

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED AS PER THE HONOURABLE NGT IN THE MATTER OF O. A. NO. 80 of 2021 (SZ) - SUO MOTU BASED ON THE NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED ON 14.02.2021, IN THE TIMES OF INDIA NEWS PAPER, COIMBATORE EDITION, SUBMITTED BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI, AS PER THE ORDER DATED MARCH 10, 2022

1.0 Background

"...The Joint Committee as well as the State Pollution Control Board are directed to inspect the areas again and collect the water samples to ascertain as to whether there was any improvement made in the water quality in the river to avoid pollution being caused to the water on account of discharge of sewage by these local bodies.

For consideration of further action -cum- progress report, post on 12.04.2022.

Further, the Matter stands adjourned to 25.05.2022.

2.0 Inspection carried out

As per the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai in O.A. No. 80 of 2021 order dated:29.11.2021, it is submitted that the two Town Panchayats No.4, Veerapandi & Periyanaickenpalayam and Gudalur Municipality (Newly elevated) have provided In-situ bioremediation techniques as short term remedies for the treatment of sewage discharging from the residential houses of their Town Panchayats & Municipality. The local bodies No.4, Veerapandi & Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayats and Gudalur Municipality have commissioned In-situ bioremediation techniques during February 2022.

The officials of TNPCB, Coimbatore north had already collected water samples in all the three local body's drainage on **07.03.2022** as per the Hon'ble NGT order dated:29.11.2021 to ascertain as to whether there was any improvement in the water quality on account of steps taken by the Two Town Panchayats & Municipality. Water samples collected were sent to the Advanced Environmental Laboratory, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Salem and the further report on the measures taken by the Town Panchayats is submitted below;

3.0 Report of Analysis of samples collected in the drainages:

S. No.	Parameters	Unit	No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat		Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat		Gudalur Town Panchayat	
			SN - 456	SN - 457	SN - 458	SN - 459	SN - 460	SN - 461
1.	Turbidity	NTU	42.3	56	92	88	60	64
2.	Conductivity at 25° C	µmhos/cm	1318	1321	1406	1399	742	745
3.	pH at 25°c	Number	6.64	6.61	6.39	6.49	6.33	6.17
4.	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	860	872	912	924	488	496
5.	Chloride as Cl	mg/L	165	175	150	170	92	94
6.	Sulphates as SO ₄	mg/L	<5	6	<5	64	27	15
7.	Manganese	--	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
8.	Fluoride as F	µs/cm	1.07	0.822	1.04	1.24	1.43	1.10
9.	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	mg/L	330	340	370	390	210	190
10.	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	mg/L	420	420	480	540	216	252
11.	Nitrate Nitrogen as NO ₃	mg/L	0.616	0.400	0.151	0.141	0.432	0.173
12.	Phosphate as PO ₄	mg/L	0.743	0.759	1.328	1.378	1.008	1.023
13.	Calcium as Ca	mg/L	72	68	76	72	44	52
14.	Magnesium as Mg	mg/L	36	41	43	51	24	14
15.	Sodium as Na	mg/L	116	117	125	120	75	74
16.	Pottasium as K	mg/L	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.2	13.5	13.7
17.	Iron Total as Fe	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05
18.	Bi Carbonate	mg/L	415	403	439	439	264	307
19.	Faecal Coliform	MPN/100MI	210	79	1700	140	460	140
20.	Total Coliform	MPN/100MI	390	210	3500	400	1200	430

Note: SN-456 - Near Elango Nagar in No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat (Before phytoremediation treatment), SN - 457 - Near Elango Nagar in No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat (After phytoremediation treatment), SN - 458 - Near Sakthi Nagar in Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat (Before phytoremediation treatment), SN - 459 - Near Sakthi Nagar in Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat (After phytoremediation treatment), SN - 460 - Near VKV Nagar in Gudalur Municipality (Before phytoremediation treatment) & SN - 461 - Near VKV Nagar in Gudalur Municipality (After phytoremediation treatment)

From the above table, it is evident that the Eazhu Erumai Pallam is carrying only sewage generated from the Veerapandi Town Panchayat, Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat and Gudalur Municipality which causes the presence of Fecal coliform in all three locations. Further, it is found that the Fecal Coliform in all the three local bodies were found to be reduced after treatment through In-situ bioremediation techniques and also found that the Eazhu Erumai Pallam is not carrying any industrial effluent with sewage. During inspection, the flow of the sewage in the Eazhu Erumai Pallam was moderate and it was observed that, the major drains carrying the sewage generated from the Veerapandi Town Panchayat, Gudalur Town Panchayat and Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat were all directly discharged into the Eazhu Erumai Pallam. The Eazhu Erumai Pallam is flowing around 20 Km and then confluence into the River Bhavani at Sirumugai, and normally the sewage water will not reach the River Bhavani, since it traverse a long distance and percolates into the soil as ascertained; however, during heavy rain falls/floods, it may reach the River along with rainwater. The Eazhu Erumai Pallam is in dry condition as noticed, after reaching the Village Bellathi which is at a distance of 12 Km.

4.0 Action taken Report by the No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat for short term measures

The Executive Officer, No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat has obtained Authorization vide Proc No. JCEE(M)/TNPCB/CBE/F.MSW-004/CBN – RS/2014 dated 30.09.2014 under Municipal Solid Waste (M&H) Rules 2000 and subsequently obtained renewal valid up to 31.03.2026.

No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat has provided In-situ bioremediation techniques as short term remedies at Periyappallam (Near Elango Nagar) for the treatment of sewage discharging from all the residential houses of No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat. The In-situ bioremediation was inspected on 07.03.2022 (Photos Enclosed)

5.0 Action taken Report by the Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat for short term measures

The Executive Officer, Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat has obtained Authorization vide Proc No.F.MSW.0809/DEE/TNPCB/CBE/2012 dated 12.06.2012 under Municipal Solid Waste (M&H) Rules 2000 and further obtained renewal valid up to 31.03.2026.

Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat has provided In-situ bioremediation techniques as short term remedies Near Sakthi Nagar for the treatment of sewage discharging from all the residential houses of Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat. The In-situ bioremediation was inspected on 07.03.2022 (Photos Enclosed)

6.0 Action taken Report by the Gudalur Town Panchayat for short term measures

The Executive Officer, Gudalur Town Panchayat has obtained Authorization vide Proc No.F.MSW.0006/DEE/TNPCB/CBE/2012 dated 05.03.2012 under Municipal Solid Waste (M&H) Rules 2000 and subsequently obtained renewal vide Proc. No. DEE/TNPCB/CBN/MSW-001/2019 Dated 04.04.2019 valid up to 03.04.2024.

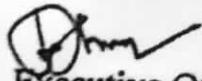
Gudalur Town Panchayat has provided In-situ bioremediation techniques as short term remedies Near VKV Nagar for the treatment of sewage discharging from all the residential houses of Gudalur Town Panchayat. The In-situ bioremediation was inspected on 07.03.2022 (Photos Enclosed)

7.0 Proposed Sewage Treatment Plants

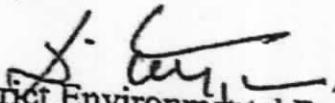
No.4 Veerapandi Town Panchayat has proposed to provide STP under "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery Project" at a cost of 3.30 Crores to treat the sewage water and to prevent discharging untreated sewage including sullage into Eazhu Erumai Pallam through an odai without treatment in future. Similarly, it is also informed that there is a proposal to provide STPs in Gudalur Municipality and Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat under "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery Project" at a cost of 7.70 Crores and 5.50 Crores respectively. Also they have stated that during COVID 19 Pandemic, they were involved as the Front line warriors against the deadly disease and hence they could not concentrate in the project on time. Now, they have assured to commence and complete the project at the earliest after getting necessary approvals from the Government.

8.0 Remedial measures and Recommendations:

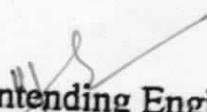
1. Till the installation of Full Fledged Sewage Treatment Plant, No.4 Veerapandi & Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayats and Gudalur Municipality shall be directed to operate In-situ bioremediation continuously and efficiently.
2. No.4, Veerapandi & Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayats and Gudalur Municipality shall be directed suitably to provide long-term permanent measures for the treatment of sewage generated from the local bodies.
3. No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat, Gudalur Municipality and Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat shall also be instructed to continue to process and dispose the Municipal Solid Waste as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 effectively.
4. No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat, Gudalur Municipality and Periyanaickenpalayam Town Panchayat shall be directed to speed up the process for providing STP in their respective local body under suitable scheme immediately.



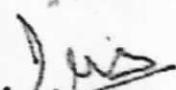
Executive Officer,
No.4, Veerapandi Town Panchayat,
Veerapandi.



District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu pollution Control Board,
Coimbatore North.



Superintending Engineer, WRD,
Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode.



District Collector,
Coimbatore.