

**EFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 23 of 2024(SZ)**

**Earlier OA. No.705/2023(PB)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Indian Express Dt. 03.11.2023 titled "Tamil Nadu Activities Allege drinking water supplied from Madambakkam lake in Tambaram contaminated with sewage civic body disagrees"

**Versus**

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Through its Member Secretary,  
Chennai and Ors.

**.....Respondent(s)**

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**Advocate  
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.**



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**.....Respondent(s)**

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, S. Palanisamy, S/o. Thiru. S. Santhappan, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

I submit that I am working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorized to file this report on behalf of the First respondent and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available in our office. Chennai and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available in our office.

1. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi has taken Suo moto with respect to the News item appearing in "The Indian Express dated: 03.11.2023 titled "Tamil Nadu Activities alleged drinking

  
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JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
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water supplied from Madambakkam lake in Tambaram contaminated with sewage, Civil body disagrees” in O.A.705/2023 (Principal Bench) has transferred the original application to the Hon’ble NGT (SZ) and numbered has OA.No. 23 of 2024.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(PB) in its order dated:29.11.2023 in OA No. 705 of 2023 directed as follows:

***"7.Let the water samples of Madambakkam lake be collected and analyzed for drinking water quality parameters and for faecal coliform MPN/100 ml by the laboratories of TNPCB and Regional Laboratory of CPCB, Bangaluru together and report be submitted before the concerned Bench of the Tribunal before the next date of hearing."***

3. It is respectfully submitted that, previously a complaint was received from Thiru. Dhayanandh Krishnan through CM cell Complaint Id 6319531 dated 09.10.2023 regarding contamination of Madambakkam Lake by discharge of sewage into the lake.
4. It is respectfully submitted that, based on the above water sample were collected from Madambakkam lake by TNPCB officials on 12.10.2023 and the report of analysis obtained from the Advanced Environmental Lab, Guindy, Chennai and District Environmental Laboratory, Maraimalai Nagar on 30.10.2023 reveals that the all the parameters except BOD are within the Standards for CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters.
5. It is respectfully submitted that the above mentioned complaint dated 09.10.2023 was further forwarded to the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation vide TNPCB Lr.No.DEE/TNPCB/MMN/UTM Complaint No.6319531/2023 dated 26.10.2023 and to intimate the action taken on the said complaint directly to the petitioner.(Copy enclosed).

  
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6. It is respectfully submitted that subsequently, based on the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) Order dated 29.11.2023, Madambakkam Lake was inspected along with CPCB officials on 15/05/2024 and samples were collected at the following locations inside the lake.

1. Wet Well -1 at Northern side of the lake.
2. Wet Well -2 at Northern side of the lake.
3. Wet Well -3 at Northern side of the lake.
4. Wet Well -4 at Northern side of the lake.
5. Wet Well -5 at Northern side of the lake.
6. Centre point of the lake.
7. Sewage Influencing point at Yashwanth Nagar Extension.
8. Sewage Influencing point at Thirumal Nagar.
9. Downstream of lake (South side) at paduvancherry.
10. Downstream of lake (East side) at paduvancherry.
11. Downstream of lake (East side) at Periyar Nagar.

7. It is respectfully submitted that the report of analysis dated 27.05.2024 received from Advanced Environmental Laboratory, TNPCB, Chennai reveals that Fecal Coliform & Total Coliform exceeds the Standards for CPCB Primary Water Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters & CPCB designated Best use of water quality criteria Class A, B C both drinking and outdoor bathing standards. In this regard, a show cause notice was issued to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation vide Proc. No. DEE/TNPCB/ MMN /W/2024 dated: 19/07/2024 under the Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Reply to the show cause notice is yet to be received from the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.

8. It is respectfully submitted that at this juncture, the petitioner has filed this W.P.No. 1160 of 2024 in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras and has prayed "To issue writs orders or directions and in particular a WRIT OF MANDAMUS directing the respondents to provide safe drinking

  
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water to residents of Tambaram Corporation, conforming to IS 10500:2012 drinking water standards, prevent sewage from entering the Madambakkam Lake and provide necessary treatment of the lake water, before it is supplied to and used by the public at large and to follow necessary protocols on a periodic basis to check for drinking water quality (physical, chemical and biological parameters) and to publish the water quality details in public domain and to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and thus render justice.”

9. It is respectfully submitted that, in this regard, the TNPCB official has inspected the Madambakkam Lake on 18.10.2024. During inspection it was noticed that Sewage from the unsewered residential area of Tambaram City Municipal Corporation flows into the Madambakkam Lake. Presence of water hyacinth was noticed in the Madambakkam Lake. Solid waste was found dumped along the Madambakkam lake bund area.
10. It is respectfully submitted that, during inspection on 18.10.2024 the water samples collected from the Madambakkam Lake were sent for analysis to District Environmental Laboratory, TNPCB, Maraimalai Nagar and Advanced Environmental Laboratory, TNPCB, Guindy, Chennai to assess the Water quality. The Report of Analysis dated 23.10.2024 obtained from District Environmental Laboratory, TNPCB, Maraimalai Nagar reveals that the Total Coliform (9678.4 MPN/ 100 mL) exceeds the CPCB designated Best use of water quality criteria Class A, B C both drinking and outdoor bathing standards and Fecal Coliform was in the range of 109 MPN/100 mL.
11. Meanwhile, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) Order dated 11.11.2024, has directed the TNPCB as follows,

  
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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
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**7. The TNPCB is directed to continue with the show cause notice and bring it to a logical conclusion after affording an opportunity of hearing to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.**

12. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above, TNPCB has issued directions vide Board Proc. No. T3/TNPCB/F.025800/MMN/Madambakkam Lake/2024/dated: 21.11.2024. to the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to comply the following with respect to the treatment and disposal of sewage under the Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as follows,

- i. The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation shall expedite the action of providing full-fledged Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) for the entire Tambaram City Municipal Corporation area immediately so as to avoid the entering of sewage into the Madambakkam Lake & Madambakkam Thangal eri.
- ii. The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation shall provide UGSS connections to all households in the Yashwanth Nagar Extension, Thirumal Nagar, Periyar Nagar and Paduvanchery of Zone 5 of erstwhile Madambakkam Town Panchayat and presently Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.
- iii. The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation shall ensure that no sewage from the residential areas/commercial buildings shall be discharged into storm water drain/ water bodies in Tambaram City Municipal Corporation limit and shall take immediate action to plug all the sewage outfalls from the unsewered residential areas/commercial buildings into water bodies and to provide with necessary underground sewerage system in Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.

The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation after connecting the underground sewerage connection for all the individual residences in the said area shall collect the sewage, transport through the

*S. S. Rajeev*  
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 TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
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conveyance pipeline and treat and dispose the same in Tambaram Municipality Common Sewage Treatment Plant.

13. It is respectfully submitted that, upon receipt of the reply from the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation to the above directions issued, further necessary actions will be initiated accordingly.

It is, therefore, most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to consider the submissions made and pass orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and necessary in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

*S. S. 18/12/14*  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
CHENNAI-600 032.

### VERIFICATION

I, S. Palanisamy, Son of Thiru.S. Santhappan, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

*S. S. 18/12/14*  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
CHENNAI-600 032.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

From

To

Er.K. Udayakumar, B.E., M.Tech.,  
District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Maraimalai Adigalar Street,  
Maraimalai Nagar.  
Chengalpattu District - 603 209.

The Commissioner,  
Tambaram City Municipal Corporation,  
No.28, Muthuranga Mudali Street,  
West Tambaram  
Chennai 600 045.

Lr.No.DEE/TNPCE/MMN/ UTM Complaint No.6319531/2023 dated: 26.10.2023

Sir,

Sub : DEE - TNPCE - MMN - Complaint regarding contamination of  
Madambakkam lake by discharge of sewage - Action requested - Reg

Ref : UTM Complaint petition received from Thiru.V. Dayanand Krishnan, No. 14,  
Karthik Avenue, Thirumagal Nagar, 3<sup>rd</sup> street, Chitlapakkam, Chennai;  
through UTM, Complaint ID 6319531 dated 17.10.2023

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Based on the Complaint received regarding contamination of madambakkam lake by  
discharge of sewage, Water Samples were collected from Madambakkam lake 12.10.2023 and  
sent to District Environmental Laboratory, Maraimalai Nagar, and Advanced Environmental  
Laboratory, Chennai for Analysis.

In this regard, it is informed that the said complaint received is enclosed herewith and  
it is requested to take action on the said complaint and the details of action taken may be  
intimated to the petitioner directly.

*C. S. S.*  
District Environmental Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,  
Maraimalai Nagar.

*26.10.23*

*JS*

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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF  
THE FIRST RESPONDENT- TAMIL  
NADU POLLUTION CONTROL  
BOARD.**

**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB  
Thiru.Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.**

**Date:18.12.2024**

**Date of Hearing on:20.12.2024**

