

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

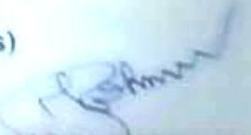
Based on the News Item in the Dinamalar Chennai
Edition dated 01 07.2020, "Will Ramapuram Lake be
Completely restored?"

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. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
Rep. by its Managing Director,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet,
Chennai - 600031.
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)

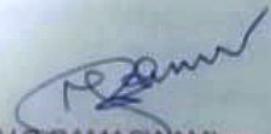

VG-Ramaprasad
Superintending Engineer
C.M.W.S.S. Board
Chennai - 600 032

REPORT FILED BY THE 4th RESPONDENT

I, V.G. Ramaswami, S/o. V. Gurusamy, Hindu, aged about 58 years now working as Superintending Engineer (Central/ Co-ord) in the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Chennai do here by solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

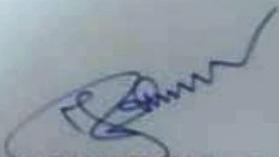
1. I am working as the Superintending Engineer (Central/ Co-ord) in Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Chennai and 4th Respondent herein and well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and I am filing this affidavit on behalf of CMWSSB.
2. I respectfully humbly submit that Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone has given a direction in its order dated 06.07.2020 to constitute a Joint committee and designated GCC as nodal agency and had given certain directions and the relevant portion of the order is extracted for reference from Para No.11 & 12:

** **Para No. 11** : Considering the circumstances, we feel it appropriate to appoint a joint committee comprising of the District Collector, Chennai District, a Senior Officer not below the rank of the Superintending Engineer of Public Works Department and Water Resources Organisation, a Senior Officer from Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewage Board, a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board of particular area designated by the Chairman and the Commissioner or a Senior Officer who is in charge of maintenance of the Lakes in Greater Chennai Corporation, to inspect the lake in question and submit a status as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found to this Tribunal.**


V.G. RAMASWAMI, B.E.
Superintending Engineer
C.M.W.S.S Board
Chennai - 600 002.

Para No. 12 :The committee is directed to go into the question of the present status of the lake, ascertain as to whether there is any encroachment and if so what are the steps taken to remove encroachment and protect the lake, what is the scheme evolved by the Corporation to protect the lake against encroachment and pollution and its stage of implementation, ascertain as to whether there is any discharge of untreated sewage into the lake and if so trace out the person responsible for the same and take necessary action against that person or department including imposition of environmental compensation and if the quality of the water has been contaminated on account of any such act, then make recommendation as to how this will have to be remedied and restore the same to its original position. They are also directed to conduct the water analysis test to ascertain the quality of the water and steps required to improve the quality of water if it falls below the standard provided under the environment laws”.

3. In this regard I respectfully submit that as per the order of Hon'ble NGT dated 6.7.2020, the joint committee had inspected the Ramapuram lake on 07.10.2020 and the report was E-filed by Nodal Agency on 09.10.2020.
4. Further I also respectfully submit that case was originally posted to 12.10.2020 as mentioned in the order dated 07.10.2020 and thereafter the matter has been adjourned from time to time by successive notifications and the case came up for hearing on 2.7.2021 and directed the individual respondents to submit report before 04.08.2021.
5. I further humbly submit that I, along with S.E(South West) inspected the Lake on 19.7.2021 which comes under the jurisdiction of Area XI and observed that there was around 250 unapproved slum families residing beside the lake and have their own septic tank for sewage disposals. **Hence, there are no traces of sewage discharged into the lake and the Report of the same had been E-filed by CMWSSB before the Hon'ble NGT .**


V.G. RAMASWAMI, B.E.
Superintending Engineer
C.M.W.S.S. Board
Chennai - 600 002.

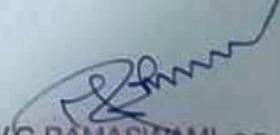
6. I respectfully hereby submit that further in the E-filed report of CMWSSB it is also mentioned about the **progress of Ramapuram Comprehensive Under Ground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) work undertaken by CMWSSB** and also stated that after completion of the scheme, all the household sewer connections will be connected to the new sewerage system.

7. I respectfully submit that the case came up for hearing in the respective dates such as 4.8.2021, 27.9.2021, 1.12.2021, 31.01.2022 and directions had been given to the Joint committee as well as GCC, Revenue Department, TNPCB etc.

8. I further respectfully submit that specifically in the order of **Hon'ble NGT dated 31.01.2022** relevant portion of the directions for CMWSSB is extracted from Para No.9-12 and the **respective Action taken Report (ATR)** is detailed as follows:

***"Para No. 09:** The CMWSSB is also directed to file a further report regarding the steps taken by them to **avoid discharge of untreated sewage into the Ramapuram Lake**, if any exists, and what is the **nature of action taken** to avoid all those things.*

9. I respectfully submit that for the above mentioned direction as pointed out in Para No. 6 of this report, **At present there is no discharge of untreated sewage into Ramapuram lake**. Further the works of providing Comprehensive Underground Scheme to Ramapuram covering 2.69 Sq.Km with 456 No of streets serving 2 wards (154 &155 under Zone XI) is ongoing with **overall physical progress of 77% as on 28.02.2022** and on completion of this scheme entire households in the respective areas will be connected to this new sewerage system.


V.G. RAMASWAMI, B.E.
Superintending Engineer
C.M.W.S.S. Board
Chennai - 600 002.

10. I also further respectfully submit the Action Taken by CMWSSB in reference to Para No. 10 ,11 and 12 extracted from the order dated 31.01.2022 as follows:

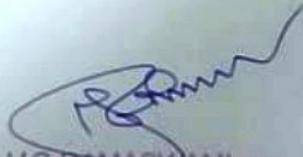
Para No. 10: *we have come across another newspaper report published in the Times of India, Chennai Edition dated 31.01.2022 under the caption "Raw sewage flooding Adyar – Metrowater's Burst pipeline is the culprit".*

Para No. 11: *It is mentioned in the newspaper report that on account of this breach, metro water has been discharging 30 – 40 MLD of untreated sewage to Adyar estuary near Thiru.Vi.Ka. bridge for over two days now. They have taken up work to replace 350 meter long sewage pipelines, with a diameter of 1000 m. One of them, however, burst owing to it being corroded and the board decided to divert the sewage into the estuary, thereby polluting the water body.*

Para No. 12: *When this was pointed out, Mr. G. Janakiraman, the learned counsel appearing for the CMWSSB submitted that he will get the report from the Board regarding the present status and what is the nature of action taken by them"*

11. I respectfully submit that for the above mentioned direction as pointed out in Para No. 8 of this report, the works are being carried out in the Adyar Bridge to prevent flow of sewage into River Adyar and the outline of the sewerage system is detailed as below:

- The sewage collected from the Southern part of Chennai city is drawn into designated Sewage Pumping Station by gravity and pumped to Adyar Relay Pumping Station, from where sewage is conveyed to Perungudi STP for treatment and disposal.
- From Adyar Sewage Pumping Station, sewage was pumped through 1600mm dia Pre-Stressed Concrete pumping main. The pumping main alignment is running along the old Adyar Bridge, where 1600mm dia PSC pumping main gets bifurcated into 2 nos of 1000mm dia PSC main for a length of 350m.


V.G.RAMASWAMI, B.E.,
Superintending Engineer
C.M.W.S.S. Board
Chennai - 600 002.

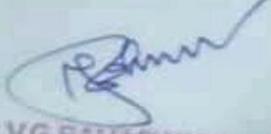
12. I respectfully submit that **"due to aging and corrosion, sudden burst occurred in one of the PSC pipe over the Bridge leading to discharge of raw sewage into Adyar Estuary"**. The same was reported as mentioned in the Hon'ble NGT order dated 31.01.2022 at Para No. 10" as stated in Para No. 08 of this report .

13. I hereby respectfully submit that the work of Replacing the 2 nos of damaged 1000mm dia PSC pumping main over Adyar Bridge by CI 1000mm dia and allied works in Area XIII has been taken up under Mitigation of Sewage Outfalls - Phase-I - Package-14. **"The sudden burst occurred in the pipe was rectified immediately and one of the damaged pipe alignment has been replaced with 1000mm dia Cast Iron pipe and the sewage flow into Adyar Estuary was stopped immediately"**.

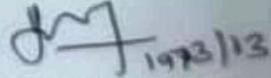
14. I hereby respectfully submit that **"at present there is no flow of sewage into River Adyar"**. The work of replacing another 1000mm dia PSC pipe with 1000mm dia CI pipe is underway and will be completed at the earliest.

It is therefore humbly prayed that, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept my response on behalf of the Board and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this
9th Day of March 2022 and signed
his name in my presence


V.G. RAMASWAMI s.E.
Superintending Engineer
C.M.W.S.S. Board
Chennai - 600 002.

Before Me


Advocate, Chennai

Before the National Green Tribunal
(Southern Zone) Chennai.
O.A No.95 of 2020 (SZ)

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

Vs.

Chennai Metropolitan
Water Supply and
Sewerage Board
(CMWSSB) represented by
its Managing Director,
Santhome Road, MRC
Nagar, Chennai - 28.

Respondent

REPORT FILED BY 4TH RESPONDENT

G. JANAKIRAMAN
Counsel for 4th Respondent