

“Officials say bio-mining over at Pallavaram Lake, here’s the truth”

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Officials say bio-mining over at Pallavaram Lake, here’s the truth

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Chennai: The Pallavaram municipality has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) southern zone that it has completed bio-mining of solid waste dumped at Pallavaram Lake but photos taken by TOI show large quantities of solid waste still at the site.

Bio-mining is the process of converting garbage into useful resources with the help of bio-organisms, air and sunlight. The municipality, during the hearing on July 16, claimed it has completed the bio-mining process when in reality it had dealt with only a portion of the accumulated waste.

In its submission to the NGT, the local body claimed that it estimated around 1 lakh cubic metres of waste was dumped at the site and that a private firm named Sigma Global Environ Solutions Private Limited was engaged for bio-mining. It added that the firm, on July 31, completed the work.

TOI’s visit on Saturday showed the water body was still covered with waste. When TOI asked about it, municipality officials acknowledged that there was still solid waste covering the water body. A source from the local body said the private firm dealt with only 1 lakh cubic metres of waste, the initial estimate for which work orders were issued. Now, the municipality has



IF WASTE WAS DEALT WITH, WHAT’S THIS? A site visit by TOI showed tonnes of solid waste still spread over Pallavaram lake on Saturday

approached Anna University for help to estimate the quantity of remaining waste to issue fresh work orders. This aspect of the issue was excluded from its submissions to NGT.

David Manohar, a civic activist from Arappor Iyakkam, said tonnes of waste have been left untouched on the southern side of the lake. “The garbage heaps have been spread out evenly over the area to make it appear like they have been cleared,” he charged.

Even the spread out waste is at least 10 feet above the water level. This means surrounding localities will get flooded again during rain from October to December, he added.

The municipality has also sub-

mitted to NGT that illegal sewage inlets into the Pallavaram Periya Eri have been plugged, a claim Pallavaram residents disputed.

During the hearing, the tribunal had pulled up Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the joint-committee set up to look into the matter for not complying with its orders and submitting a status report. The lethargic attitude of the authorities was severely criticised in the past too and there has been no improvement despite that, NGT noted. All concerned authorities were then directed to file their reports before the next hearing (August 31), failing which they will be asked to appear before the tribunal to offer an explanation, it said.

CHENNAI: The Pallavaram municipality has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) southern zone that it has completed biomining of solid waste dumped at Pallavaram Lake but photos taken by TOI show large quantities of solid waste still at the site. Bio-mining is the process of converting garbage into useful resources with the help of bio-organisms, air and sunlight. The municipality, during the hearing on July 16, claimed it has completed the bio-mining process when in reality it had dealt with only a portion of the accumulated waste. In its submission to the NGT, the local body claimed that it estimated around 1 lakh cubic metres of waste was dumped at the site and that a private firm named Sigma Global Environ Solutions Private Limited was engaged for biomining. It added that the firm, on July 31, completed the work.

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