

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.

Original Application No.164 of 2017(sz)

IN THE MATTER OF

M.Dhamotharan  
S/o Marappan  
3/38.GateThottam, Mannarai  
Tiruppur – 641 607.

.....Applicant(s)

*Versus*

The Secretary to Government  
Environment & Forest Department  
Government of Tamilnadu  
Secretariat For St. George,  
Chennai and Ors.

....Respondent(s)

Reply by Public Works Department/ Water Resources Department

Executive Engineer  
Lower Bhavani Basin Division,  
Erode.2

1. The above case posted for consideration of the report by the Joint Committee Constituted by this Tribunal with Observations and recommendations pertaining to the above division is as follows:
  - b) Operation of STP constructed by PWD to improve the water quality of Lake.
    - To direct the PWD to take immediate steps for revamping of STP without any further delay.
    - To Operate STP continuously and efficiently to reduce the organic pollutants in the NallaruOdai and to divert the treated water into Lake.

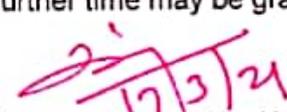
Based on the recommendations of the Joint Committee, the Sewage Treatment Plant is situated in the Nanjarayan Lake. Due to the lack in provision of maintenance funds, the sewage treatment plant could not be operated. A requisition letter has been sent regarding handing over of STP to the Tiruppur Municipal Corporation, but the prevailing situation in the Tiruppur Municipal Corporation is that, there is lack of maintenance fund for maintaining the STP. Hence, Tiruppur Municipal Corporation have again asked the Public work department to resent the same proposal along with the proper Government Order from the Municipal Administration Department. Based on that, a new proposal has been sent by Superintending Engineer, PWD, Bhavani Basin Circle, WRD, Erode to Chief Engineer, WRD, Coimbatore (Copy of the Letter enclosed) to get maintenance fund from the government, which is under progress. Hence, a time of two more months is required to get the maintenance fund from the government for operating the STP.

**C) Rejuvenation of Nanjarayan Lake:**

- To direct the PWD to take up detailed study to assess the quantity and quality of silt accumulated in the Nanjarayan Lake by engaging expert institute. Based on the outcome of the study desilting and rejuvenation of Lake may be taken up.

Based on the recommendations of the Joint Committee, regarding the silt accumulated in the Nanjarayan Lake, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Chennai (NEERI) headed by Senior Scientist Dr. G.Saravanan and its crew, collected water & Silt sample in various locations of The Lake & Inlets on 17.02.2021. The Testing of The samples is under progress. Based on the outcome of the results from the NEERI Institute, further necessary actions will be planed accordingly.

I submit that this representation can be considered and further time may be granted.

  
Executive Engineer, PWD., WRD.,  
Lower Bhavani Basin Division,  
Erode.2

**Water Resources Department**

**From:**  
**Er.S. Kasilingam, BE.,**  
Superintending Engineer,WRD.,  
Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode-11.

**To:**  
**The Chief Engineer, WRD.,**  
Coimbatore Region,  
Coimbatore-01.

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**Lr.No.DB/HDO/ DO 2 /B-4/F-1034/ 34CE /2021 /dt. 16 .03.2021**

Sir,

**Sub:** Environment - Lake Conservation- New Treatment Plant Constructed at SarkarPeriyapalayam Tank - Operation & Maintenance funds required or handing over the Treatment Plant to the Corporation of Tiruppur- Proposal sent - Regarding.

- Ref:**
1. Engineer In Chief, WRD, Vide Letter No.S(7)/55163/OT3/2006-1 Dated.24.01.2018. ✓
  2. Chief Engineer, WRD, Coimbatore Region, Coimbatore vide Letter No.TS/AEE I/AE II/F.Misc/426/2019/Dt.03.01.2020. ✓
  3. Director of Environment & Member Secretary, Chennai vide Letter No.1512/AEEII/EMAT/2014/Dated.18.11.2020 ✓
  4. The Executive Engineer,WRD.,LBB Division, Erode.2 vide Lr.No.D.4/F.411/2021/Dated.08.02.2021 ✓
  5. Honorable National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, Chennai order No Vide Original Application No.164 of 2017(SZ), Date of hearing 23.11.2020. ✓
  6. The Executive Engineer, WRD., Lower Bhavani Basin Division, Erode Lr.No.D.4/F.1034/ /2021/ Dt: 8 .03.2021. ✓

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The Sarkarperiyapalayam Tank (Nanjarayan Lake) is located in Sarkarperiyapalayam village in Uthukuli taluk of Tiruppur District. The Nallar Odai is feeding the Sarkaperiyapalayam Tank .This tank is classified under Non System tank and is under the maintenance of water Resources Department. The dyeing factories functioning in the upstream side of the tank discharges their untreated effluents into the Nallar Odai,which is flowing into the tank. Further, the Sewage water of the Tiruppur Corporation also mixes with the tank water through this Nallar Odai. Due to this, the salt laden with silt is deposited and it creates water pollution and other health hazards to the public living in that area.

The TDS value of the tank water is also, in high range of about 2500 to 3200 which makes the water unsuitable for agriculture. The Ayacutdars belonging to the tank are also badly affected due of this problem. In order to solve this problem, the Government had sanctioned an amount of Rs.4.00Crore from the "Environment Protection and Renewable Energy Fund" during the year 2014-2015 vide G.O.No.80 Environment & Forests (EC2)Department dated 10.09.2014. Based on the Government Order, the following items of

works were taken up and completed in March 2015 in the first phase to restore the tank to its good condition, and also to make tank water suitable for irrigation purpose.

1. Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant of 1.5MLD Capacity.
2. Desilting the salt laden soil from the tank bed.
3. Providing the Diversion Channel to discharge the polluted water from the diversion weir to treatment plant.
4. Reconstruction of Sluices.

But the Waste Water Treatment Plant could not be commissioned, as the protective works demanded by the Railway Department could not be carried out due to paucity of funds. Hence, the government had sanctioned Rs.2.41 crore for executing the protective works as requested by the Railway Department vide G.O.No.12 Environment and Forests(ECI)Department, dated 02.02.2016. Accordingly, the Protective works were completed by WRD except the electrical service connection.

Therefore, the payment was made to TNEB during March 2017 by the water resources department to provide the Electrical Service connection for the Treatment Plant and subsequently, power supply was given in the month of July 2017. The Sewage Treatment Plant was ready for fulfilled functioning as the trial run was carried out successfully. The Plant had to be maintained and operated continuously to utilize its designed capacity.

The sewage treatment plant in Sarkarperiyapalayam tank is designed in such a way that, the waste water from the NallarOdai is diverted through a baby canal and enter into the STP. It is having a capacity to treat 1.5MLD of the Waste Water. The treated water from the sewage treatment plant has been diverted to the Sarkarperiyapalayam Tank. The surplus water has also been diverted by a through baby canal which is located along the periphery of the tank and flows into the downstream side without entering the Sarkarperiyapalayam Tank.

A detailed study of the treatment plant was carried out during the year 2018 a cost for maintenance was calculated for a period of nine months, based on the lean flow of sewage(except monsoon season). The Nallarodai receives considerable quantity of storm water during monsoon season. The flow of storm water through Nallarodai, dilutes the sewage water and gets self purified. Due to the self purification process no necessity arises for operating the sewage treatment plant during monsoon season (3 months). Based on the above said facts an estimate was worked out and cost of Rs.32.00 Lakhs( As per 2018-2019

PWD Scheduled of Rates) which was required every year as a recurring cost, for the efficient operation and maintenance of the treatment plant.

In the reference 1st cited above, The Engineer In Chief, WRD, had sent a proposal to the principal secretary to the Government Public Works Department, that "To Hand over the New Treatment Plant at SarkarPeriyapalayam Tank to Corporation of Tiruppur from PWD/WRD, along with the land of 1292Sq.m towards Operation & Maintenance "Or" To allocate an amount of Rs.32.00 Lakhs as annual maintenance fund to the Lower Bhavani Basin Division, Erode under the new head of account for continuous Operation and Maintenance of the Treatment Plant"

But, the above required funds have not been allotted to the Lower Bhavani Basin Division, Erode until the month of February 2021.

Subsequently, In the Reference 2nd cited above, the Chief Engineer, WRD, Coimbatore had sent a proposal to the Engineer In Chief, WRD, Chennai regarding the above said allocation of fund.

Meanwhile, An article was published in Thinamalar (Tamil Edition) Chennai on 13.11.2020 (Copy enclosed). wherein it was criticized that "The sewage treatment plant (STP) established in Sarkarperiyapalayam Eri for treating the sewage water has functioned only once after a day trial run". Subsequently, In the Reference 3rd cited above The Director of Environment & Member secretary, Chennai had requested The Executive Engineer, WRD, LBB Division, Erode to submit a detailed report on the above facts and to hand over the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) immediately to the concerned local body.

Based on the above, in the reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited above, a letter has been sent to the commissioner, Tiruppur Municipal Corporation regarding handing over the above said treatment to the Tiruppur Municipal Corporation.

Consequently, The officials of Tiruppur Municipal Corporation have inspected the Sewage Treatment Plant and reported that the STP is not in operable condition and considerable investment is required to revamp the STP.

Owing to the above problems in the reference 5<sup>th</sup> cited, Thiru.M.Dhamotharan, residing near to the Sarkarperiyapalayam Tank had filed a suit before The Honorable National Green Tribunal praying for the rejuvenation of the Sarkarperiyapalayam Tank which is contaminated by the untreated trade effluents due to nonfunctioning of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Sarkarperiyapalayam Tank. Subsequently, On 23.11.2020 Honorable National Green Tribunal Southern Zone in its interim order "Directed that the PWD to take immediate steps for revamping of STP without any further delay, and to operate STP continuously and effectively

to reduce the organic pollutants in the NallarOdai and to divert the treated water into the lake".

In the reference 5<sup>th</sup> cited above, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal is also directed the Chief Secretary, State of Tamilnadu and the Principal Secretaries of Municipal Administration and Public Works Department(PWD) and Irrigation so as to enable them to provide necessary assistances for the purpose of implementing the recommendations of the committee by providing necessary logistic and fund for this purpose and also for making STP functional at the earliest.

Therefore, by considering the importance and to safeguard the sarkarperiyapalayam tank from the contamination, I request necessary orders may please be obtained from the government for the following.

1. The newly constructed Water Treatment plant may be handed over to the Municipal corporation of Tiruppur, for continuous Operation and Maintenance, so as to protect the Sarkarperiyapalayam Tank in Sarkarperiyapalayam Village of Uthukuli Taluk in Tiruppur District.

or

2. To allocate the annual maintenance fund to the Water Resources Department (Lower Bhavani Basin Division, Erode) for efficient operation and maintenance of sarkarperiyapalayam treatment plant to a tune of Rs.38.00 lakhs / year (Current Scheduled of Rates for the year 2020-21, annexure Enclosed). A Projected annual maintenance cost for the next financial year (2021-2022) to an annual increment of 5% price indices. (Annexure – I enclosed)

Encl: 1 to 4 References &  
Copy of Thinamalar News Paper.

a/c

20/3/21  
Superintending Engineer, WRD.,  
Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode-11.

10/3/21

10/3/2021

10/3/2021

அனுப்பப்பட்டது  
20/3/21

Avanashi, Tiruppur, TN, India

Latitude 11°7'50"N

Longitude 77°23'31"E

Local 11:28:28 AM

Altitude 289.74 meters

GMT 05:38:28 AM

Wednesday, 17-02-2021



Avanashi, Tiruppur, TN, India

Latitude 11°7'50"N

Longitude 77°23'31"E

Local 11:28:23 AM

Altitude 289.74 meters

GMT 05:58:23 AM

Wednesday, 17-02-2021





