

**JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT IN RESPECT OF O.A NO.48 OF 2020 TAKEN UP SUO MOTU BASED ON THE NEWS ITEM IN DINAMALAR NEWSPAPER DATED 26.2.2020, CHENNAI SUPPLEMENTARY "SEWAGE IN BUCKINGHAM CANAL; WILL ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST LORRIES?" BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ)**

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone(SZ), Chennai has taken up suo motu case based on the News item in Dinamalar Newspaper dated 26.2.2020, Chennai Supplementary "Sewage in Buckingham Canal; will action be taken against Lorries?"

The Hon'ble Tribunal in its order dated 28.2.2020 in Original Application No.48 of 2020 has constituted a Joint Committee comprising of the (1) Engineer in Chief Water Resources Organisation (WRO) Public Works Department & Chief Engineer (General) Public Works Department (2) Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (3) Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation (4) Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board to inspect the area in question and submit a factual and action taken report.

Accordingly in due compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the joint committee as constituted by the Tribunal has submitted the joint committee report.

On consideration of the report, the Hon'ble Tribunal in its order dated 20.10.2020 has further directed the committee to relook into the matter and submit a proper report in the manner expected of by this Tribunal to give appropriate direction to the concerned authorities to implement the same in its letter and spirit so as to protect the water bodies against such illegal activities being done in future.

It is submitted that Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has stated that it has formulated a draft policy to regulate the registration of sewer lorries and its operations. The policy will be formulated and implemented by next financial year. As per policy, the registered lorries will be equipped with GPS trackers for monitoring the septage collection in the Chennai Metropolitan Area(CMA) and discharging at the decanting facility thereby controlling the illegal discharge at the waterbodies in the CMA area.

It is submitted that the work of providing additional decanting point at the existing decanting facility of Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant of CMWSSB has commenced and the work is in progress. The work will be completed by January 2021. These additional decanting facilities will eliminate the waiting time for Sewer Lorries for discharging of septage.

It is further submitted that the location and layout for providing decanting facility at the Sholinganallur Sewage Treatment Plant of CMWSSB has been finalized, the work has been commenced and the work is in progress. This will be completed by March 2021. The decanting facility at the Sholinganallur will decrease the illegal discharge of septage in the Buckingham Canal by the Sewer lorries.

**RECOMMENDATIONS: -**

The Joint Committee has considered the action proposed by the CMWSSB and submit the following recommendations before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

- i. The CMWSSB shall implement the policy as proposed to regulate the registration of sewer lorries and its operations within April 2021 by equipping the sewer lorries with GPS trackers for monitoring the septage collection within the CMA area, discharging the same in the decanting facility so as to control the illegal discharge at the waterbodies.
- ii. The CMWSSB shall expedite the provision of additional decanting facility at its Perungudi Sewage Treatment Plant by January 2021 and shall provide decanting facility at its Sholinganallur Sewage Treatment Plant by March 2021 to reduce the waiting time for the decanting of the septage water by the sewer lorries.
- iii. The Regional Transport Officers shall take immediate action to cancel the license issued to the sewage tanker lorries found decanting the sewage in the Buckingham Canal/waterbodies and shall issue necessary instruction to the sewage tanker lorry owners in this regard.
- iv. The Police Department shall keep a vigil in the area in question and take action on the sewage tanker lorries decanting the sewage other than the Perungudi and Sholinganañlur STPs.
- v. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall collect water samples periodically in the Buckingham Canal in the area in question and monitor the water quality.

  
The Area Engineer,  
CMWSSB,  
Area-XV  
Sholinganallur

  
District Environmental  
Engineer,  
Tamilnadu Pollution  
Control Board,  
Maraimalainagar

  
The Executive  
Engineer,  
PWD, WRD  
Araniyar Basin  
Division,  
Chepauk,

  
The Zonal Officer,  
Zone-15,  
Sholinganallur.