

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 40 of 2020 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu initiated
proceedings based on the News item published i
n The Time of India, Chennai edition dt.17.02.2020
Under the caption "Sewage flows into surplus channel
In Kovilambakkam"

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The District Collector,
Chengalpattu District Collectorate Office,
Chengalpattu District and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

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Filed by
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INSPECTION REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE) IN RESPECT OF O.A NO. 40 OF 2020 (SZ), TAKEN ON ITS OWN MOTION SUO MOTU ON THE BASIS OF THE NEWS PAPER REPORT PUBLISHED IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 17.02.2020 UNDER THE CAPTION "SEWAGE FLOWS INTO SURPLUS CHANNEL IN KOVILAMBAKKAM"

1. ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL

It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai in its order dated.20.02.2020 in the matter of O.A.No.40 of 2020 has passed the following order:

"It is alleged in the report that the residents of sunnamu - kolathur in Kovilambakkam Panchayat on the southern fringe of Chennai are battling stench rising from the Kilkattalai lake surplus channel.

It is also alleged in the report that untreated sewage is being discharged in that channel affecting the ground water quality and this leads to Medavakkam Lake and thereby affecting the water quality in the lake as well. Though complaints were made to the authorities, no action was taken by them.

There is a duty cast on the local body not to discharge untreated sewage into water channel thereby affecting the water quality especially when it reaches, a lake namely kilkattalai and Narayanapuram Lake.

The allegation in the report shows that more than 18 million litres of sewage from a residential area is being pumped into the drain without any treatment which ultimately reaches the above two lakes causing pollution

On going through the paper report, we are satisfied that there arises a Substantial question of environment requiring the interference of this Tribunal for solving the same. It is a well settled principle of law that no one is entitled to discharge untreated Sewage into a drain which ultimately reaches a water body. None has got right to pollute the water bodies as well. There is a duty cast on local bodies to maintain a sewage drain properly and make them pollution free as well. If untreated sewage is let into the drainage then it will not only affect the healthy atmosphere of the area but also affect the water quality of the lake where it reaches.

So, under such circumstances in order to ascertain the present status and also action to be taken by the authorities. we feel it appropriate to appoint a Joint Committee comprising of the District Collector, Chengalpattu District, Block Development Officer, Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat, Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNSPCB) and the Commissioner, Pallavaram Municipality to inspect the area in question and submit a factual and action taken report, and if there is any action plan to be Prepared to solve the issue, then prepare the action plan and also suggest remedial measures with shorter timeline.

The Commissioner, Pallavaram Municipality will act as the nodal officer for coordination and for providing all necessary logistics for this purpose."

In order dated.28.10.2020, the Tribunal has directed the following orders

3. *"We have received the report submitted by the Commissioner, Pallavaram Municipality stating that the area was inspected on 12.8.2020 and the subject matter was not within the purview of Pallavaram Municipality and it was informed to the Pollution Control Board.*

According to the Pallavaram Municipality, the closet point to the surplus channel is the Kilkattalai Eri which is in the eastern periphery of Pallavaram Municipal limits and they have already taken steps to arrest the sewage and solid waste into the lake. The sewage treatment plant was proposed to be established and 90% of the work has been completed. Further, outflows into Kilkattalai Eri were stopped even in the year 2018 when the underground drainage system was completed in the Pallavaram area. They have further mentioned that the other part of the work has to be done by Kovilampakkam Panchayat and other Departments

4. *It may be mentioned here that the District Collector, Chengalpet District and Block Development Officer, Kovilampakkam Village Panchayat are also Members of the committee. If it falls within the jurisdiction of Kovilampakkam Panchayat, then the Block Development Officer has to give an action plan as to how they are going to remedy the situation by avoiding the sewage being discharged into the water body. The committee has not submitted the report so far. The fourth respondent – Block Development Officer is directed to cooperate with the committee and come with an action plan as to how the situation raised in the newspaper is going to be dealt with by them within their Panchayat to protect the water body from being polluted by discharging untreated sewage"*

In order dated.04.01.2021, the Tribunal has directed the following orders

5. *"However, considering the circumstances, we feel that some more time can be granted. The District Collector, Chengalpet District and also the Block Development Officer, Kovilampakkam Panchayat Union are directed to submit their independent report regarding the situation and also to remedy the situation as well*
7. *The Committee as well as the respondents are directed to submit their independent response and report respectively. The Pollution Control Board is also directed to file their independent action taken report for non-compliance of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and discharge of untreated sewage into the water body. They are directed to submit the report as well as independent response as directed on or before 4.2.2021 to this Tribunal by e-filing at ngtszfiling@gmail.com."*

2. COMPLIANCE OF THE DIRECTION

In due compliance of the said Hon'ble National Green Tribunal direction, surface water samples from the Keelkattakalai Lake on 27/07/2020 and Narayanapuram Lake on 28/07/2020 were collected so as to ascertain the present water quality in the said water body

Statement showing the value of the Physico chemical parameters analyzed

Sl.No	Parameters	Units	Point of Collection	Point of Collection	TNPCB Standards (Inland Surface Water)
			Keelkatalai Lake	Narayanapuram Lake	
1	pH @ 25°C	No.	8.83	8.30	5.5-9
2	Total Suspended Solids @ 105°C	mg/L	14	20	100
3	Total Dissolved Solids @ 180°C	mg/L	860	719	2100
4	BOD @ 27°C	mg/L	8	14	30
5	COD	mg/L	72	160	250
6	Copper as Cu	mg/L	<0.033	<0.033	3
7	Zinc as Zn	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	1
8	Cadmium as Cd	mg/L	<0.013	<0.013	2
9	Lead as Pb	mg/L	<0.07	<0.07	0.1
10	Nickel as Ni	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	3
11	Total Chromium Cr	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	2
12	Hexavalent Chromium Cr ⁺⁶	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	0.1
13	D.O	mg/L	6.6	6.30	5mg/l and above

Statement showing the value of the Bacteriological parameters analyzed

Sl.No	Parameters	Units	Point of Collection	Point of Collection	Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board
			Keelkatalai Lake	Narayanapuram Lake	
1	Total Coliform	MPN /100 ml	130	110	500 or less.
2	Faecal Coliform	MPN /100 ml	<1.8	<1.8	500 (desirable) 2500 (Maximum Permissible)

The Report of analysis of the water sample collected from the said water bodies reveals that the Physico chemical parameters analysed satisfy the Inland surface water standards prescribed by the Board.

Furthermore the water samples collected from the **Keelkatalai Lake & Narayanapuram Lake** analysed for Bacteriological parameter Total Coliform and Faecal Coliform meets the Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board.

3. DETAILS FROM BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ST. THOMAS MOUNT PANCHAYAT UNION

In due compliance of the said Hon'ble National Green Tribunal direction, the Block Development Officer, St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union furnishes the following details:

Nanmangalam Village Panchayat

1.	Total Area of the Nanmangalam Village Panchayat :	10.00 Sq Km
2.	Total Population of the Village Panchayat :	30906
3.	No. of Wards	9
4.	Solid waste generation :	12 T/ day
5.	Sewage generation:	1.5 MLD

Moovarasampet Village Panchayat

1.	Total Area of the Moovarasampet Village Panchayat :	61.56 Acre
2.	Total Population of the Village Panchayat :	10368
3.	No. of Wards	12
4.	Solid waste generation :	8 T/ day
5.	Sewage generation:	0.6 MLD

Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat

1.	Total Area of the Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat :	8.00 Sq Km
2.	Total Population of the Village Panchayat :	52600
3.	Solid waste generation :	15 T/ day
4.	The surplus channel in the area in question traverses through habitations of Kovilambakkam Village Panchayat Area	i. Engineers Avenue ii. Bakkialakshmi Nagar iii. Kagithapuram iv. Indrajit Avenue v. Ecchankadu
5.	Household in the above said area of the said Village Panchayat area :	1800 Nos. out of 11580 Nos.
6.	No of Wards located nearby the surplus channel:	Ward No.1 and 2 of the 12 wards of the Village Panchayat.
7.	Total Generation of sewage in the said areas:	1MLD

SEWAGE GENERATION AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM:**Present method of collection and mode of disposal of sewage:**

The households and commercial establishments in the above said village panchayat areas area i.e. Nanmangalam village panchayat, Moovarasampet village panchayat and Kovilambakkam village panchayat have their own individual septic tank and soak pit arrangements for the treatment and disposal of the sewage. However certain households/ commercial establishments dispose the sewage/sullage through storm water drains which reach the said surplus channel.

Status of Surplus channel passing through the areas in Kovilambakkam:

PWD is carrying out the construction of retaining walls all along the said surplus channel for strengthening the bund and to avoid the flow of sewage into the said channel.

Monitoring of said Surplus channel passing through areas in Kovilambakkam:

1. Notices will be issued to the Public and to Households if found disposal of the sewage/sullage waste water into the said surplus channel and necessary fine will be levied on the violators under the provisions of the Local Body Act.
2. Warning boards will be placed at the fringes of the said surplus channel to prevent the disposal of sewage/sullage waste water into the said surplus channel.
3. Sanitary staffs will be posted in the said channel throughout the day to carry out monitoring activities regularly to prevent disposal of sewage/sullage waste water into the said surplus channel.

4. JOINT INSPECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The members of the joint committee have carried out the inspection in the area in question on 12/08/2020 and 28/01/2021.



Kelkattalai Eri



Kelkattalai Eri Surplus weir



Pallavaram Pumping station near Kelkattalai Eri



Sewage from Kovilambakkam area into surplus channel



Discharge of sewage from Nanmangalam Area



Kovilambakkam surplus channel



Discharge of sewage from Kelkattalai,
Moovarasanpet and Madipakkam Area



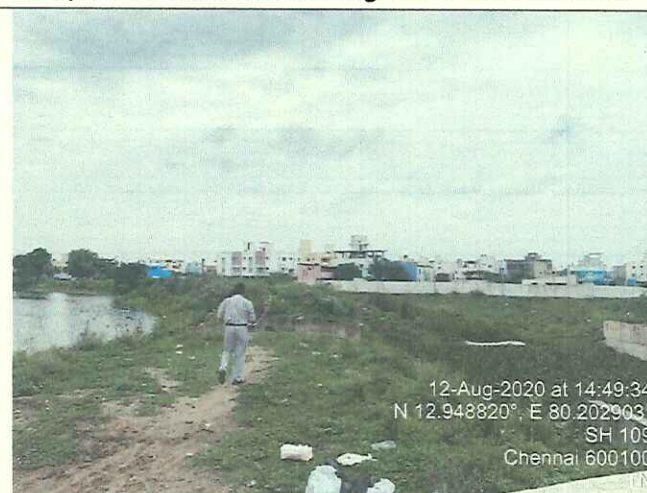
Discharge of sewage from Kelkattalai,
Moovarasanpet and Madipakkam Area



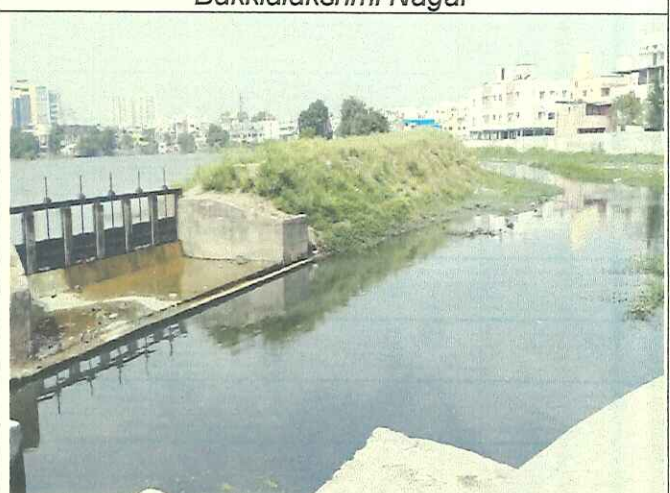
Surplus Channel in the Engineers avenue area



Bakkialakshmi Nagar



Overflow (weir outlet) of Narayanapuram lake
into surplus channel



Surplus water from Narayanapuram Eri joining
the surplus channel



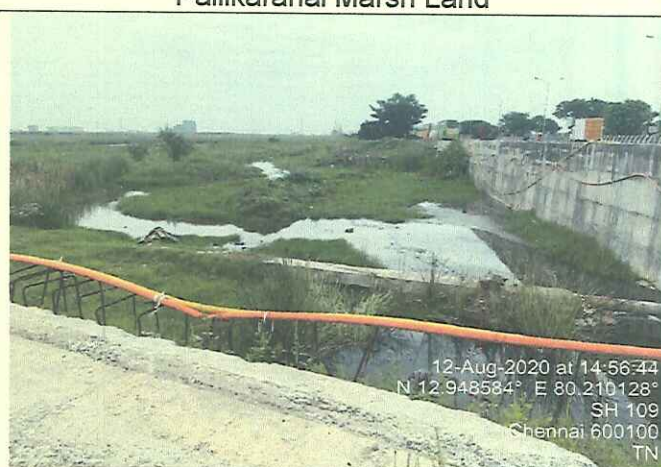
Surplus water from Narayanapuram Eri joining the surplus channel



Cut and cover channel provided for the conveyance of the surplus water to the Pallikaranai Marsh Land



Surplus channel leading to Pallikaranai Marsh near Tambaram Velachery bypass Road



Surplus Channel confluence with Pallikaranai Marsh land

5. OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

During the time of inspection, the committee observed the following

1. The channel carrying surplus water from Putheri Eri of Pallavaram Municipality, Nanmangalam Eri and Kelkattalai Eri traverse through Boopathy Nagar, Engineers Avenue of Kovilambakkam, Sunnambu Kolathur area and Narayanapuram area and then reach Pallikaranai Marsh land. Topo sketch is as follows



2. The Pallavaram Tank and Keelkattalai Tank is being ren^urenated under World Bank Fund with TNSUDP Scheme at a cost of Rs.14.98/- Crores and the work is completed. The sewage water from the pumping station is being pumped to Perungudi STP and hence the sewage water entry into the surplus course of Keelkattalai Tank is not possible. All the house hold within the zone of Pallavapuram Municipality is covered with sewer connection and being conveyed to keelkattalai pumping station
3. Sewage out fall was noticed from Nanmangalam, Moovarasampet, Kovilambakkam village Panchayat area of St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union, Kelkattakalai of Pallavaram Municipality area and from some areas of Madipakkam of Zone XII of Greater Chennai Corporation.
4. Nanmangalam, Moovarasampet, Kovilambakkam village Panchayat area of St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union are not having any solid waste processing facility for handling the solid waste generated from its local body area.
5. PWD has completed the construction of retaining walls all along the said surplus channel for strengthening the bund and to avoid the flow of sewage into the said channel to a length of 520m out of 1778m which includes cut and cover channel from Narayanapuram Eri to Pallikaranai Marsh land and the remaining is expected to be completed within six months.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the above observation, the Joint Committee submits the following recommendation before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone)

01. The Block development officer, St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union shall prepare action plan to intercept, transport, treat and disposal of the sewage generated from its local body area of Nanmangalam, Moovarasanpattu, Kovilambakkam village Panchayat within three months and shall implement the same within one year.
02. The Commissioner, Pallavaram Municipality shall stop the overflow of sewage from the underground sewer network in the Kelkattalai area into the surplus channel immediately.
03. The Zonal Officer, Zone XII, Greater Chennai Corporation shall prepare action plan to intercept, transport, treat and disposal of the sewage generated from some areas in Madipakkam of Zone XII within three months and shall implement the same within six months.
04. The Block development officer, St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union shall prepare action plan for treatment and disposal of Solid waste as per the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 from its local body area of Nanmangalam, Moovarasanpattu, Kovilambakkam village Panchayat within three months and shall implement the same within six months.
05. PWD shall expedite and complete the construction of retaining walls all along the said surplus channel for strengthening the bund and to avoid the flow of sewage into the said channel within six months.


Block
Development
Officer, St.
Thomas Mount
Panchayat
Union


Commissioner,
Pallavaram
Municipality


District
Environmental
Engineer, Tamil
Nadu Pollution
Control Board,
Maraimalai Nagar


Revenue
Divisional
Officer,
Tambaram,
Chengalpet
District.


District Collector,
Chengalpattu
District

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**INSPECTION REPORT OF THE JOINT
COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE
HON'BLE NGT(SZ) IN RESPECT OF
NGT ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.40
OF 2020**

**Advocate for Respondent No.TNPCB
Thiru. C. Kasirajan.**

Date:06.02.2021.