

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

**Original Application No.61 of 2020 (SZ)  
With  
Original Application No.54 of 2020 (SZ)**

S.P. Surendranath Karthik

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Secretary,  
Indian Railway Welfare Organization and others

....Respondent(s)

With

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu  
based on the News item in Dinamalar  
Newspaper dt. 02.03.2020, Chennai Supplementary,  
"Ambattur Lake getting polluted due to sewage water"

Versus

The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Public Works Department,  
Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent

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**Filed by  
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai**



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...Respondent

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, Daughter of Jesu Rajan, Christian, aged about 56 years, having 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 Report on behalf of the 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 dated 01.12.2021 directed inter alia as follows:

*J. Josephine Sahayarani*  
18/12/22  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

*“The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNCPB) is also directed to file an independent action taken report against the Avadi City Municipal Corporation as well as the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Ayapakkam for the alleged illegalities committed by them and submit a report to this Tribunal”.*

3. Further, the Hon’ble NGT in its order dated 07.02.2022 in O.A. No. 61 Of 2020 (SZ) with O.A. No. 54 of 2020 (SZ) has directed inter alia that:

*“Para 8. The District Collector – Thiruvallur District, Block Development Officer – Villivakkam Panchayat Union and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board are directed to file further independent reports regarding the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and compliance of the directions issued by the Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in O.A. No.606 of 2018 in Villivakkam Panchayat Union and action taken for implementation of the same and the remedial measures taken by them to curb/prevent pollution being caused to the Ambattur Lake and if there is any gap, what is the nature of further action taken in this regard and if not, further coercive steps taken by the State Pollution Control Board namely the regulators for non-implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 within that jurisdiction.*

*Para 10. The above said officials are directed to file their respective reports to this Tribunal on or before 17.03.2022”.*

4. It is further submitted that, in the mean time the Hon’ble NGT in the Order dated 17.02.2022 in O.A. No. 61 Of 2020 (SZ) with O.A. No. 54 of 2020 (SZ) has directed inter alia that:

*“Para 2. In the mean time, we came across a news paper report published in “The Times of India, Times City”, Chennai Edition dated 23.12.2021, Under the caption “Corporation Park turns dump yard in Mogappair”.*

*Para 3. It was mentioned there in that the waste is being dumped in the Corporation park along Parry Road at Mogappair East and no*

*J. J. Suresh*  
17/3/2022  
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steps are being taken for the purpose of removing the same. Though it was mentioned that CCTV Cameras will be put in those areas, the same has not been implemented so far is the grievance.

Para 4. We have also come across with another newspaper report published in the same newspaper dated 23.12.2021, Under the Caption **“GCC to set monthly target for officials to fine those littering”**.

Para 5. It is seen from the newspapers report that large scale dumping of waste is seen on the road sides including the construction debris and this is a recurring affair, but no steps were taken to remedy the situation. Though they were giving certain assurances that they wanted carry out the remedial measures to avoid such things from recurring, no concrete step were taken by them.

Para 6. There was also another newspaper report published in **“The Times of India”** **“Times City”** Chennai Edition dated 03.12.2021 Under the Caption **“City Stinks as garbage remains piled up for days”**. That is how these cases have been advanced today for consideration of newspaper reports and direct the regulators to file their action taken report in this regard.

Para 7. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as well as Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) are directed to file their independent report regarding allegations in the newspaper reports and the action taken in this regard and the remedial measures to avoid such things being recurring in future.

Para 9. The Greater Chennai Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) are directed to file the respective reports to this Tribunal on or before **17.03.2022”**.

5. It is respectfully submitted that, in order to comply the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 07.02.2022 & 17.02.2022, the Ambattur Lake area was inspected by the Officials of o/o. the DEE, TNPCB Tiruvallur on 11.03.2022 along with officials of Villivakkam Panchayat Union. During the inspection the following were observed:

*J. J. Kumar* 85  
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i. It was observed that leakage/overflow of sewage from the manholes of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) constructed in the TNHB residential area, Ayappakkam by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, was being let into the Ambattur lake near Plot No. 4861, 7904, 8067 and 12<sup>th</sup> main road (Plot No. 9260) of Housing Board, Ayappakkam.

ii. The TNHB common STP provided for the treatment of sewage generated from Ayappakkam Tamil Nadu Housing Board colony was in operation without obtaining consent of the Board and the same is being operated by the Executive Engineer, J.J. Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thirumangalam, Chennai-600 101.

iii. It was also observed that sewage/sullage water are being let into the Ambattur lake directly through earthen drain in the areas of Moontru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar, Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy nagar in Thirumullaivoyal Village as mentioned in the earlier joint committee inspection report.

iv. In addition to that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has recently constructed the storm water drain in Sivasakthi nagar, Annai Anjugam nagar and Gangai Amman nagar which carries the sullage water and let into the Ambattur lake.

v. The solid wastes were found dumped along the south west bunds of the Ambattur Lake at 12<sup>th</sup> main road of Tamil Nadu Housing Board colony, Ayappakkam and also solid wastes were found dumped in some pockets on both side bunds of Ayappakkam surplus channel which leads to Ambattur lake.

vi. In this regard, Villivakkam Panchayat Union has been instructed to initiate door to door collection and to handle the solid wastes in a scientific manner by setting up of Solid waste processing and disposal facility as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 for the Villivakkam Panchayat Union.

vii. Also, solid wastes were found dumped in the foreshore area of the lake in the Moontru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar, Sathya

*J. for 2000/07*  
*17/05/22*

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Nagar) and Ganapathy nagar in Thirumullaivoyal village, which falls under the jurisdiction of Avadi City Municipal Corporation.

viii. No industrial estates/Industries are located in the vicinity all along the Ambattur lake boundry. During inspection it was noticed that there was no discharge of industrial trade effluent into the Ambattur Lake.

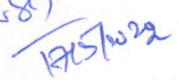
**Status of Compliance regarding discharge of Sewage/Sullage into the Ambattur Lake pertaining to the jurisdiction of O/o DEE, Tiruvallur:**

<b>Status on compliance of Short Term Plan as recommended by the Joint Committee Pertaining to the Local Bodies (BDO Villivakkam &amp; Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Ayappakkam Scheme and Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation)</b>			
<b>S.No . as per the JCR</b>	<b>Description of Work</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Present Status</b>
1.	Construction of sump in Moontru nagar and Ganapathy nagar area in Thirumullaivoyal Village and dispose of the sewage periodically.	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	<p>It was noticed that sewage/sullage water are being let into the Ambattur lake directly through earthen drain in the areas of Moondru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar, Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy nagar in Thirumullaivoyal Village as mentioned in the earlier joint committee inspection report.</p> <p>In addition to that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has recently constructed the storm water drain in the Sivasakthi nagar, Annai Anjugam nagar and Gangai Amman nagar which carries the sullage water and let into the Ambattur lake.</p> <p>Earlier, Direction was issued under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide Proceeding No. TNPCB/Ambattur</p>

*J. S. Kumar*  
17/05/22

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			<p>Estate/2019-2 dated 04.12.2019 for the disposal of untreated domestic sewage into Ambattur lake from the Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar and Sathya Nagar of Avadi City Municipal Corporation into Ambattur lake, since these areas are not provided with Underground Sewerage System.</p> <p>As per the above Board's Proc. dated 04.12.2019, the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation was directed to comply the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avadi Corporation shall make necessary provision in Periyar Nagar, Sathya Nagar and Anna Nagar to pump the sewage into STP plant so as to stop the discharge of sewage into Ambattur Lake.</li> <li>2. Avadi Corporation shall ensure that no discharge of residential sewage into Ambattur Lake.</li> </ol> <p>The commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide its letter dated 16.12.2021 has reported that Construction of collection sump with pipeline arrangement at Moontru Nagar &amp; Ganapathi Nagar area in Thirumullaivoyal Village was delayed due to Covid pandemic and North East monsoon. The work will be started after monsoon period and the same will be completed by March 2022.</p>
2.	Providing drainage facilities for the residents of Moontru Nagar and Ganapathy Nagar area in Thirumullaivoyal Village.	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	<p>The Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not provided drainage facilities for the residents of Moontru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar and Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy Nagar area in Thirumullaivoyal Village.</p> <p>The commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide its letter dated 16.12.2021 has reported that for</p>

  
  
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			providing the 100% UGSS connections in Avadi City Municipal Corporation limit, Preparation of detailed Project Report for the left out area, work order issued to TWIC and the work is under progress. The execution of scheme will be completed by 2025.
3.	Ward No. 15 Jothi Nagar residents drainage water and grey water discharging to Ambattur Lake.	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	<p>The commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide its letter dated 16.12.2021 has reported that to stop the drainage water entering in to Ambattur lake, UGSS connections have been started where ever UGSS line available and the same will be completed by March 2022.</p> <p>The work was delayed due to Covid pandemic and North East monsoon. Hence the work will be started after monsoon period and the same will be completed by March 2022.</p>
4.	Ward No. 10, 11, 12 Cholambedu Main road residents drainage water and grey water discharging to Ambattur lake.	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	<p>The commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide its letter dated 16.12.2021 has reported that to stop the drainage water entering into Ambattur lake the UGSS connections has been started where ever UGSS line available and the same will be completed by March 2022.</p> <p>The work was delayed due to Covid pandemic an North East monsoon. So the work will be started after monsoon period and the same will be completed by March 2022.</p>

  
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5.	Plugging the illegal sewage inlets near plot No.4861, 7904, 8067 and 12th main road of Housing Board, Ayappakam and ensure the maintenance of STP Plant, Ayappakkam.	Block Development Officer, Villivakkam & Executive Engineer, Housing Board, Ayappakkam Scheme.	<p>Earlier during inspection on 22.07.2021 the joint committee observed that leakage/overflow of sewage from the manholes of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) constructed in the TNHB residential area, Ayappakkam by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board was being let into the Ambattur lake near Plot No. 4861, 7904, 8067 and 12<sup>th</sup> main road of Housing Board, Ayappakkam.</p> <p>In this regard, the Assistant Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Housing Board has earlier stated that since the underground sewerage system was provided while the Ayappakkam Tamil Nadu Housing Board colony was established, the silt already deposited should be removed periodically from the Underground Sewerage System to avoid overflow of sewage from the Underground Sewerage System manholes. Also suggested that the local body of Villivakkam Panchayat Union has to purchase desilting machine, sewer suction cum jet rodding machine to maintain the Underground Sewerage System in the said area to avoid overflow of sewage from the manhole.</p> <p>Earlier Consent to Establish was issued to the Commissioner, Villivakkam Panchayat Union to establish STP for TNHB Colony, Ayappakkam with 7 MLD capacity vide Proc. No. T7/TNPCB/F.7375/AMB/RL/W/2013 Dated: 10.03.2014.</p> <p>During earlier inspection on 22.07.2021 it was noticed that the TNHB common STP provided for the treatment of sewage generated from Ayappakkam Tamil Nadu Housing Board colony was in operation without obtaining consent to operate from the Board and the same is being operated by the Executive Engineer, J.J. Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thirumangalam, Chennai-600 101.</p> <p>Hence show cause notice was issued</p>
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			<p>to the TNHB common STP/BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union vide Proceedings No. DEE/TNPCB/TLR/F.TLR2004/RL/W&amp;A/2021 Date: 26.07.2021 for the violations stated therein.</p> <p>The BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union, Ambattur vide reply Letter R.C.No.2105/20/A6 dated 27.10.2021 for the show cause notice has reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2015, the Tamil Nadu Housing Board constructed a Sewage Treatment Plant at an estimate cost of Rs.13.87 crores at 7 MLD capacity for the treatment of sewage generated from TNHB area in Ayapakkam Panchayat and for 1500 TNHB Houses in Athipattu area which comes under the jurisdiction of Greater Corporation of Chennai Zone-VII and the treated sewage is let out in Tiruverkadu Cooum River area.</li> <li>2. The Sewage Treatment Plant was constructed 7 years ago and no proper maintenance has been carried out for the functioning of the plant and most of the motors in the plant are not functioning properly. Since only two motors functioning out of 5 motors, there is a constant overflow in the manhole of underground sewerage system from Ayapakkam TNHB Ward No. 2,6,8,9,10.</li> <li>3. It is estimated that it will cost around Rs.1.00 Crore to repair the Sewage Treatment Plant. For the maintenance of the Sewage Treatment Plant it costs around Rs.2.00 crores per anum approximately which is a heavy expenditure for the Ayapakkam</li> </ol>
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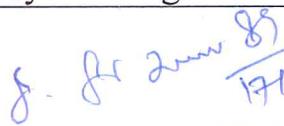
			<p>Panchayat which is a Rural Local Body whose major source of revenue is the State Finance Commission's Grant and the House tax collection from the Households of the Panchayat. Even though Ayappakkam Panchayat is thickly populated, the Panchayat Administration is maintaining Solid Waste Management and other activities with the limited resources and available funds. Proper functioning of the Sewage Treatment Plant is possible only after receiving necessary funds from Tamil Nadu Housing Board.</p> <p>During inspection on 11.03.2022, the following were observed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was noticed that leakage/overflow of sewage from the manholes of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) constructed in the TNHB residential area, Ayappakkam by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board was being let into the Ambattur lake near Plot No. 4861, 7904, 8067 and 12<sup>th</sup> main road of Housing Board, Ayappakkam.</li> <li>2. The Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) provided in the TNHB residential colony, Ayappakkam area was not maintained properly and frequent sewage overflow from UGSS manholes was noticed.</li> <li>3. The common STP-7MLD provided for the treatment of sewage generated from the TNHB residential colony, Ayappakkam was under operation without obtaining Consent to operate from the Board.</li> <li>4. The treated sewage from the TNHB</li> </ol>
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*J. Prasad* 8/3/22  
17/5/22

			<p>STP, Ayappakkam is being discharged directly into River Cooum without obtaining prior approval from Public Works Department (Water Resources) and Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT).</p> <p>5. The sludge dewatering system was not operated effectively and the sludge is stored in the sludge holding tank itself.</p> <p>6. The report of analysis (ROA) of the treated sewage sample collected from the outlet of TNHB STP, Ayappakkam on 22.07.2021 reveals that the parameters such as PH, TSS, BOD are within the standards prescribed by the Board and copy of the ROA is enclosed for kind reference.</p> <p>Further, the Report of Analysis (ROA) of the treated sewage sample collected from the outlet of TNHB STP, Ayappakkam on 10.12.2021 reveals that except pH, the parameters such as TSS, BOD are exceeding the standards prescribed by the Board</p>
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**Status on compliance of Long Term Plan as recommended by the Joint Committee Pertaining to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation:**

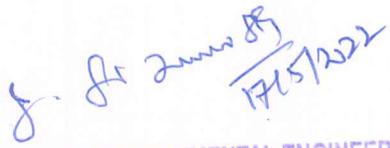
1.	Construction of Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) for Moontru nagar and Ganapathy nagar area in Thirumullaivoyal Village.	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	<p>The Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not provided drainage facilities for the residents of Moontru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar and Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy Nagar area in Thirumullaivoyal Village.</p> <p>It was noticed that sewage/sullage water are being let into the Ambattur lake directly through earthen drain in the areas of Moontru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar and Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy nagar in Thirumullaivoyal Village as mentioned</p>
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			<p>in the earlier joint committee inspection report.</p> <p>The commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide its letter dated 16.12.2021 has reported that for providing the 100% UGSS connections in the Avadi City Municipal Corporation limit, Preparation of Detailed Project Report for the left out area, Work order issued to TWIC and the work is under progress. The execution of scheme will be completed by 2025.</p>
2.	Construction of Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) for Ward No. 15 Jothi Nagar residents.	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	<p>The commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide its letter dated 16.12.2021 has reported that for providing the 100% UGSS connections in Avadi City Municipal Corporation limit, Preparation of Detailed Project Report for the left out area, Work order issued to TWIC and the work is under progress. The execution of scheme will be completed by 2025.</p>
3.	Construction of Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) for Ward No. 10, 11, 12 Cholambedu Main road residents	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	<p>The commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide its letter dated 16.12.2021 has reported that the Corporation has planned to construct five number of collection tanks to collect the all grey water in that respective area and it will be removed through sullage water tanker vehicle and disposal will be in their UGSS Pumping station. More over it has floated tender on 29.05.2020 for construction of five numbers of collection tanks and also work awarded on 01.07.2020 to the contractor M/s. K.K.R. Builders. The work will be started and the same will be completed by March 2022.</p>

**I. Action taken by TNPCB for the discharge of sewage into the Ambattur Lake and dumping solid waste along the Ambattur Lake by the Local Bodies:**

**1. Action against the Avadi City Municipal Corporation:**

  
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
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a) Details of directions issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation for the disposal of sewage into Ambattur lake

6. It is submitted that the following directions were issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 vide Proceeding No. TNPCB/Ambattur Estate/2019-2 dated 04.12.2019 for the disposal of untreated domestic sewage into Ambattur lake from the Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar and Sathya Nagar of Avadi City Municipal Corporation, directly into Ambattur lake, since these areas are not provided with Underground Sewerage System.

i. Avadi Corporation shall make necessary provision in Periyar Nagar, Sathya Nagar and Anna Nagar to pump the sewage into STP plant so as to stop the discharge of sewage into Ambattur Lake.

ii. Avadi Corporation shall ensure that no discharge of residential sewage into Ambattur Lake.

Further direction was again issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation vide proceeding dated 18.06.2021 to comply with certain conditions inter alia to complete the underground sewage system for unsewered area to ensure 100% treatment of sewage, also Board shall impose Environmental Compensation.

7. It is further submitted that, during subsequent inspection of the Ambattur Lake area by TNPCB on 11.03.2022 along with the officials of Villivakkam Panchayat union the following were noticed:

i) It was observed that sewage/sullage water are being let into the Ambattur lake directly through earthen drain in the areas of Moontru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar, Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy nagar in Thirumullaivoyal Village as mentioned in the earlier joint committee inspection report.

*J. S. S. 2 June 88*  
17/07/2022

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
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- ii) In addition to that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has recently constructed the storm water drain in Sivasakthi nagar, Annai Anjugam nagar and Gangai Amman nagar which carries the sullage water and let into the Ambattur lake.
- iii) No steps were taken by the Avadi City Municipal Corporation to implement Under Ground Drainage system and Common STP for the treatment of sewage generated from the areas of Moontru nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar, Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy nagar in Thirumullaivoyal Village and also in Sivasakthi nagar, Annai Anjugam nagar and Gangai Amman nagar, located within Avadi City Municipal Corporation area and also not taken any steps to stop the discharge of sewage into Ambattur lake from the above said area.

In this regard, show cause notice was issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation under Section 5 of Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 vide proceeding dated 08.04.2022 why the Board shall not levy the environmental compensation of Rs.1,20,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore and Twenty Lakhs) for not providing common STP for the treatment of sewage generated from the left out areas of Moontru Nagar (Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar, Sathya Nagar) and Ganapathy Nagar in Thirumullaivoyal Village and also in Sivasakthi Nagar, Annai Anjugam nagar and Gangai Amman Nagar located within Avadi City Municipal Corporation area for the period from April 2020 to March -2022.

**II. Action taken against the Avadi City Municipal Corporation for the disposal of Solid Waste along the Ambattur lake :**

8. It is respectfully submitted that direction was already issued vide Board's Proc dated 04.12.2019 to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as amended for the dumping of garbage in various places near Ambattur lake area such as Periyar Nagar, Anna Nagar and Sathya Nagar of Avadi City

*J. Ar. Kumar*  
17/15/2022  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
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Municipal Corporation for non-compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Further, it is submitted that directions was already issued under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation to remit the interim Environmental compensation of Rs. 8 Lakhs vide Proceeding No. T1/TNPCB/F.32363/SWM/NGT 606 of 2018/2020-2 dated 27.11.2020 for the non compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as per Hon'ble NGT Order dated 28.02.2020 & 02.07.2020 in O.A. No. 606 of 2018 but the same was not remitted by the Avadi City Municipal Corporation.

**III. Action taken by TNPCB on Villivakkam Panachayat Union for the disposal of sewage into Ambattur lake from the TNHB Residential colony, Ayappakkam**

9. It is respectfully submitted that, an earlier inspection on 22.07.2021 the joint committee observed that leakage/overflow of sewage from the manholes of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) constructed in the TNHB residential area, Ayappakkam by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board was being let into the Ambattur lake near Plot No. 4861, 7904, 8067 and 12<sup>th</sup> main road of Housing Board, Ayappakkam.

In this regard, the Assistant Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Housing Board has earlier stated that since the underground sewerage system was provided while the Ayappakkam Tamil Nadu Housing Board colony was established, the silt already deposited should be removed periodically from the Underground Sewerage System to avoid overflow of sewage from the Underground Sewerage System manholes. Also suggested that the local body of Villivakkam Panchayat Union has to purchase desilting machine, sewer suction cum jet rodding machine to maintain the Underground Sewerage System in the said area to avoid overflow of sewage from the manhole.

Earlier Consent to Establish was issued to the Commissioner, Villivakkam Panchayat Union to establish STP for TNHB Colony, Ayappakkam with 7 MLD capacity vide Proc. No. T7/TNPCB/F.7375/AMB/RL/W/2013 Dated: 10.03.2014.

*J. for 2000 89*  
17/11/2022

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

During earlier inspection on 22.07.2021 it was noticed that the TNHB common STP provided for the treatment of sewage generated from Ayappakkam Tamil Nadu Housing Board colony was in operation without obtaining consent to operate from the Board and the same is being operated by the Executive Engineer, J.J. Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thirumangalam, Chennai-600 101.

Hence show cause notice was issued to the TNHB common STP/BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union vide Proceedings No. DEE/TNPCB/TLR/F.TLR2004/RL/W&A/2021 Date: 26.07.2021 for the violations stated therein.

The BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union, Ambattur vide reply Letter R.C.No.2105/20/A6 dated 27.10.2021 for the show cause notice has reported the following:

- i. In 2015, the Tamil Nadu Housing Board constructed a Sewage Treatment Plant at an estimate cost of Rs.13.87 crores at 7 MLD capacity for the treatment of sewage generated from TNHB area in Ayapakkam Panchayat and for 1500 TNHB Houses in Athipattu area which comes under the jurisdiction of Greater Corporation of Chennai Zone-VII and the treated sewage is let out in Tiruverkadu Cooum River area.
- ii. The Sewage Treatment Plant was constructed 7 years ago and no proper maintenance has been carried out for the functioning of the plant and most of the motors in the plant are not functioning properly. Since only two motors functioning out of 5 motors, there is a constant overflow in the manhole of underground sewerage system from Ayapakkam TNHB Ward No. 2,6,8,9,10.
- iii. It is estimated that it will cost around Rs.1.00 Crore to repair the Sewage Treatment Plant. For the maintenance of the Sewage Treatment Plant it costs around Rs.2.00 crores per annum approximately which is a heavy expenditure for the Ayapakkam Panchayat which is a Rural Local Body whose major source of revenue is the State Finance Commission's Grant and the House tax collection from the Households of the Panchayat. Even though Ayapakkam Panchayat is thickly populated, the Panchayat Administration is maintaining Solid Waste Management and other

*J. Ar. 2021/87*  
*17/10/2022*

activities with the limited resources and available funds. Proper functioning of the Sewage Treatment Plant is possible only after receiving necessary funds from Tamil Nadu Housing Board.

10. It is further submitted that, during subsequent inspection on 10.12.2021 & 11.03.2022, the following were observed:

i. It was noticed that leakage/overflow of sewage from the manholes of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) constructed in the TNHB residential area, Ayappakkam by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board was being let into the Ambattur lake near Plot No. 4861, 7904, 8067 and 12<sup>th</sup> main road of Housing Board, Ayappakkam.

ii. The Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) provided in the TNHB residential colony, Ayappakkam area was not maintained properly and frequent sewage overflow from UGSS manholes was noticed.

iii. The common STP-7MLD provided for the treatment of sewage generated from the TNHB residential colony, Ayappakkam was under operation without obtaining Consent to operate from the Board and the same is being operated by the Executive Engineer, J.J. Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thirumangalam, Chennai-600 101.

iv. The treated sewage from the TNHB STP, Ayappakkam is being discharged directly into River Cooum without obtaining prior approval from Public Works Department (Water Resources) and Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT).

v. The sludge dewatering system was not operated effectively and the sludge is stored in the sludge holding tank itself.

11. It is submitted that, the report of analysis (ROA) of the treated sewage sample collected from the outlet of TNHB STP, Ayappakkam on 22.07.2021 reveals that the parameters such as PH, TSS, BOD are within the standards prescribed by the Board. Further, the Report of Analysis (ROA) of the treated sewage sample collected from the outlet of TNHB STP,

*J. Aravind 8/11/2022*  
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
 No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

Ayappakkam on 10.12.2021 reveals that except pH, the parameters such as TSS, BOD are exceeding the standards prescribed by the Board.

In due compliance of the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 01.12.2021 in Para 12 regarding action to be taken against the TNHB, Ayappakkam for letting the sewage from the manholes of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) constructed in the TNHB residential area, Ayappakkam by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board into the Ambattur lake from the areas near Plot No. 4861, 7904, 8067 and 12<sup>th</sup> main road of Housing Board, Ayappakkam and also for operating the Common STP without obtaining Consent to operate from the Board. Based on the DEE, TNPCB, Thiruvallur report dated 12.03.2022, directions were issued to the Executive Engineer, J.J. Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thirumangalam, Chennai and BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union under Section 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 vide proceeding dated 08.04.2022 to comply with the following:

- i. To stop the leakage/overflow of sewage from the manholes of the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) constructed in the TNHB residential area, Ayappakkam into the Ambattur Lake and shall maintain the UGSS effectively.
- ii. The Executive Engineer, J.J. Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thirumangalam, Chennai / BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union shall apply and obtain consent to operate for the Common STP-7MLD provided for the treatment of sewage generated from the TNHB residential colony, Ayappakkam.
- iii. the Executive Engineer, J.J. Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thirumangalam, Chennai & BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union shall ensure that the treated sewage from the outlet of STP satisfies the standards prescribed by the Board.
- iv. To obtain NOC from Public Works Department (Water Resources) and Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) for the disposal of treated sewage into Cooum river.
- v. To operate the sludge dewatering system effectively and utilize the STP sludge for beneficial purpose.

  
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
 No.75, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

**IV. Details of action taken for the dumping of Solid waste in Ambattur lake area by the Villivakkam Panchayat Union**

Earlier, the BDO, Villivakkam Panchayat Union vide letter dated 16.02.2021 has reported that the solid waste generated from Ayappakkam Panchayat is collected and the Bio-degradable solid waste are being sent to Kodungaiyur dump site for the past 7 years.

During the joint committee inspection of Ambattur Lake on 22.07.2021 the following were observed:

- i. The solid wastes were found dumped and burnt along the south west bunds of the Ambattur Lake at 12<sup>th</sup> main road of Tamil Nadu Housing Board colony, Ayappakkam and also solid wastes were found dumped in some pockets on both side bunds of Ayappakkam surplus channel which leads to Ambattur lake.
- ii. The Villivakkam Panchayat Union has not implemented fullfledged Solid Waste Management Facility for the disposal of solid waste generated from Ayappakkam panchayat.

In this regard, Board vide Proc. No. T1/TNPCB/LAW/LA-III/NGT/F.4561/SWM/2021 dated 02.09.2021, has issued show cause notice under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the Block Development Officer, Villivakkam Panchayat Union, as to why the Board shall not levy Interim Environmental Compensation Rs. 16 Lakhs (from April 2020 to July 2021) for the non-compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

In this regard, the Block Development Officer, Villivakkam Panchayat Union vide its letter dated 15.09.2021 has furnished reply to the show cause notice that with the limited resources and available funds, the panchayat Administration is making serious efforts to stow away the garbage accumulated. The TNPCB is initiating necessary action after field verification.

Further, it is submitted that in due compliance of the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 01.12.2021 in O.A. No. 61 of 2020 (SZ) with O.A. No. 54 of

*J. for [Signature]*  
 JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
 TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
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2020 (SZ) water samples were collected from Ambattur Lake on 10.12.2021 at various locations and sent to TNPCB Laboratory, Ambattur for analysis to ascertain any improvement in Ambattur lake water quality.

The analysis results of the Lake water samples collected on 10.12.2021 at various locations for the following parameters ranges as below:

pH – 7.3 to 7.7(as against the standard of 6.5 – 8.5), TSS(mg/l) – 22 to 32 , BOD(mg/l) – 4 to 8 (as against the standard of less than 3mg/l, Fecal Coliform (MPN/100ml) - <1.8 to 230, Total Coliform (MPN/100ml) - <1.8 to 940 as against the standards (less 500 MPN/100ml)

The above result of analysis of Lake water sample indicates that the lake pollution is due to mixing of untreated sewage/sullage from the nearby residential areas.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) at Chennai 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.

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

**BEFORE ME**

**VERIFICATION**

I, J. Josephine Sahayarani, Daughter of Jesu Rajan, Working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai-32, do hereby submit that the contents of the above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

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

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

**Original Application No.61 of 2020  
(SZ)  
With  
Original Application No.54 of 2020  
(SZ)**

S.P. Surendranath Karthik  
...Applicant(s)  
Versus

The Secretary,  
Indian Railway Welfare Organization and  
others.

....Respondent(s)  
**With**

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu  
based on the News item in Dinamalar  
Newspaper dt. 02.03.2020, Chennai  
Supplementary, "Ambattur Lake getting  
polluted due to sewage water"

Versus

The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Public Works Department, Chennai and  
Ors.

...Respondent

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF  
THE TAMIL NADU POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD**

**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB  
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.**

**Date:17.05.2022.**

**Date of hearing on:26.05.2022**

