

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 56 of 2020 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
Based on the News Item in Chennai Express
Newspaper dated 04.03.2020, Chennai Supplementary
“Sithalapakkam Lake in need of succour”.

...Applicant

Vs

The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Public Works Department,
Govt. Secretariat,
Fort St. George,
Chennai and others.

...Respondent(s)

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Filed by

Tr. Sai Sathya Jith

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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 6th RESPONDENT
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, D/o. Jesu Rajan, Christian, aged about 57 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 this Action Taken Report on behalf of the 6th 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 NGT in its order dt.07.02.2022 directed inter alia as follows:

"Para 11: .. we reconstitute the existing committees as follows:

- (1) District Collector, Chengalpattu District or his nominee not below the rank of Assistant Collector/Sub Divisional Magistrate as nominated by the District Collector, (2) a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board as deputed by its Chairman, (3) The Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department (PWD) and Water Resources Organisation (WRO), Palar River Basin Circle, Chepauk, Chennai and (4) the Block Development Officer, St. Thomas Mount Panchayath Union, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai to inspect this lake and to ascertain the*

J. Josephine Sahayarani
17/8/2022

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,

genuineness of the allegations made in the newspaper report and if there is any violation found, they are directed to file the factual as well as action taken report in this regard.

Para 12: They are directed to ascertain

(i) the original extent of the lake as per the original revenue records of pre-independent era,

(ii) Whether the area has been reduced due to illegal encroachment and if so, what is the nature of action taken

(iii) whether any garbage is dumped in the lake area by Sithalappakkam Panchayath and if so, what is the nature of action taken.

(iv) Whether the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the directions issued by the Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in O.A. No. 606 of 2018 are being implemented in that area and if not, what is the nature of action taken as directed by the Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal in that regard.

(v) Whether any illegal discharge of sewage is happening and if so, locate the source of drainage and illegal discharge and mention what the nature of action taken .

(vi) If there is any damage caused to the lake and also the environment, the committee is directed to assess the damage caused to the environment and also assess the environmental compensation apart from suggesting the methods to restore the water bodies to its original position.

3. It is respectfully submitted that, subsequently the Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 29.07.2022 has directed as follows:

“Para 4: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board is directed to file an independent report regarding the nature of encroachment, (if any) discharge of untreated sewage into the lake or dumping of waste and violation of Solid Waste/Liquid Waste Management in that area and also suggest the action taken and remediation if any, required, to be carried out by the respective departments while submitting the report. They must

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also take water sample and submit a result of analysis so as to ascertain the quality of the water in the lake and they are directed to submit the report to this Tribunal”.

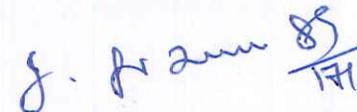
4. It is respectfully submitted that, to comply with the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) orders, the said area in question was inspected by the Joint Committee on 07.06.2022. During inspection the following observations made:

- i. The said lake was provided fencing on the Western side and Northern side and it was reported by the PWD that they are identifying encroachment in the lake.
- ii. No Solid Waste was found dumped on the borders of the lake.
- iii. Sewage from the residential and commercial areas are found discharged into the lake and the lake partly covered by water hyacinth.
- iv. The Solid waste generated from the Sithalapakkam area are collected and sent to Kolathur Dumpsite located at Kattangulathur Block of Chengalpattu District.

5. It is respectfully submitted that, the water sample was collected from the said area in question (Sithalapakkam lake) on 02/08/2022 and sent to TNPCB laboratory for analysis for the pollutant parameters such as pH, DO, BOD, Total Coliform to assess the quality of water in the said water body and report of analysis is tabulated below:

Statement showing the value of the Physicochemical parameters analysed:

| Sl. No | Parameters | Units | Point of Collection | Bathing Water standards (Designated Best Use Water Quality Criteria) |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------|--|
| | | | Sithalapakkam Lake | |
| 1 | pH @ 25°C | No. | 7.16 | 6.5-8.5 |
| 2 | Total Suspended Solids @ 105°C | mg/L | 38 | - |
| 3 | Total Dissolved Solids @ 180°C | mg/L | 639 | - |
| 4 | BOD @ 27°C | mg/L | 40 | 3 mg/l or less |
| 5 | COD | mg/L | 256 | - |
| 6. | D.O | mg/L | 3.5 | 5 mg/l and above |


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Statement showing the value of the Bacteriological parameters analysed:

| Sl. No | Parameters | Units | Point of Collection | Designated Best Use Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board |
|--------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | Sithalapakkam Lake | |
| 1 | Total Coliform | MPN /100 ml | 320 | 500 or less. |
| 2 | Faecal Coliform | MPN /100 ml | 40 | - |

6. It is respectfully submitted that, the report of analysis of the water samples collected from the said water body reveals that the Physico chemical parameters analysed namely BOD exceeds the bathing water standards prescribed by the CPCB. The D.O is less than the desired level. Furthermore the water sample collected from the Sithalapakkam lake were analysed for Bacteriological parameter reveals that Total Coliform meets the Designated Best Use Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board.

7. It is respectfully submitted that, the TNPCB has already issued directions to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation vide proceeding dated 18.06.2021 to comply with the following conditions within three months, among other things:

- i. The Municipality shall complete the underground sewerage system for the unsewered area and to ensure that the untreated sewage presently let into nearby land and water bodies shall be stopped and to ensure 100 % treatment of sewage.

Meanwhile, during inspection it was observed that sewage from the residential and commercial areas are discharged into the lake and the lake partly covered by water hyacinth. Hence, the Board addressed a letter dated 17.08.2022 to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to comply with the following:

- i. Immediate action shall be taken to plug/divert all the sewage outfall points in and around Sithalapakkam lake to prevent disposal of untreated sewage into the said lake.

J. Prasad
17/8/2022
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
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ii. Action plan shall be furnished within a month to provide Underground Sewerage System with STP to treat the sewage generated from Sithalapakkam areas.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

J. Josephine Sahayarani
17/8/2022

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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CHENNAI - 600 032.

BEFORE ME

VERIFICATION

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, D/o. 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.

J. Josephine Sahayarani
17/8/2022

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TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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...Respondents

**Report filed on behalf of the
Respondent – Tamil Nadu Pollution
Control Board**

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

Date: 17.08.2022

Date of hearing: 18.08.2022