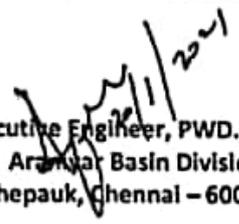


**STATUS REPORT FILED BY PWD., WRD., IN RESPECT OF O.A. NO. 64 OF 2020
BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ)**

In the Original Application filed by Thiru V. Rajesh before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SR), Chennai in O.A.No. 64 of 2020, the applicant has alleged that there are large scale encroachments in Kosasthalaiyar River and its banks by dumping solid waste, garbage, chicken waste, bio medical waste etc. praying for following directions:

- A. To direct the respondent authorities to maintain the Kosasthalaiyar River and its banks free from any contamination or pollution.
 - B. To direct the respondent authorities to maintain the Kosasthalaiyar River and its banks free from any encroachments.
 - C. To direct the respondent authorities take all the steps to ensure that the upstream course of the Kosasthalaiyar River is restored and the flow of fresh water is maintained.
 - D. To direct the respondent authorities to stop sand mining in Kosasthalaiyar, in Thiruvallur District and along the River's course to protect the integrity of the River.
2. Though the applicant has generally stated about the encroachments, environmental hazards due to dumping of solid waste, garbage, chicken waste, bio medical waste etc., and removal of sand from Kosasthalaiyar River, the jurisdiction of Kosasthalaiyar river is confined with 4 km upstream and 3km downstream of Vallur Anicut to the Araniyar Basin Division.
3. There is a solid waste management yard temporarily put up by the Minjur panchayat along the bank of River Kosasthalaiyar at Ramareddypalayam village under Minjur Town Panchayat. The solid waste removed from the village is dumped in the vacant space of the rear side of the left bank of the River Kosasthalaiyar for treatment of the same in the plant adjacently located for which, It is learnt that the Minjur Town Panchayat had obtained necessary permission from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. The wastes are converted into natural manure and the Town Panchayat has planted trees along the bank. There are no dwelling colonies nearby and all the inhabitant areas are far away at a distance of more than 500 m from the bank of the river. The river Kosasthalaiyar is a seasonal carrier of water only during monsoon seasons and the alleged pollution of water body has to be ensured by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board only.

4. The Executive Engineer, PWD., WRD, Araniyar Basin Division, Chennai, the Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD., WRD., Ponneri and the Assistant Engineer, PWD., WRD., Minjur, in whose jurisdiction the Solid Waste Management Plant is situated have inspected the area and noticed that the solid wastes which are dumped in the vacant space of the WRD land adjacent to the left river bank is periodically removed for treatment. However, the town panchayat has not obtained any permission from WRD to put up the plant on the river bank which is incorrect. However, the Assistant Engineer, PWD., WRD., Minjur has instructed the Executive Officer, Minjur town panchayat to put up the plant and the dumping yard elsewhere without encroaching the bank. The Executive Officer, Minjur town panchayat has also assured that the dumping yard of waste would be shifted to elsewhere for which they are searching suitable land for this purpose.
5. Other than the above solid waste management plant and the dumping yard of waste, there are no visible encroachments by any private person in this area. As mentioned during the joint inspection held on 17.08.2020 during COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Tahsildar, Ponneri reiterated to remove the solid waste in the dumping yard for enabling revenue officials to survey the area in question. In this regard, the Assistant Engineer, PWD., WRD., Minjur Section has request to remove the solid waste as requested by the Tahsildar, Ponneri for demarcation of the area in question. After the details furnished by revenue officials, the encroachment if any, other than the above would be evicted under due process law. As regards to the allegation mentioned by the petitioner, there is no sand mining in Kosasthaliyar River pertaining to the jurisdiction of this division.
6. The officials of PWD., WRD., are ready to render cooperation and any assistance as may be required by the Committee formed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) to inspect the area in question for ascertaining as to whether there are any violations and to trace out the violators.


Executive Engineer, PWD., WRD.,
Araniyar Basin Division,
Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.