

**Joint Committee Inspection Report based on the orders of the  
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. NO.06/2021  
Dated 23.03.2021**

Date of Inspection: 23.03.2021.

Officers Present:

1. Dr.N.PreethiParkavi, B.S.M.S.,  
Revenue Divisional Officer, Tiruvallur Division, Tiruvallur.
2. Er.C.Podupanithilagam, M.E.,  
Executive Engineer, W.R.D., P.W.D.,  
Kosasthalayar Basin Division, Tiruvallur.
3. Er.P.Senthur Pandey, District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Tiruvallur.

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The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on its own motion *Suo Motu* based on the news item in the Hindu Newspaper edition dated 21.12.2020 "Vilinjyambakkam lake shrunk due to Encroachment " has registered a case in O.A. NO.06/2021(SZ) and in its order dated 07.01.2021 directed to " appoint a joint *committee comprising of the Chief Engineer or a Officer deputed by the Chief Engineer not below the rank of Superintending Engineer of Public Works Department(PWD) and Water Resource Organization(WRO) of that area, District Collector, Tiruvallur District and a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation.*"

Also directed the Committee to ascertain the total extent of original lake as per the revenue records and the nature of encroachment and the action taken for removal of encroachment, the inlet and outlet canals which are provided for draining and discharging the water out of the lake during rainy season when surplus water comes to the lake and if there is any encroachment in to those canal and channels what is the action taken by the authorities to remove the same and restore the same to its original position.

The Committee further directed to ascertain the water quality in the lake, so as to ascertain as to whether there was any discharge of any untreated sewage or trade effluents in to the lake, so as to contaminate the water quality.

The Committee was also directed to ascertain as to whether any encroachment has been made by the local bodies for dumping the waste in

any portion of the area of the lake and if so, what are all the action taken by the regulating authorities to remove the same including the imposition of environmental compensation against the same.

Based on the receipt of the order, the joint committee has conducted inspection on 23.03.2021 in the area in question and submitted the report as follows.

The Vilinjiyambakkam lake is situated in S.F.No. 80 which is classified as eri and S.F.No. 81 which is classified as Eri ulvoi of Vilinjiyambakkam village in Avadi taluk of Tiruvallur District. It is located amidst residential colonies within the catchment area of the lake. It abuts the Chennai-Thirupathi High road (CTH Road) and Chennai Central – Arokkonam Railway line on the Northern side.

Vilinjiyambakkam lake forms one of the important constituents of the chain of lakes, which feeds to Paruthipattu lake and further to Ambattur tank in the downstream. Vilinjiyambakkam lake has a free catchment area of 1.32 sq.km and combined catchment area of 3.73 sq.km, As per the memoir, the water spread area is 30.58.0 hectare. The maximum discharge as per the memoir is 695 cusecs.

The Committee inspected the lake portion in S.F.No.80 & 81 of Vilinjiyambakkam Village and during inspection it was noticed that the sewage/sullage flows through open drains confluence into Vilinjiyambakkam lake from the areas of Sri Devi Nagar & Bharathidasan Nagar, Foreshore encroachment areas of Vilinjiyambakkam Lake, Sekkadu and Kavarapalyam surplus feeding channel leading to Vilinjiyambakkam Lake. The above said areas falls under the jurisdiction of Avadi City Municipal Corporation.

The committee observed that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not implemented full-fledged Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS) for the above said area.

On enquiry with local people, it was informed that the residents of the area are having an individual septic tank facility and discharging only the sullage water into street drains which ultimately confluence into lake.

Further, the Municipal Engineer, Avadi City Municipal Corporation has informed that Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS) work is in Progress in some other area of Avadi City Municipal Corporation limit and the residents of nearby area is given UGSS connection partly. He also assured that all households will be connected to Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS) within six months period as a short term plan and needs five years for long term plan.

The committee further inspected the tank foreshore area, inlet & outlet of the Vilinjiyambakkam lake. The outlet feeding channel from the Vilinjiyambakkam lake leading to Paruthipattu tank was found partly encroached. The Assistant Engineer, PWD has informed that the Tahsildar, Avadi has already been requested to conduct the survey of tank boundaries and inlet & outlet channels to identify the encroachment vide his Lr.No 116/Je AdayarIrrigation Section / 2019/ 15.05.2019.

The Tahsildar, Avadi was instructed to survey the tank boundary, inlet & outlet channels in a short period so as to ascertain the encroachment. Further, if there is any other encroachments found during the survey the same has to be communicated to the nodal officer within two months of time.

During joint inspection it was noticed that there was no solid waste dumping within the Vilinjiyambakkam Lake boundary. Also it was noticed that there was no discharge of industrial trade effluent into the Vilinjiyambakkam Lake.

During joint inspection, water samples were collected from the Vilinjiyambakkam Lake and from the sewage/sullage open drain confluences with Vilinjiyambakkam Lake and sent to TNPCB Laboratory for analysis.

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Tiruvallur should take expeditious steps for early removal of encroachments as a long term plan by abiding the due course of law procedures and eviction should be completed within a year. The Executive engineer, PWD should prepare an action plan to protect the Vilinjiyambakkam lake. The restoration work should be completed within two years of time as a long-term plan.

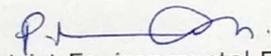
The action plan for the restoration of Vilinjiyambakkam lake summarized as below:

<b>SHORT TERM PLAN</b>			
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF WORK</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>TIME SCHEDULE</b>
1	Providing connections of UGSS to all House hold in the Bharathidasan nagar and Sridevi nagar.	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation	6 months
2	Surveying of Lake area and demarcating the boundary and assessment of encroachments	Tahsildar, Avadi and Assistant Engineer, PWD	2 months

LONG TERM ACTION PLAN			
1.	Construction of underground sewerage system for either side Kaverapalayam Channel and Sekkadu surplus channel residential area in Avadi City Municipal Corporation	Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal corporation	5 Years
2.	Eviction of encroachments in the Vilinjiyambakkam lake area.	Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD, Tiruvallur	6 Months
3.	Restoration of lake by providing protection arrangements in the foreshore area, Re-construction of outlet weir,	Executive Engineer, PWD/WRD, Tiruvallur	2 Years

  
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