

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.95 of 2020 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU

Based on the News Item in the Dinamalar Chennai
Edition dated 01.07.2020, "Will Ramapuram Lake be
Completely restored?"

... Applicant

With

1. The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 009.

2. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.

3. The Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
No. 76, Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 032.

4. The Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board,
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk,
Chennai 600 005.

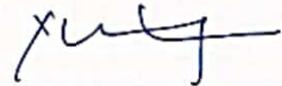
5. The District Collector,
Chennai District,
62, Rajaji Salai, Fourth Floor,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 001.

6. Greater Chennai Corporation,
Rep.by its Commissioner,
Ripon Building, Chennai – 600 003.

... Respondent(s)

ADDITIONAL REPORT FILED BY THE SIXTH RESPONDENT

I, S.P.Balasubramanian, Son of Thiru.K.R.Subbiah, Hindu
aged about 58 years, the Superintending Engineer, Storm Water
Drain Department, Greater Chennai Corporation, having office at



SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
STORM WATER DRAIN DEPARTMENT
GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

Ripon Buildings, Chennai - 600 003, do hereby solemnly and sincerely affirm as follows:-

1. I am the sixth respondent herein and as such am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case from the available records. I am filing this report as per the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 02.07.2021.
2. I submit that the earlier report dated 09.10.2020 filed on behalf of Greater Chennai Corporation may be read as part and parcel of this additional report.
3. I submit that this Hon'ble Tribunal has taken a Suo Moto case on the paper publication in O.A.No.95 of 2020 (SZ) and has passed an order dated 02.07.2021 as follows:-

"...11. It is also mentioned in the report, that in the Writ Petition the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk had filed a counter affidavit stating that the extent of the lake has to be 7.13 Hectares whereas the extent of the existing lake is 85 Ares.

12. It is mentioned in the report filed by the Greater Chennai Corporation that at the time of handing over the lake by letter dated 21.04.2015.Na.Ka.No.2324/2015/Aa1 by the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk to the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), it was specifically mentioned that after the encroached portion of land to the extent of 5.63.0 Hectares in which shops and houses were built up, the remaining portion of land admeasuring 1.50.0 Hectares having water alone was handed over to the Greater Chennai Corporation.

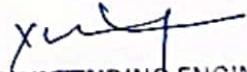
13. A letter was given to the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk on 19.05.2015, requesting to earmark the encroachments in the Ramapuram Lake for removal and maintenance of the lake and again further


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requests were made on 12.12.2018 and 31.01.2019 for earmarking the encroachments made in the Ramapuram Lake.

14. It is also mentioned in the report that about 250 families have encroached the Ramapuram Lake Land and the action will be taken for taking enumeration and bio-metric survey of the slum families in co-ordination with Revenue Department and Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board for resettlement of the slum families in the tenements of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. At the time of inspection, it was found that there was no discharge of sewage into the lake. Though the inspection was conducted on 0.7.10.2020, what is the subsequent progress thereafter has not been mentioned by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). Further whether there is discharge of sewage into the water body or not can be ascertained only if the water quality of the lake is evaluated by taking samples and making analysis. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) though a party to the proceedings and also party to the committee, also did not file any independent statement regarding the same. There is nothing mentioned in the report as to whether there was any deposit of garbage or other waste in the lake area as well. If there are unauthorised constructions, which do not have any connection to the UGS system, then there is every possibility of untreated sewage being discharged into the water body and that possibility cannot be ruled out.

15. So we are not satisfied with the manner in which the official respondents are responding to the environmental issues. While assisting this Tribunal to


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resolve the environmental issues the Official respondents are expected to take action in an effective and time bound manner. Though there are several environmental laws and rules passed for the purpose of protecting the environment and disposing the waste generated, those issues are also not properly implemented in its letter and spirit which results in additional pollution load to the environment as well.

16. However, considering the circumstances, we feel that some more time can be granted to the committee and also to the respective individual respondents to file the present status action taken report by the local bodies after the inspection was conducted and also on the basis of the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in the Writ Petition W.P. No. 22958 of 2019 as mentioned above.

17. The above officials are directed to file their respective reports as directed to this Tribunal on or before 04.08.2021 by e-filing in form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF along with necessary hard copies to be produced as per rules.

18. The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the members of the committee and also to the official respondents including the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation (CGG) for their information and for compliance of direction.

19. For consideration of reports, post on 04.08.2021....”

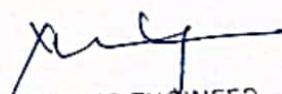
4. I submit that a letter dated 19.05.2015 had been addressed to the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk, requesting to remove



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the encroachments in the Ramapuram lake and handover with entire documents through the District Revenue department, Thiruvallur. Since no reply was received from the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk, reminder letters dated 12.12.2018 and 31.01.2019 have been addressed to the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk, for earmarking the encroachments made in the Ramapuram lake. It is pertinent to point out that a letter dated 06.02.2019 vide Na.Ka.No.132/2019/Aa1 sent by the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk addressed to the Collector, Chennai District, copy of which was marked to the Executive Engineer, Zone - XI, Greater Chennai Corporation stating that in S.No.239/2A, Ramapuram Lake, Ramapuram Village admeasuring 7.13.0 Hectares, the encroachments have to be removed for which the Tahsildar, requesting the Collector, Chennai District to form a team consisting under the head of District Assistant Director, Land Survey Department and Land Surveyors. In fact, the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk has not earmarked the encroached portion of the land till date.

5. I submit that with respect to the water quality of the lake, it is informed that during the joint inspection carried on 07.10.2020, water samples have been collected by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the reports of the water samples are awaited.
6. I submit that with respect to untreated sewage being discharged into the water body, it is informed that at the time of joint inspection there was no illegal sewer connection/let out was found in the Ramapuram Lake. Further the Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board is constructing the pumping station on the western side of the lake which was divided by 30 feet road and the Chennai Metro Water Supply


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THE SIXTH RESPONDENT

P.T.RAMADEVI
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Cell No.9444344552