

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

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 141 of 2024

Petitioner: Suo Moto

Vs

Respondent(s): Kerala State Pollution Control Board
Rep. by Chief Environmental Engineer,
Regional Office, Ernakulam and others

**REPORT FILED BY 4th RESPONDENT
THE KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

I, Shibu P S, S/o. Sudhakaran, aged 51 yrs, residing at Corporation Staff Quarters, Karikkamuri, Ernakulam – 682011, hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows: -

1. I am the Additional Corporation Secretary and now holding the charge of the Secretary Of Kochi Municipal Corporation and, I am aware of the facts of the case.

2. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal following a newspaper article dated 03-04-2024 in the Chennai edition of the Mathrubhumi newspaper with the headline 'Plastic garbage caught on fire 'No peace for Brahmapuram residents' registered the above Suo moto Original Application No. 141/2024. Kochi Municipal Corporation was added as the 4th respondent in the above case.

3. On 03-04-2024 Mathrubhumi daily Chennai edition has published a newspaper article on 28-03-2024 based on the fire caught to the plastic waste that was collected in large quantities on 28-03-2024 at a private person's land near Brahmapuram member junction. It is mentioned in the



news report that the fire could not be extinguished completely as the said area was wet land and there were no roads for the vehicles of the fire brigade to reach the burning area. It is informed that the Kochi Municipal Corporation is apparently not involved in the incident.

4. This Hon'ble National Green Tribunal had initiated a suo-moto OA 178/2023 in connection with the fire incident at the Brahmapuram Waste Management Plant on March 3, 2023, owned by the Kochi Municipal Corporation and imposed a fine of Rs.100 crores by a judgment dated 17-03-2023. The said order has been stayed in WPC 7844 of 2023 (SZ) and said stay order is in force upto 29-07-2024. It is submitted that the municipality is taking all the instructions of the Hon'ble Court in a timely and accurate manner on the current litigation No. WPC 7844 of 2023(S) in the Hon'ble High Court regarding the garbage issues within the limits of the Kochi Municipal Corporation and the Brahmapuram fire.

5. The Kochi Municipal Corporation had filed an interim report dated 05.09.2024, and the following steps have been taken to prevent fire in that area.

6. The waste has been removed from the places where inadvertent dumping has been found within the limits of the Cochin Corporation and the action has been taken for beautification activities in the viable dumping sites.

7. Necessary steps are being taken to carry out IEC activities and beautification activities to prevent disposing of waste at various locations. 798 Haritakarma Sena members has been being deployed to facilitate waste removal from households and commercial establishments (including small businesses) of 74 divisions of Cochin Corporation. At present, the organic waste collected by Haritha Karma Sena is treated directly by Cochin Corporation itself, and the inorganic waste is collected and permanent disposed by M/s.Green Worms Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. w. Kerala waste Management (agence sauthorised by Cochin Corporation) without interruption.

8. To deal with public complaints related to waste disposal including illegal dumping, the Corporation has developed "MY KOCHI APP" and has



provided a system to send photos to the public. Strict instruction has been given to bulk organic waste generators to establish a waste disposing unit to dispose waste timely and until it is established, Corporation has authorised an agency named Rebuild Kerala to collect sorted bulk waste by imposing user fee from them. The organic waste thus collected is disposed by the corporation itself.

9. Inorganic waste collected from the bulk waste generators Green Worms Waste Management pvt. Ltd. and W. Kerala Waste Management agencies have been charged and collected the process is ongoing. Also, 2 authorized agencies A4 Mercantile and Aravind Associates have been appointed for removal of sanitary waste from the municipal area and a contract has been entered into with KEIL, a Public Sector Undertaking. 1-1.5 ton sanitary waste has been treated a day in this way. Corporation has entered into an agreement with Raidco Kerala Ltd., government approved company to install a 3 ton capacity incinerator at Brahmapuram as part of a permanent system at Corporation level and is currently in the final stages of starting a 3 TPD capacity Diaper/Napkin. At present 1500 bio bins have been installed in Cochin Corporation limits. A supply order has been placed for 1190 bio bins. 317 bottle booths have been set up at various places within the corporation limits. 1450 minstrel cups have been distributed. Organic Waste Converter (OWC) plant is in progress at Kaloor. 56 Container Material Collection Facility (MCF) and 5 Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) have been established.

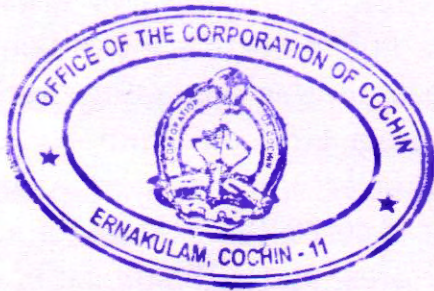
10. As part of setting up an effective permanent system for waste management, 2 plants with a capacity of 50 tonnes each have started functioning from 08/03/24 at Brahmapuram for the treatment of Black Soldier Fly organic waste. Fabco 50 TPD and Zigma 50 TPD are also treating waste in the first phase. Also, under the leadership of BPCL, PMC has been formed for 150 ton capacity CNG/CBG plant and the tender process has been completed and the work has started in the first week of March. There are currently 2 FSTP (Faccal Sludge Treatment Plants) operating in Kochi Municipality. one is 0.1 MLD (1 lakh litre) at Brahmapuram plant and two is 0.1 MLD (1lakh litre) at Willington Island. A fine of Rs.1,39,3 4,4101- has been levied from 03.03.2023 to 27.12.2024 from those who throw excessive waste in public places by the Health Squad run by the Corporation.



11. In this way, after the fire at the Brahmapuram plant, the waste disposal is being carried out efficiently and flawlessly. Apart from the above steps it has been instructed to the field officials to take all necessary steps to prevent fire and other pollution in the area.

All that is stated above are true to the best of my knowledge information and belief.

Dated this 31st day of December 2024




Secretary

Kochi Municipal Corporation

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE), CHENNAI

O.A.No. 141 of 2024

(Suo moto)

Kerala State Pollution Control
Board, Rep. by Chief Environmental
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Ernakulam and others .. Respondents

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KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

M/s.P.RAJA(1618/98)
P.KUMANAN(154/03)
M.MATHAN KUMAR(3551/21)
Counsel for 4th Respondent