

INSPECTION REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE) IN RESPECT OF O.A NO.26 OF 2021 (SZ) TAKEN UP AS SUOMOTU ON THE BASIS OF THE NEWS PAPER REPORT PUBLISHED BASED ON THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, CHENNAI EDITION, DATED 23.01.2021, "BIOMEDICAL WASTE DUMPED NEAR CHENNAI'S THIRUNEERMALAI LAKE NOT REMOVED EVEN AFTER A WEEK"

It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) has taken up a case suo motu in OA No. 26 of 2021 based on the news paper report published in the New Indian Express, Chennai edition, dated 23.01.2021 under the caption "biomedical waste dumped near Chennai's Thiruneermalai lake not removed even after a week".

ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL:

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in its order dated 05.02.2021 in OA No. 26 of 2021 has stated as follows

"7. On going through the allegations made in the newspaper report, we are satisfied that that there arises a substantial question of environment which requires the interference of this Tribunal.

8. Further this is not the first incident of such nature that is being brought to the notice of the Tribunal through paper reports. Even in O.A. No. 50 of 2019, we have received the report where in also they have mentioned that such things are being repeated and on seeing the newspaper reports, they are rushing to the place and removing the same and entrusting the same to the common waste disposal facility and we have heavily come on the committee and the regulators as to why further action has not been taken to trace out those miscreants and take action against them and posted for further reports.

9. Considering the circumstances, we feel that same committee appointed in O.A. No. 50 of 2019 comprising of (1) The District Collector, Chengalpattu District and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to look into this issue as well. But since this issue is relating to Thiruneermalai Lake, we feel it appropriate to include the Superintending Engineer (S/E) from Public Works Department (PWD) and Water Resources Organisation (WRO) of that area who is dealing with the same and the Executive Officer (E.O) of Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat as there was some allegation that waste is being dumped on the sides of the roads without treatment and we are including them in the committee, so that the modified committee appointed in this case can look into the issue independently regarding the allegations made in the newspaper report and submit a proper and effective factual as well as action taken report if there is any violation found.

10. The committee is also directed to consider whether the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and other matters related to Waste Management Rules are being strictly implemented in these areas and if there is any violation, what are all the nature of action taken against such health care units

or other institutions who are dealing with such bio medical articles as they are expected to dispose of in a particular manner as provided under the respective statues instead of disposing the same in the manner mentioned above

12. The respondents are also directed to file their independent response regarding the action that has been taken from their side which they are expected to do apart from the cooperating with the committee in filing the report.

In due compliance of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) order dated 05.02.2021, the said area in question was inspected by the joint committee as constituted by the Hon'ble NGT on 26.06.2021 and the following observations were made

Details about Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat

It is respectfully submitted that Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat is a Special Grade Town Panchayat located in the Southern limits of Chennai Metropolitan City. The total extent of Urban local body (ULB) is 4.8 Sq. Km and falls in the jurisdiction of Chengalpet District. The Population of the Town Panchayat as per 2011 census is 30,702 and at present it will be around 40,000. Total Household of the Town Panchayat is 7711. The Town Panchayat has 18 wards. As the Local body is in the periphery of Chennai City, it is linked with road, train and all communication facilities at par with Metropolitan City.

Solid Waste Management by Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat

Generation of total Solid Waste in the Town Panchayat: 7.00 MT/day (Biodegradable waste – 5.5MT and Non Biodegradable waste – 1.5MT)

Present status of collection and disposal of solid waste:

It is respectfully submitted that presently the Town Panchayat carries out door-to-door collection of solid waste of 7 T/day by deploying the own Secondary Collection Vehicle 1 No. of Mini Compactor Lorry, 1 No. of Tata Ace, 1 No. of Tractor with trailer and 2 Nos. of Mini Tipper lorry. Also the Town Panchayat is having Primary Collection Vehicle – 28 Nos. of Tri Cycles and 30 Nos. of Push Carts with 22 sanitary works of Town panchayat, 26 from Self Help 4 Group and 70 from Ramanujam Social Service. Out of 7 T/day of solid waste, the Board biodegradable solid waste is 5.5 T/day. The Town Panchayat has obtained authorization from vide proceedings No.JCEE(M)/TNPCB/CHN.ZONE/SWM/F.6846/MMN/2019, dated 08.04.2019 valid up to 31.03.2020 and subsequently extended up to 30.09.2020 under the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 to operate the solid waste processing (micro composting) facility located at S.F.No.147/1G2, Thiruneermalai Village, Pallavaram Taluk, Chengalpet District. The balance solid waste of 1.5 MT/day of non biodegradable wastes is disposed through authorized recycling facilities.

Observations made by the Joint Committee during inspection

- i) No bio medical waste was found dumped near Thiruneermalai Lake as alleged in the News paper article.

ii)The Micro Composting Centre provided for the treatment of biodegradable waste generated from the Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat was in operation and non biodegradable waste is being disposed through authorized recyclers.

Details of health care facilities in Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat

In the Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat area, the status of the health care establishments in operation were as follows

- (i) Nos. of bedded hospitals – 3 Nos.
- (ii) Nos. of clinics (non bedded hospitals) & Diagnostic centers – 11Nos.

The said 3 Nos. of bedded hospitals have obtained consent of the Board under the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 and the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 and also have obtained authorization under the Bio Medical Waste management Rules, 2016. It was also ascertained that the biomedical wastes generated from these bedded hospitals were disposed through Common Bio Medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility (CBMWTDF) namely M/s. GJ Multiclave India Pvt. Ltd. The said 3 Nos. of bedded hospitals have executed agreement with GJ Multiclave India Pvt. Ltd to dispose the bio medical waste generated from their hospital.

There are 11 Nos. of clinics and diagnostic centers operating in the Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat area. Out of 11 Nos. of non bedded health care establishments, 10 Nos. of non bedded health care facilities have obtained one time authorization under Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the remaining one health care facility was found to be in closed condition. The above said 10 Nos. of non bedded hospitals have executed agreement with GJ Multiclave India Pvt. Ltd to dispose the bio medical waste generated from their hospital.

Also, it was ascertained that the Common Bio Medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility (CBMWTDF) namely M/s. GJ Multiclave India Pvt Ltd has implemented the bar coding system for all the health care facilities whom have executed agreement with them and also they have provided dedicated GPS fitted vehicles-27 Nos for collecting the bio medical wastes generated from the health care facilities on daily basis.

Photographs taken during Joint Committee Inspection





Recommendations of the Joint Committee:

The Joint Committee has suggested the following recommendations in the above said subject matter before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal:

- i. The local bodies shall ensure 100% collection of solid waste being generated within its jurisdiction with proper segregation, door to door collection, processing and disposal by complying with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.
- ii. The local body shall post the sanitary staffs in the said area in question to carry out monitoring to prevent any dumping of the solid waste along the road side or on banks of the lake.
- iii. The Executive Officer, Thiruneermalai Town Panchayat shall monitor and ensure that the local body is complied with the statutory requirements and for the scientific disposal of solid waste that are being generated in the local body.
- iv. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall conduct periodical inspection of the site in question and to ensure any dumping of bio medical waste happening in the said site and the local body is complying with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.
- v. The PWD shall take steps to create tree-planting around the banks of the water body, so as to protect the lake

Selvaraj
3/9/2021

Executive
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Thiruneermalai
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Thiruneermalai

S. Sankar
3/9/21

District
Environmental
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Executive
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Revenue
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Officer,
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S. Sankar
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District
Collector,
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District