

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ)
CHENNAI

O. A. No. 70 of 2021 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own Motion SUO MOTU Based on the
News item in Dinamalar Newspaper Applicant

Vs

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort St' George, Chennai and 8 others Respondents

AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 7TH RESPONDENT.

I B.Manivannan Son of Mr. T.C.Balasundaram, Hindu Aged about 58 years working as Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Chengalpattu do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows.

1. I submit that I am one of the committee member constituted by this Honorable Tribunal in this case. We the committee members had inspected the Thirukazhukundram Town Panchayat on 01.04.2021 and discussed the issues of sewage disposal and submitted a report on 06.04.2021 before this Honorable Tribunal.

2. I submit that Thirukazhukundram Town Panchayat is a Traditional and Pilgrim centre and is a special Grade Town Panchayat. The area of the Town Panchayat extent over 11.20 sq.km with a population of 29319 as per 2011 census and the present population is estimated around 32000.

3. I submit that Thirukazhukundram Town Panchayat consists of 18 wards with 7958 House holds and 767 commercial establishments including 21 marriage halls. The Town Panchayat having 264 streets covering 60.821 Km length and Storm water drains were provided to a length of 36.85 km in 183 streets.

4. I submit that in connection with water supply the same is being provided through three sources. Though the water supply schemes are executed by TWAD Board, the schemes were handed over to Town Panchayat after execution and being maintained by the Thirukazhukundram Town Panchayat. The present water supply level to Town Panchayat is at the rate of 70 lit per Head per day.

5. I submit that with regard to sanitation in the Town Panchayat, the total number of Households 7958. Among the total 7985 households, 7681 households are having separate toilet facility with septic tank. The balance 276 households are utilizing the community toilets being maintained by Town Panchayat.

6. I submit that for the treatment of sludges of septic tanks, the treatment to be followed in two methods. (a) The town has to be provided with Under Ground Sewerage scheme or (b) Septage Management (Faecal sludge Management) . The first system of providing Under Ground Sewerage schemes in small town is difficult due to financial constraints, laying of sewer line according to the gradient in unorganized layouts developed over the decades and recurring cost in operation and Maintenance will be high.

7. I submit that considering the above constraints in Under Ground Sewerage Schemes, the second alternative method of providing Septage Management will be effective and the same quality of standards will be maintained with limited financial commitment and easy execution.

8. I submit that as for as Thirukahzkundram Town Panchayat is concerned the population is about only 32,000 and the decadal growth is only 4000. To implement Faecal Sludge Management the onsite sanitation infrastructures are presently available at the Households with septic tanks. The sludge filled over an interval in the septic tank has to be desludged periodically. The desludging process will be carried out using vehicles owned by private operators or by the Town Panchayat.

9. I submit that when the untreated collected sludges disposed in to surface would pose a threat of pollution. When the same is properly managed through Faecal Sludge Management the same can be used as a manure for agriculture purpose. This system has already adopted in Karunkuzhi Town Panchayat and being successfully maintained by the Town Panchayat. Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant has also been commissioned in the Municipalities viz Kangaeyam, Dharapuram, Kovilpatti and in Idappadi.

10. I submit that the Thirukazhukundram Town Panchayat had already proposed FSTP (Faecal sludge Management) for a population strength of 35000 to treat 25 KLD. Fund for construction of FSTP has to be obtained from Government. The Town Panchayat is having a land to the extent of 8.89 acres for solid waste management and the proposed FSTP can also be constructed in the above extent land.

11. I submit that the main constraint is letting out the Grey water from the Households in to the open drains and disposing it to the four water bodies. The approximate quantity of Grey water generated from households is about 4.16 lakhs litres per day. The Town Panchayat has proposed to construct on site Waste water treatment facility separately for the four locations which will treat the Grey water to the TNPCB standards before letting in to the water bodies.

12. I submit that the above systems are proposed by the Thirukazhukundram Town Panchayat. On getting the sanction and receipt of necessary funds the same will be executed by the Town Panchayat. On speedy completion of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant and on site Waste Water Treatment for Grey water by the Town Panchayat, the Town Panchayat will become Sewage Pollution free.

Solemnly affirm and
Signed on this 23rd day of
June 2021.


DEPONENT, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/TWAD BOARD
R.W.S. DIVISION MELAMAIYUR
CHENGALPET - 603 003.

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M.AROKIYARAJ.
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COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT 7