

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTH ZONE, CHENNAI

O.A. NO. 38 OF 2020(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

Tribunal in its own motion SUO MOTO

Based on the News Item in the New Indian

Express, Chennai edition dated 13.02.2020.

“Devikulam Once a haven, now on death row” ..Applicant

Vs

1. The District Collector

Chennai District and 4 others

..Respondents

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE 5TH RESPONDENT

I, Abhishek Verma Son of Shri. Ashok Kumar, Hindu aged about 30 years working as Divisional Engineer/EAST/MAS, SOUTHERN RAILWAY, CHENNAI-3 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the 5th Respondent herein as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case.
2. I humbly submit that in order to solve the environmental issue in Devikulam Lake, an estimate has been prepared which involve the following works.
 - a) Construction of fencing along Ennore High road to prevent dumping of garbage on the bank slopes of the lake. The fencing will be constructed using concrete sleepers released from Railway tracks. The total length of the fencing will be 750m along Ennore High road. The fencing will help to prevent dumping of garbage by the public in the area.
 - b) Strengthening of canal connecting Devikulam Lake & Buckingham canal. At present, there is one kachcha drain which connects Devikulam Lake to Buckingham canal through two numbers of culverts available under Ennore High road & Manali High road. It is therefore proposed to provide proper drainage by clearing the kachcha drain and providing pitching arrangement in canal for proper flow of water. The length of the canal will be 300m.

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D.ई.पू. / चेन्नै
दक्षिण रेलवे / Southern Railway
चेन्नै / Chennai-600 003.

c) Strengthening of Lake Embankment slopes-presently earthen embankment is available in the lake which leads to unwanted vegetation growth. It is therefore proposed to provide pitching arrangement on bank side slopes.

d) Desilting of the lake- In order to improve the natural drainage, it is proposed to desilt the entire lake using submersible dredger to remove the silt accumulated on the bed of the Lake.

e) Removal of vegetation & debris from the Lake & embankment respectively.

3. I humbly submit that the approximate cost of the works is Rs. 1.2 crores and the estimate is under the scrutiny of competent authority for sanction. After obtaining sanction and vetting of detailed estimate by accounts department of Railway, tender will be called on priority for execution of above mentioned works. Hence in the interest of justice this Hon'ble tribunal may please to extend 6 months time to report the status of development in the aforesaid works. In fact there was no cooperation from the corporation and Highways department on the other hand the corporation workers dumping the garbage in and around the lake (Photographs annexed as Ex R-).

4. It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble tribunal may be pleased to extend time of 6 months to complete the aforesaid work by getting sanction for cost of the work from the competent authority, pass suitable order and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this

24th day of march 2021 and signed his

name in my presence.

मं. ई. / पूर्व / चेन्नै
DEN / East / MAS
दक्षिण रेलवे / Southern Railway
चेन्नै / BEFORE ME
600-003.

R. J. Arora
MS / 21/6 / 2021

ADVOCATE/CHENNAI



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चेन्नै/Chennai-600



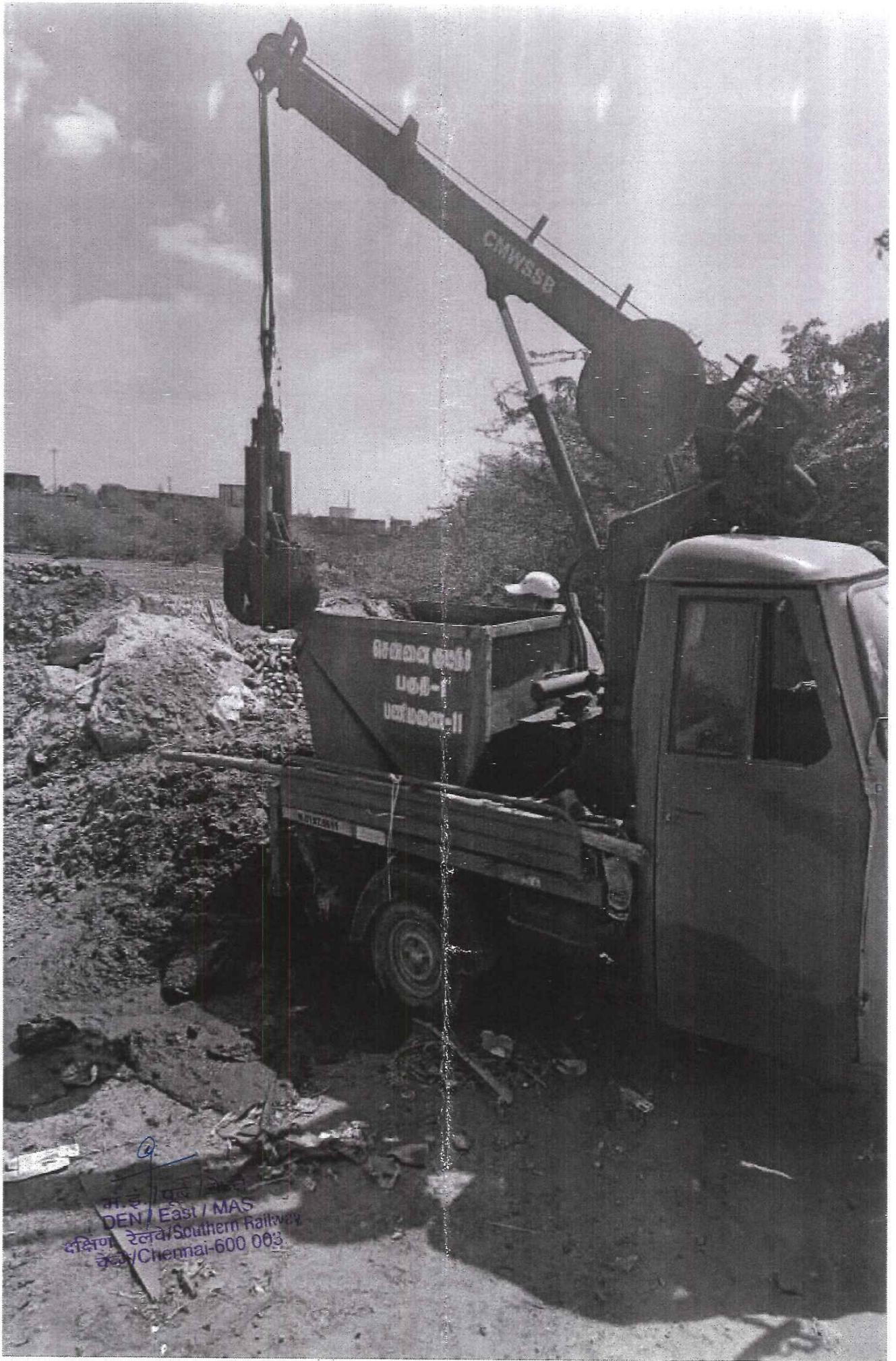
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சென்னை
DEN / East / MAS
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சென்னை / Chennai-600 003.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

M/CW/313/EnHM/NGT

Divisional Railway

Manager's Office

Works branch, Chennai-3

Date: 26.02.2021

Zonal officer

Tiruvottiyur

Sub: Tiruvottiyur Devikulam Lake- NGT case- Reg

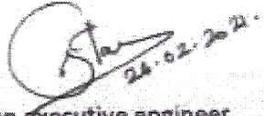
With reference to the above subject, this is to bring to your kind notice that, Devi-kulam Lake is situated in Tiruvottiyur adjacent to Ennore High road NGT has taken up a case suo - motto regarding degradation of Devi-kulam Lake and discharge of water from Lake to Buckingham canal.

In the subsequent hearing of the case at NGT, Railway has proposed an action plan for Rejuvenation of Lake and providing proper drainage for surplus water from the lake to Buckingham canal, As a part of the action plan submitted by railway, it is proposed to de-silt the lake & removal of vegetation from the lake. It is to inform you that there has been unscrupulous dumping of garbage by public & local authorizes along the bank of the lake parallel to Ennore High road.

It is therefore requested to kindly take necessary precaution to prevent the dumping of garbage at the said location. Railways has initiated a proposal to attend environmental concerns in Devi-kulam Lake and the same is under approval of competent authority

Further in order to improve the drainage of surplus water from the lake to Buckingham canal de-silting of culvert available in the Ennore High Road is important and same has to be completed the GCC.

Therefore necessary co-operation from GCC is solicited in this regard.


26.02.2021
Division executive engineer
EAST/MAS-DIVISION

Copy to:- DRM/MAs , CPM/MAS
Lawyer ,DY/CE/Planning



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RESPONDENT**

**K. MUTHAMIL RAJA
COUNSEL FOR 5TH RESPONDENT**