

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 33 of 2020 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in Dinamalar Chennai newspaper dated: 10.02.2020, "Stagnation of Drainage Water in Velachery, Velachery Canal-People suffer from Respiratory Problem"

...Applicant

**Vs**

1. The District Collector,  
Chennai District.
2. The Chairman,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
3. The Commissioner,  
Greater Chennai Corporation.
4. The Superintending Engineer,  
Water Resource Organisation,  
Public Works Department.

...Respondents

**INDEX**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1.	Report filed on behalf of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Respondent – Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	1 - 6

Advocate for the Respondent: TNPCB  
Tr. S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai

/

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI.**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 33 of 2020 (SZ)**

1. Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in Dinamalar Chennai newspaper dated: 10.02.2020, "Stagnation of Drainage Water in Velachery, Velachery Canal-People suffer from Respiratory Problem"

...Applicant

**Vs**

1. The District Collector,  
Chennai District.
2. The Chairman,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
3. The Commissioner,  
Greater Chennai Corporation.
4. The Superintending Engineer,  
Water Resource Organisation,  
Public Works Department.

...Respondents

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> RESPONDENT -  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, D/o. Jesu Rajan , Christian, aged about 56 years, having my office at No. 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am filing the status Report on

*J. Josephine Sahayarani*  
29/2/24

**JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032**

↗

behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case as per records.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in its order dated 13.02.2020, has directed ineralia as follows:

*Para 4: " The District Collector, Chennai District, Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board and the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and the Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Organisation, Public Works Department to inspect the area in question and submit a status and action taken report. They are also directed to trace out the persons responsible for discharging the untreated sewage and the canal and submit a report to this Tribunal within a period of one month".*

3. It is respectfully submitted that, the Joint Committee inspected Velachery, Veerangal Canal on 17.07.2020 and during inspection, the following were observed.

i) It was noticed that overflow of Velachery lake is channelized to Veerangal canal in turn the overflow water reaches the Palikaranai marshy land.

ii) The channel connecting the Velachery Lake and Veerangal Canal was stagnated with Sewage/Sullage from households/ commercial establishments.

  
21/9/2021  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

7

iii) Water samples were collected by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board on 17.07.2020 at the following locations and sent for analysis to TNPCB Laboratory.

- a. At the inlets of storm water drain at Maruthupandiar Salai, Velachery- 2 no (Opp. To Sree Gupta Bhavan, Near JM Jumma Masjid).
- b. At the inlets of storm water drain at Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Adambakkam- 1no.
- c. At the inlets of storm water drain near Kakkan bridge, Adambakkam- 1no.
- d. At the Velachery lake.

4. It is respectfully submitted that the report of analysis reveals that the samples collected at the storm water inlets into Velachery Lake and at the Velachery Lake contain faecal coli form which shows that the same is contaminated with sewage.

5. It is respectfully submitted that in pursuance to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai in the order dated 24.12.2020 in O.A.No.33 of 2020 , the TNPCB issued directions vide Board's Letter dated 12.01.2021 to the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Greater Chennai Corporation (GC), and the Superintending Engineer, PWD (WRD) palar basin Circle to implement the Joint Committee recommendations on immediate action on pollution abatement to control the pollution of Velachery, Veerangal

*J. J. Kumar*  
2/9/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

Canal due to unauthorised discharge of untreated sewage by the residential/commercial establishment.

6. It is respectfully submitted that as per the counter affidavit filed on behalf of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Palar Basin Circle, WRD, Chepauk, Chennai – 5 incorporating the Joint Committee report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (sz), Chennai, the following were planned by CMWSSB to curtail the discharge of untreated sewage into Veerangal canal.

**Immediate Action Plan on Pollution Abatement:**

7. It is respectfully submitted that the Area Engineer, CMWSSB explained that the Board is having proposal to intercept the sewage flow at all these storm drains by construction of Weeping Weirs and pump the sewage from that point to the existing sewage treatment facilities located in the foreshore area of the tank. This immediate action will reduce the pollution load in the tank and in turn to pollution abatement to the downstream Velachery drain.

**Long Term Remedial Measures:**

8. It is respectfully submitted that the CMWSSB has proposed to prevent the sewage out flow into Velachery Lake by plugging of sewage outfalls into Velachery Lake by providing gravity sewer at Kakkan Nagar Main Road, Bavani Nagar, Raj Bhavan Canal and Gupta Bhavan in Depot 177 in the Area XIII.

  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

7

9. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in its order dated 15.03.2021, has directed inter alia as follows:

*Para 7: "The Pollution Control Board also did not mention anything about further action to be taken to avoid discharge of sewage into the drains which ultimately reaches the lake. In one of the points where the sample was collected the faecal coliform is found to be very high. The Corporation did not file any independent statement as to what are the steps taken by them to avoid such things and what are the remedial measures that they are going take in future to avoid floods being happening in Velachery area. When this was pointed out, the Learned Counsel for the State as well as other respondents wanted some more time to come up with proper holistic report. Further the Committee also had not filed the report so far as directed. Learned Counsel for the 12 State Department, who represent the Committee submitted that they will come up with proper report to this Tribunal if some more time is granted.*

10. It is respectfully submitted that adjacent to Veerangal canal, number of areas were not provided with underground sewerage system. If the CMWSSB provides proper collection and transportation arrangement for the discharge of the untreated sewage, from the unsewered areas and treat the same in the existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of CMWSSB which is operating nearby / provide a new STP of adequate capacity, the above problem can be avoided.

11. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT may direct the CMWSSB to devise a detailed plan for the implementation of the above

*J. for 2021 85*  
*21/1/22*  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

7

scheme immediately so as to curtail the contamination caused to Velachery Lake due to disposal of untreated sewage from unsewered area nearby.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such order as it may deem fit and proper in this case and thus render justice.

*J. Arjunan* 8/29/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032  
**BEFORE ME**

**VERIFICATION**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, D/o. P.M. Jesu Rajan working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

Verified at Chennai on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2021.

*J. Josephine Sahayarani* 8/29/2021

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 33 of  
2020 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu  
based on the news item in Dinamalar  
Chennai newspaper dated: 10.02.2020,  
"Stagnation of Drainage Water in  
Velachery, Velachery Canal-People suffer  
from Respiratory Problem"

...Applicant

**Vs**

1. The District Collector,  
Chennai District.
2. The Chairman,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
3. The Commissioner,  
Greater Chennai Corporation.
4. The Superintending Engineer,  
Water Resource Organisation,  
Public Works Department.

...Respondents

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU**  
**POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

Advocate for the Respondent: TNPCB  
Tr. S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai

Date: 06.09.2021

Date of Hearing: 13.09.2021