

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, Chelsasini.V, IAS, aged 30 years d/o Varadarajan, Secretary, Corporation of Cochin, Corporation Office, Cochin Pin 682 011, (residing at Cochin Municipal Corporation Quarters, Karikkamuri Ernakulam) do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows :-

1. Iam the secretary, of the Kochi Municipal Corporation, and iam well 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.



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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 suomoto 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 Regional Fire Officer, Fire & Rescue Services Ernakulam has submitted a special report dated 24-03-2023 regarding the fire safety systems to be installed at the site following the fire that broke out at Brahmapuram Waste Management Plant under the control of Kochi Municipal Corporation on March 3rd 2023. In the status report of the inspection conducted by the District Vigilance & Intelligence Team at the Brahmapuram Waste Management Plant, it has been mentioned that if necessary fire safety and other arrangements are not put in place before the end of the rainy season, it may create a situation for major accidents again. Based on this a joint inspection was conducted by the District Disaster Management Authority, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Irrigation Department, Fire & Rescue Department and Kochi Municipal Corporation, and it was decided to install fire equipment machineries elegantly at the place as per the special report submitted by regional fire officer, fire and rescue services Ernakulam on 24-03-2023. A decision has been taken to take steps to install fire safety systems and the implementation of the steps as per the said decision is going on at



Brahmapuram. It is further submitted that the Corporation has taken all possible measures to prevent further fire incidents in Brahmapuram. Various projects implemented by Kochi Municipal Corporation at Brahmapuram Waste Management Site with emphasis on waste management and fire safety are :

1. Black Soldier Fly Project

M/S Fabco Bio Cycle & Bio Protein Technology Private Ltd and M/S Sigma Global Enviro Solutions Private Ltd have entered into an agreement with the Kochi Municipal Corporation to set up a 25 TPD capacity black soldier fly plant at Brahmapuram owned by Kochi Municipal Corporation. As per the instruction of Kochi Municipal Corporation, Kerala State Electricity Board has installed transformers required for execution of the said work and provided electric connection available. As per that two plants with a capacity of 50 tons each have started operation from 08-03-2024. At present both the plants are processing 25 TPD of waste. The issue of increasing the processing capacity of the plants is under consideration of the Kochi Municipal Corporation Council.

2. Bio-mining Project

Bhumi Green Energy has been satisfactorily executing the bio-mining work to dispose of the heritage waste deposited at Brahmapuram. Arrangements have been made to transfer about two lakh metric tonnes of treated waste to cement factories for further processing. At present 47,951.09 MT of RDF has been shipped from Brahmapuram. The work is ongoing. Also 74.00 MT of recyclable plastic was shipped for sampling processes. 36,650.4 metric tonnes of C&D waste, 1,35,158.80 metric tonnes of 6 mm-30 mm EMR and 22,440 metric tonnes of soil and inert waste are stored in the plant. In addition, C&D waste and 6 mm-30 mm coarse fractions are being used for temporary road construction in Brahmapuram. Additional machinery has been installed by the contracting agency at Brahmapuram to speed up the execution of the work. The said work is being executed in full gear. Social Audit in this regard has been completed by National Environment Engineering Research Institute on 22-05-2024. The report regarding that is not available. The files have been



handed over to Kerala State Senior Deputy Director of Audit for conducting municipal level audit of the said work.

3. Strengthening of Internal Roads/Construction of Roads

The Hon'ble Court directed the Corporation to strengthen the internal roads through the Brahmapuram site and explore the possibility of tiling later. Currently estimates of Rs 3.5 crore and Rs 1.86 crore have been prepared and submitted for administrative approval for construction of internal roads. A work of internal road having an estimated amount Rs.25,00,000/- has been contracted. Other internal roads have been constructed temporarily as part of fire safety. Steps are being taken to pave roads using construction & demolition waste available through bio-mining. Along with this, the Hon'ble Mayor has instructed the C-Head Secretary on 17-08-2024 to prepare a master plan for the use of 110 acres of land in Brahmapuram owned by Kochi Municipal Corporation under the leadership of C-Head. Based on this, C-head has already started the work costing about Rs.30,00,000/- (Rupees thirty lakhs) for preparation of master plan including operation of waste treatment plant, beautification and greening of the site taking into account existing and future use.

4. Installation of sanitary napkin incinerators

The Corporation has been directed to investigate the possibility of installing sanitary napkin incinerators in various establishments within the Kochi Municipal Corporation and to submit a report on the same. At present, a sanitary napkin incinerator costing Rs 3 crore 50 lakh has been installed in Brahmapuram and a firm called Raidco has been entrusted with the task of executing the same. The physical conditions necessary for the execution of the work are fulfilled. Its operation will start in the first week of September 2024. Along with this, a total of 30 Sanitary Napkin Incinerators have been installed in various institutions within the Corporation limits in connection with the implementation of the work of installing Sanitary Napkin Incinerators in various institutions within the Kochi Corporation limits. Out of which 4 are located in the honourable High Court complex.

5. Fire safety systems

Bhumi Green Energy, a contracting agency, has appointed a fire safety specialist in Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting at Brahmapuram Waste



Management Plant. Also, Rs. 49,60,566/for the installation of Fire Automatic Wet Raiser System, Rs. 14,25,000 - for the construction of Fire Water Tank, Rs.4,00,000/- for the installation of Street lights, Rs 3,00,000 for the renovation of internal roads and Rs.30,00,000/- have been prepared for Electrification work towards installation of Fire Automatic Wet Raiser System at Brahmapuram Waste Management Plant. Rs.70,00,000/- was allotted from District Disaster relief fund as first instalment for the works and additional fund of Rs.34.25,000 sanctioned from disaster relief fund for the implementation of the works detailed above. Kochi Municipal Corporation had entered into contractual agreement related to execution of above works. Implementation has started. Installation of street lights and rehabilitation of internal roads have been completed. According to the instructions from the Fire Safety Department that fire safety equipment should be purchased urgently at Brahmapuram Processing Plant, the Assistant Engineer has given a report fixing the estimated price of Rs.6,00,000/- and the work was already awarded to the contractor. A letter has also been issued to the State Election Screening Committee seeking relaxation in the Election Code of Conduct for accepting tenders for works worth Rs 25,00,000/- for the construction of internal roads and 25,00,000/- for the installation of tank having one lakh litre capacity. An order has been made available to waive the tender process for the execution of the works. According to this, Kochi Municipal Corporation has entered into an agreement with the eligible agencies by inviting quotations for the execution of the work. The said work is under completion stage.

6. BPCL Project (Bharat Petroleum Company Limited Project)

Honorable Kochi Municipal Corporation vide Council resolution 1(1) dated 29-02-2024 has approved to grant 10 acres of land to Bharat Petroleum Company Limited for setting up a 150 TPD capacity bio-methanation plant at Brahmapuram Waste Management Site to compress biodegradable waste into bio-gas. Legal vetting is available for the draft agreement prepared and submitted by BPCL in relation to the work and steps are being taken to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as a matter of urgency. Also, regarding the construction of BPCL plant at Brahmapuram, an estimate of Rs.2,88,()0,000/- has been submitted by the Kochi Municipal Corporation Assistant Executive Engineer for construction of road and retaining wall from security cabin to septage plant at Brahmapuram Sewage Plant and has been submitted before the Honourable Council for administrative approval. Along with this, the Municipal Corporation has decided to appoint the Superintending Engineer



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SECRETARY
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to prepare the estimate for the construction of Windrow Compost Plant, which is currently treating 50 TPD of organic waste in Brahmapuram and will increase it to 100 TPD in the future as soon as the Honourable Government approves it. The Corporation Secretary has also been tasked to tender for the construction of the said Windrow Compost Plant with the participation of only the agencies empanelled by the Hon'ble Govt.

6. 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 5th day of September 2024

V. Shy
Secretary

Kochi Municipal Corporation

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Signed before me

[Signature]

BIJOY. K. N.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
LSGD
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF COCHIN



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
Engineer, Regional Office,
Ernakulam and others .. Respondents

REPORT FILED BY 4TH RESPONDENT
KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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