

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 121 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Suo Moto matter in respect of news item
appearing in The Times of India dated 11.01.2024
titled "Landgrabbers take over Cooum".

Versus

Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management/Regulation Authority,
Through its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors.. ...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY 5thRESPONDENT-
THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMEN**

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 21.11.2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No.121 of 2024 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO-MOTU**

based on the news Item in Times of India

Newspaper, Chennai Edition

Dated: 11.01.2024 titled "**Landgrabbers take over Cooum**".

.....Petitioner(s)

And

Water Resources Department,

Rep.by its Secretary, Chennai and Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS**

I, **G.KARTHIGEYAN**, son of V.Gangadgaram, aged above 55 years, officiating as Executive Engineer in the Water Resources Department, Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk, Chennai - 5 do solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I humbly submit that I am presently working as Executive Engineer in the Water Resources Department and hence I am acquainted with the

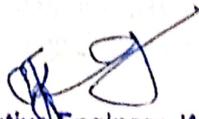
Assistant Executive Engineer, P.W.D.,
Cooum Basin Sub Division, W.R.D.,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

Executive Engineer, W.R.D.,
Araniyar Basin Division,
Chepauk, Chennai-5.

facts and circumstances of the case from the available records. I am filing this Status Report on behalf of Water Resources Department.

2. I humbly submit that when the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern zone; took up the said case for suo-moto hearing on 07.07.2024 notice was ordered to the Water Resource Department.
3. I humbly submit that the Hon'ble Tribunal has SUO-MOTU entertained this Original Application No.121 of 2024 based upon the news item published in Times of India Newspaper, Chennai Edition Dt: 11.01.2024, titled as "**Landgrabbers take over Coom**".
4. I humbly submit that the river bund of the Coom River stretch runs from Napier Bridge to Padikuppam causeway near Koyambedu which originates in a village, which is known as Coom in Kadambathur union in Tiruvallur district situated at about 70 kms from Chennai, all though starting its main course at Sattarai village around 65 kms from Chennai.
5. I humbly submit that, "the said news item discloses that the landgrabbers have been dumping loads of sand and debris and leveling a vast area, entering more than 10 feet into the river bed From Padikuppam causeway to Napier Bridge". This is due to the formation of approach road executed by NHAI.
6. I humbly submit that the Government of Tamil Nadu had accorded in-principle approval to the NHAI for construction of four lane elevated road from Chennai port to Maduravoyal by using one side of the


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coom river bank vide.G.O.Ms.No.199,Public works (WR2) Department dated 22.06.2007. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Tamil Nadu Government and NHAI in this regard. Now the NHAI has commenced preliminary works by forming approach road inside the Coom River. After completion of NHAI work, the debris deposited on the coom river bed, will be removed and the coom will be restore to the original standards at the cost of NHAI.

7. It is respectfully submitted that even the preliminary works was stopped by the field Engineers for want of deposition of the security deposit for Rs.50 Crore to ensure that the return of the coom River regime condition is done by NHAI. After receipt of the security deposit amount Rs.50 crore approved by the Government and an undertaking from NHAI, further work were allowed by this department.
8. I humbly submit that the Demarcation work and DGPS survey has been completed from Padikuppam causeway to Napier Bridge in the coom river. Due to the court cases the eviction of encroachment works have been suspended, the decree order received, all the encroachments will be evicted from the Right of way in the Coom River, thereafter, the boundary wall constructed by Greater Chennai Corporation through CRRT.
9. I humbly submit the work schedule has been requested from NHAI Vide The Chief Engineer, WRD., Chennai Region, Chepauk, Chennai -5 Letter No.OT1/ AE I/ F-NHAI/ 2025/ Dt.02.07.2025 on removal site


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office, store room, labour shed, materials yard etc., During the North East Monsoon review meeting chaired by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, it was informed by NHA1 that 238 working platform were formed in Cooum River and the same will be removed on or before 31.08.2025.

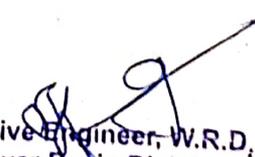
10. I humbly submit that the Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on Dinamalar ,Chennai edtion, News paper dated 09.05.2024 original application No 170 of 2024 "Encroachment by dumping construction waste along the banks of Aminthaikarai Koovam" heard by this Honorable National Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai, also concerned the same Encroachment issues are similar which was disposed of Final order was passed on 21.01.2025.

11. It is therefore most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept this status report filed on behalf of the Water Resource Department, record the same and be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai

on this the 28th day of August, 2025

and signed his name in my presence.


Executive Engineer, W.R.D.,
Araniyar Basin Division,
Chepauk, Chennai-5,

Advocate : Chennai


Assistant Executive Engineer, P.W.D.,
Cooum Basin Sub Division, W.R.D.,
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