

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

IN

Original Application No. 95 of 2020

SuoMotu – Based on the News item in the
Dinamalar,
Chennai Edition dated 01.07.2020,
“Will Ramapuram Lake be completely restored?”

...Applicant

Vs.

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Govt Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu and others

...Respondents

STATUS REPORT BY GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

IN O.A. No. 95 OF 2020.

I, D. Rajasekar, son of Dr. K. Dharmalingam, Hindu, aged about 56 years, Zonal Officer, Zone - XI, Greater Chennai Corporation, having office at No. 123, Arcot road, Valasaravakkam, Chennai 600 087, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I submit that I am working as the Zonal Officer in Zone - XI, Greater Chennai Corporation and filing this report on behalf of the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and hence I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case.


Zonal Officer
Zone-XI

Greater Chennai Corporation

2. I respectfully 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 21.03.2022 as follows:-

“...9. The Greater Chennai Corporation as well as CMWSSB and the State Pollution Control Board are directed to file their further respective action taken reports –cum- progress reports on or before 21.04.2022 by e-filing in the form of Searchable PDF/OCR Supportable PDF and not Page 13 of 13 in the form of Image PDF along with necessary hardcopies to be produced as per Rules.

10. The Registry is directed to communicate this order to the official respondents, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Greater Chennai Corporation, CMWSSB, Water Resources Department and the District – Chennai District by e-mail for their information and compliance of directions.

11. For consideration of further reports, post on 21.04.2022...”

3. I respectfully submit that this Respondent has started the works of strengthening the existing bund and de-stilting the existing lake. The Greater Chennai Corporation has developed the said lake portion made available to it since the last few years. Works are nearing completion. The works were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the monsoon period. All the works regarding the beautification project will be completed at the earliest. Photographs of the same are enclosed along with this report to this Hon'ble Tribunal.


Rajasekar
Zonal Officer
Class III

The table below shows the progress of works:

Sl. No.	Description of work	Percentage (%) of completion
1	All round compound wall	99
2	Footpath	80
3	Toilet block	95
4	Security / Caretaker room	95
5	Badminton / Volleyball Court	Progress
6	Electrical works	90
7	Greenery	To be taken up
8	Open gym	80
9	Children play area	80
10	Borewell	100

4. I respectfully submit that it was only in 2011 that Ramapuram Panchayat was merged with Chennai Corporation, vide G.O.Ms.No.97, MA & WS Department, dated 19.07.2011. After the merger, GCC took over the administration of Ramapuram Panchayat.

5. I submit that as per the Land Records, the Ramapuram Lake in Survey Number 239 in Ramapuram village of Maduravoyal Taluk, is classified as an "Eri", which implies the presence of an ayacattu, or irrigation basin, which is conventionally under the custody of the Water Resources Department of the Public Works Department (WRD/PWD). Further, during the land alienation for


V. Jayashan
Zone-III

Greater Chennai Corporation

9. initiated with secret

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) from a subdivision of the said land in survey number 239/2B, WRD/PWD gave the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the same.

6. I submit that, in such a scenario, the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal has stated, vide letter Na.Ka.No.2324/ 2015/Aa1 dated 21.04.2015, that the Ramapuram Lake is handed over to the GCC.

7. I respectfully submit that the question of ownership of the lake remained present due to two reasons, the fact that WRD/PWD was previously a custodian of the land, and the fact that the handing over of the land was not done as per due procedure, but by a mere letter. In this regard, it is also submitted that the Greater Chennai Corporation's Zonal Officer of Zone XI had sent a letter to the Tahsildar, Maduravoyal Taluk on 19.05.2015 stating that certain procedural details were to be further followed for handing over of Ramapuram Lake.

8. I respectfully submit that, nevertheless, it was decided that Greater Chennai Corporation did not want to shift responsibility in this matter. Since, by way of the Tahsildar's letter, the Greater Chennai Corporation had inherited encroachments, action was pursued under the Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act of 1919. Thus, the Greater Chennai Corporation decided to willingly own up the onus of undertaking the process of encroachment eviction. This decision was taken at the highest level to prevent any shifting of blame.

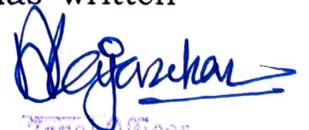


Zone XI
Greater Chennai Corporation

9. I further submit that this respondent has already initiated the action against encroachers. As per section 220 read with section 222 of Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1919, notices have been issued to the encroachers. It is submitted that cumulatively, 488 Notices have been issued, in which 299 replies have been received from the encroachers.

10. It is further submitted that on 29.03.2022 this Respondent has addressed a letter to Deputy Commissioner of Police, T. Nagar to provide adequate police protection during the encroachment eviction by way of locking and sealing or demolition, as the case may be, of the existing commercial establishments, as per Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1919. I further submit that on 31.03.2022 attempts were made by the Greater Chennai Corporation, along with police, to seal commercial buildings. However, the Zonal officials along with police were faced with stiff protests against the same.

11. I respectfully submit that with regard to residential establishments, the Greater Chennai Corporation has issued 467 notices, out of which replies have been received against 380 notices. Amongst these replies, 102 have claimed to have patta in subdivisions of 239/2B issued by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (now Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB)). 8 replies have been received from commercial establishments, claiming to be pattadars. Also, 23 have submitted the copies of revenue patta, and claimed to be pattadars. To assess the genuineness of these pattas, the Zonal Officer XI has written



Zonal Officer
Zone XI

Greater Chennai Corporation

letters, attaching copies of the replies and documents received from the encroachers, to TNUHDB and Tahsildar Maduravoyal Taluk, to verify their respective claims.

12. I further submit that the Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation has written to the District Collector, Chennai District and Managing Director, TNUHDB, to form a joint team to enumerate the encroachers and ascertain their economic status, so as to resettle and rehabilitate them.

13. I respectfully submit that the encroachments in the water body will be removed, at the earliest, upon receiving the response from the Tahsildar Maduravoyal Taluk, and with sufficient support from the concerned authorities.

In the above said circumstances it is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to accept this report and to pass suitable orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirm that Chennai

On this the day 19th of April 2022

And signed his name in my presence


Before Me

Zonal Officer
Zone-XI

Greater Chennai Corporation

Advocate::Chennai


E.No. 2291/2019
119, Addl. Law Chambers,
High Court, Ch-104.

**NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
CHENNAI:: (SOUTHERN ZONE)**

O. A. No. 95 of 2020

STATUS REPORT

M/s. P.T. Ramadevi

Enroll No.1732/2000

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT

BUNAL
(ZONE)



