has set target of 100% achievement before 30/9/2021 by engaging required manpower, strengthening system and roll out the action plan

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## VI. Water bodies within Town Panchayat:

The following 6 major water bodies are situated within Thiruneermalai. Except Periya Eari, all are maintained by the Town Panchayat.

S/No	Name of Tank/Lake	Location	Maintain by
1	Nagan Kulam	North Mada Street	Town Panchayat
2	Mukalathamman Koil Kulam	Kulakarai Street	Town Panchayat
3	Chitheri	Thiruneermalai Main Road	Town Panchayat
4	Veeraragavan Eri	Earikkarai Street	Town Panchayat
5	Nainan Eri	Thirumangaiyazhvar puram	Town Panchayat
6	Periya Eri	Thiruneermalai Main Road	PWD

The subject area mentioned in the daily newspaper is the service road situated in the banks of chitteri lake. The area on both the sides belongs to Tambaram and Pammal municipalities. Since lot of vehicles pass by in the above mentioned service road, the passengers throw lot of garbage in this area. In this Town Panchayat around 110 employees are working in solid waste management system. The Route Map for primary collection of solid waste from door steps to end processing yard, has been in place. The movement of solid waste is tracked accordingly. The wastes collected from the households are transported by the secondary vehicle to the Resource Recovery Park for disposal of waste. Non bio degradable waste and recyclable waste are segregated and stored in this place. 34 tonnes of plastic waste collected during the last six months has been handed over to Ms. Bala Trading & Co for a sum of amount of Rs.3400/- and about 170 Kg Thermocol collected in this area are handed over to M/s. Westwin Private Company.

The Town Panchayat involving 110 Sanitary Workers, manage the Solid waste collections at source to the end process at RRP, as detailed above. Since, there are four secondary collection points as transit center to transport the solid waste from primary collection to RRP, there is no necessity for the Town Panchayat to dump its waste at any water bodies and service road.

Curbing the stray incidents of dumping solid waste at road side and water bodies is now strengthened, by proper orientation to the Sanitary workers. It is also proposed to install CCTV cameras at strategic points in



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collaboration with local Police for strict surveillance including the service road and Chiteri Lake. Already there is provision for penal action in the by-law for Solid Waste Management and imposing fine published under District Gazette No: 19 dt. 20/7/2017.

#### **VII. BIO MEDICAL WASTE**

As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Bio Medical Rules, 2016, collection and disposal of Bio Medical Waste are the responsibility of State Pollution Control Board. There are 1 urban health centre, 1 Primary Health centre, 1 private hospital and 9 small health clinics within the Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat limits. No Major private Hospitals/Multi Speciality Hospitals are situated in the limits of Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat. The Bio Medical Waste generated from the above Hospitals is collected by the private vendors namely M/s.GJ Multi Clave India Pvt. Ltd., who is authorised by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the said agency disposed off the same at Thenmelpakkam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk and District as per Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. Hence the role of Town Panchayat in disposal of Bio Medical waste is limited to collection of syringes, used cottons, tablet covers and bottles etc from households and handed over to said agency.

#### **VIII. Hospitals and Health Centers:**

As mentioned earlier, there is no major Hospital within the Town Panchayat and only mini hospitals and clinics, as listed below are located:-

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of Health Center</b>	<b>Address</b>
1	Urban health centre	Theradi Street
2	Primary Health centre	Uyalliamman Koil street
3	Venkateshwara Hospital	3 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Chandran Nagar
4	V. Senthilnathan Medical Center	C.L.C. Works Road
5	Dr. Ashok Kumar Medical Center	Nagappa Nagar
6	Dr. Ravana Kumar Medical Center	Nagappa Nagar
7	Dr. Sathyanarayanan Medical Center	Nagappa Nagar
8	Dr. Shanthi Medical Center	Nagappa Nagar
9	Dr. Vijaya Kumar Medical Center	Muthumariamman Koil Street
10	Sai Hospital	Uyyali Amman Koil Street
11	Sugam Medical Center	Tiruneermalai Main Road
12	Dr. Gomathi Medical Center	First Pillayar Koil Street

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M/s. GJ Multiclave (India) Pvt Ltd, having address at Old No.20, New No.37, Teachers Colony, Kamaraj Avenue, Adyar, Chennai – 600 020, an accredited agency by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is vested with collection and handling of bio medical waste from the above health centers. The Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat would keep in touch with the above agency to clear bio medical waste in accordance with the rules and address any untoward incidents.

The Town Panchayat is periodically contacting the above Urban Health Centres, Primary Health Centre, Private Hospitals and Small Health Clinics to ensure the Bio Medical Wastes are not disposed off within Town Panchayat and creating health hazards.

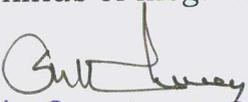
A mechanism is devised to report any incident of dumping of bio medical waste contrary to the rules, to the competent authority such as regular surveillance of sanitation team, installation of CCTV, periodical interaction with domiciles/associations, inviting complaints through Whats App, regular awareness through Green Ambassadors.

There are 7 Pharmacies situated within Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat. It is proposed to conduct awareness programme within week on safe disposal of medical waste like expired tablets, syringe and used cotton and statutory compliances.

**IX.** Nevertheless, the potential threats and challenge to the Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat in maintaining its sanitation and solid waste management, is throwing or dumping of solid wastes on roadside at odd hours by unknown elements, unnoticeable by authorities, due to the factors like, the intersection of Thiruneermalai by the Outer Ring Road from Tambaram to Maduravayil, nearby Tanneries at Pammal/ Pallavaram, the small and medium units catering the industrial needs of factories of Thirumudivakkam Industrial Estate and vast tracts of vacant lands lying undeveloped. The Town Panchayat has taken into account of these factors and work toward addressing the issues effectively.

**X.Action Plan for Implementation Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**

- (a) The Town Panchayat has been taking steps along with the local Police Station, to install cameras on main points to monitor the violations and untoward incidents.
- (b) The members of Sanitation team of Town Panchayat have been oriented to intensify their vigil on water bodies, roads and streets to curb those kinds of illegal dumping of solid wastes.



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- (c) The Whats App Number for registering complaint from public is advertised in prominent places and notice board of Town Panchayat.
- (d) The staff are sensitized to receive the complaints on time and addressed them at the earliest
- (e) It is planned to have interactive sessions with public, local associations and women groups for creating awareness on sanitation, citizens responsibilities, mutual sharing of activities and grievances.
- (f) It is planned to have periodical interaction with nodal persons of Health centers, Pharmacies and traders association, to minimize the complaints and maximize their cooperation.
- (g) Frequent awareness campaigns on waste disposal and Solid Waste Management are being conducted.
- (h) As directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, the committee has inspected the report site on 16/03/2021 and had discussion with this Respondent.
- (i) Any additional recommendations will be incorporated and implemented in due course.

5. I humbly submit that this respondent has been following the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal diligently and adequate measure are taken to comply with Environmental Laws.

6. Under the above circumstances, I respectfully pray that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the above status and action taken report and pass any such further other order deem fit and proper to the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2021

  
 Deputy Secretary to Government  
 M.A. & W.S. Department  
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**4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

  
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