

**“Clear Kosasthalaiyar trash in 3 weeks : HC to Tangedco”**

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# Clear Kosasthalaiyar trash in 3 weeks: HC to Tangedco

## No Trace Of It Must Be Left Behind, Warns High Court

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** The Madras high court pulled up Tangedco for encroaching into Kosasthalaiyar river in Ennore to construct a coal conveyor. The court refused to accept a report filed by the corporation stating that 80% of the encroachment had been removed.

“It will not do for Tangedco to remove a part of the material and leave the remainder in the waterbody that would choke the same or impede the flow of water,” the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice P D Audikesavalu said.

The entirety of the rubbish, concrete and construction material has to be removed and no trace of it left behind in the waterbody, the court added. The bench also



**STATE POLLUTER:** The petitioner, a fisherman, alleged that Tangedco was continuing with its land-filling and construction activity of its coal conveyor in the Kosasthalaiyar river, leaving behind rubbish, concrete and construction material

directed the chairperson of Tangedco to look into the matter and ensure that the last bit of foreign material put in the waterbody in course of the construction has been removed. A report in such regard should be filed when the matter appears next one week after the Diwali break, the court said.

On August 11, when the plea came up for admission, the bench observed that the encroachment is a serious is-

sue and directed the corporation to take immediate steps to remove the encroachment.

According to the petitioner, Selvaraj Duraiswamy, a fisherman from Ennore, Tangedco was continuing with its land-filling and construction activity of its coal conveyor in the Kosasthalaiyar, also called Koratalaiar, river and backwaters in Konamudukku and Pazhankalvai.

He submitted that the corporation has illegally en-

croached and filled in the river and its backwaters for constructing the coal conveyor. It has dumped dredged soil in the waterbody and is continuing to lay the foundation for the coal conveyor.

“Tangedco has illegally changed the alignment of the coal conveyor and has caused severe damage to the already challenged ecology of the region,” he said.

He further alleged that Tangedco has violated the environmental clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances obtained by them by illegally changing the alignment of the coal conveyor. It has destroyed ecologically sensitive mangrove areas. By encroaching and filling in the river and backwaters it has destroyed prime fishing grounds of the local fishers, he added.

Alleging that the corporation has no right to fill in a waterbody and construct its coal conveyor, the petitioner said that the corporation has no right to privatise and degrade the poromboke commons which serve as the source of livelihood to thousands of fishers.

**CHENNAI:** The Madras high court pulled up Tangedco for encroaching into Kosasthalaiyar river in Ennore to construct a coal conveyor. The court refused to accept a report filed by the corporation stating that 80% of the encroachment had been removed. "It will not do for Tangedco to remove a part of the material and leave the remainder in the waterbody that would choke the same or impede the flow of water," the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice P D Audikesavalu said.

The entirety of the rubbish, concrete and construction material has to be removed and no trace of it left behind in the waterbody, the court added. The bench also directed the chairperson of Tangedco to look into the matter and ensure that the last bit of foreign material put in the waterbody in course of the construction has been removed. A report in such regard should be filed when the matter appears next one week after the Diwali break, the court said.

On August 11, when the plea came up for admission, the bench observed that the encroachment is a serious issue and directed the corporation to take immediate steps to remove the encroachment. According to the petitioner, Selvaraj Duraiswamy, a fisherman from Ennore, Tangedco was continuing with its land-filling and construction activity of its coal conveyor in the Kosasthalaiyar, also called Koratalaiar, river and backwaters in Konamudukku and Pazhankalvai. He submitted that the corporation has illegally encroached and filled in the river and its backwaters for constructing the coal conveyor. It has dumped dredged soil in the waterbody and is continuing to lay the foundation for the coal conveyor.

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