

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

Application No. 06 of 2021 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU  
Based on The News item in the Hindu  
Newspaper Edition Dated:21.12.2020,  
"Vilinjambakkam Lake shrunk due to  
Encroachment

.... Applicant(s)

**Versus**

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St.George.  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600009.
2. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Environment & Forests,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St.George.  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600009.
3. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,  
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St.George.  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600009.
4. The Chairman,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
No.76, Anna Salai, Guindy,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600032.
5. The District Collector,  
Thiruvallur District,  
First Floor, Collectorate,  
Thiruvallur – 602001.
6. The Corporation Commissioner,  
Avadi Municipal Corporation Office,  
391, New Military Rd. Thirumalai Rajapuram,  
NHB Mig V Block, Avadi, Tamil Nadu – 600071. ...Respondents.

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT**

I, C.Podupanithilagam.son of Chinnathambi aged about 47 years,  
residing at No.47/6, Breeze Apartment, TNHB, Near Velammal Main School,  
Mogappair East, Chennai-37 do, solemnly affirm and sincerely state as  
follows:

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 Executive Engineer, P.W.D.,  
Kosasthalaiyar Basin Division, W.R.D.,  
Thiruvallur.

2. I state that, I am the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department / Water Resources Department, Kosasthalaiyar Basin Division, Thiruvallur file the interim report on behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent herein and I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from records.

3. It is submitted that, the above case has been Suo Motu registered basis of the newspaper report published in the Hindu Tamil Thisal, newspaper, Chennai, Edition, dated 21.12.2020 under the caption "ஆக்கிரமிப்பால் சுருங்கிய ஆவடி விளிஞ்சியம்பாக்கம் ஏரி மழைநீரை சேமித்து வைக்க முடியாத அவலம்" (Vilinjiambakkam Lake Shrunk due to encroachment, shame of not being able to store rain water)

4. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 07.01.2021 directed that

*"9. In order to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations and also action to be taken, we feel it appropriate to appoint a Joint Committee comprising (1) 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 Resources Organisation (WRO) of that area (2) The District Collector, Thiruvallur District, (3) a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNSPCB) as designated by its Chairman to Inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found."*

5. As per the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal the Joint Committee has inspected the subject area on 26.07.2021 along with the officials of Avadi City Municipal Corporation. The observation made by PWD with committee during inspection as follows.

1. The Committee observed that the sewage/sullage flows through open drains confluence into Vilinjiyambakkam lake from the areas of Bharathidasan Nagar, Sri Devi Nagar, Foreshore encroachment areas of Vilinjiyambakkam Lake and from the residential areas in the vicinity of Sekkadu lake surplus feeding channel and on either side of residential areas of Govindhanthangal lake surplus feeding channel (Kavarappalayam) leading to Vilinjiyambakkam Lake. The above said areas falls under the jurisdiction of Avadi City Municipal Corporation.

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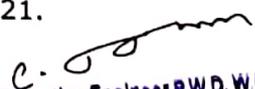
  
Executive Engineer, P.W.D.,  
Kosasthalaiyar Basin Division, W.R.D.,  
Thiruvallur.

2. The Joint committee observed that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not implemented full-fledged Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS) for the above said areas.
3. During joint inspection it was noticed that there was no solid waste dumping within the Vilinjiyambakkam Lake boundary.
4. No industrial estates/Industries are located in the vicinity all along the Vilinjiyambakkam lake boundry. During joint committee inspection it was noticed that there was no discharge of industrial trade effluent into the Vilinjiyambakkam Lake.
5. Water samples were collected from the Vilinjiyambakkam Lake during Joint inspection on 26.07.2021 and sent to the TNPCB Laboratory for analysis. Also, Sediment soil sample was collected from the Vilinjiyambakkam Lake during Joint inspection on 26.07.2021 and sent to the TNPCB Laboratory for analysis.
6. The Tahsildar, Avadi was instructed to survey the tank boundary, inlet and outlet channels in a short period so as to ascertain the encroachment. Survey of Eri has been carried out on 11.08.2021. However survey has to be carried out in Eri Ulvai and channels.
7. It is submitted that, the survey has been carried out by the Revenue department nearly about 248 numbers ( 23 House, One Church and one pump house at Tank, 223 House at Eri Ulvoy) as identified so far and after assessing the particulars of encroachments completely in the tank, the Revenue department will issue Form-I & II notices, and the Assistant Engineer, WRD., will issue Form-III notices to the encroacher and the process of eviction will be carried out in the accordance with the law. Estimate is under preparation for the protection arrangement in the foreshore area and Reconstruction of outlet weir and it will be submitted before Government for obtaining necessary funds. After obtaining the funds, the restoration work will be completed within two years of time as a long-term plan.

It is for kind information submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (South).

Dated at Chennai on this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

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Executive Engineer P.W.D. W.R.D.  
Kosasthalayar Basin Division  
Thiruvallur - 602 001