

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI

O A 299 OF 2013

&

O A 170 OF 2024

Suo - motu cases

Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu
Based on the news item in Dinamalar
Chennai Edition dt 09.05.2024 under the caption
Encroachment by dumping Construction waste
Along the banks of Aminthkarai Cooum

- Applicant

Vs

1. Department of Municipal Administration and Water supply Govt of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
2. Department of Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
3. The Chief Secretary, Govt of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
4. Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
5. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Govt of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
6. The District Collector, Chennai
7. Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust, Chennai
8. Public Works Department, Govt of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
9. The National Highways Authority of India, Rep by its Project Director, 5th Floor CMRI Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai – 6 00 107- Respondents

Index to Status Report submitted by the 9th Respondent


Counsel for 9th Respondent

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI

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STATUS AFFIDAVIT FILED BY

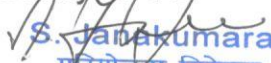
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

I, Janakumaran, discharging duties as DGM (T), Project Director, Project Implementation Unit-1, National Highways Authority of India, (in short "NHAI") Chennai, 5th Floor, CMRL Building, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the 2nd Respondent herein. I am discharging duties as Project Director, PIU-1, Chennai having office at 5th Floor, CMRL Building, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107. I am rendering this STATUS Affidavit based on the facts gathered from the records available at this office.

2. I humbly submit that On 19.09.2024 the Suo - motu cases O.A. 170 of 2024 and O.A. 299 of 2013 were taken up for hearing and the Honble bench has passed the orders directing NHAI to remove the debris by 30.09.2024 and also instructed WRD to file the report following the site inspection on 01.10.2024

3. I humbly submit that I am filing the present status report regarding the removal of the Temporary platform and the Hydraulic Study of the


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Cooum river in compliance with the orders passed on 19.9.2024 by this Honble Bench .

Brief for submission to the NGT regarding the removal of temporary platform in Cooum river.

4.I humbly submit that the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu has formed a monitoring committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to GoTN, MA&WS comprising of GCC, WRD, NHAI and HW&MP department. Accordingly, a monthly coordination meeting is being conducted by the Principal Secretary to GoTN, MA&WS department to ensure the free flow of water in Cooum river during the construction of elevated road from Chennai port to Maduravoyal and monthly CRRT review meeting is being conducted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GoTN.

5.I humbly submit that accordingly, on 02.09.2024 the coordination meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to GoTN, MA&WS Department and Secretary to GoTN, HW&MP department. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the removal of temporary platforms formed in the Cooum river to ensure the free flow water along with GCC, WRD, Chennai port Authority. During the meeting the Regional Officer of NHAI (Chennai region) reported that so far 89 temporary platforms to facilitate the piling operations, and ensured that 69 nos. of these platforms are scheduled for removal before 30th September 2024 and remaining 20 nos. platforms to be removed by 10th of October.

6.I humbly submit that Pursuant to the outcomes of the coordination meeting chaired by Principal Secretary, MA&WS, the directions were issued by the Secretary to Government, HW&MP Department, to the


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Regional Officer, Chennai for submission of the action plan for removal of temporary platform before committed deadline of 10.10.2024. Following this, after obtaining the work program from contractor for removal of 89 nos. of temporary platform before 10.10.2024 and the Regional Officer, Chennai submitted the work program for removal of 89 temporary platforms to Secretary to Government, HW&MP department along with methodology for removal of temporary platform and staking along the existing coom bund, further specifying that the temporary platforms will be removed from the river section and will be stacked along the bund to an height lesser than 75 cm, and providing a gap of 3 m at the storm water drain crossing locations.

7. I humbly submit that Based on the orders passed by the NGT, the WRD has requested the submission of remove revised schedule for the removal of temporary platform before 30.09.2024. The WRD further indicated that the removal operations are currently underway at 23 platforms along various sections of Coom river. Additionally, the WRD has instructed the provision of additional RCC Hume pipes at temporary platforms formed across the Coom river at following locations at (Inner Ring road up stream, NSK Nagar Aminjikai, Inner ring road near Shan Royal Hotel, Virugambakkam – Arumbakkam Canal Confluence point in Choolaimedu) in order to ensure the water flow in the river.

8. I humbly submit that, adhering to the provided instructions the contractor has been instructed to remove the temporary roads formed across the Coom road at aforementioned locations. This action aims to ensure the seamless flow of the water in the river during monsoon season.

9 I humbly submit that, WRD reported that the materials removed from the platform are being stacked on the existing bund of the Coom river. This may lead to increase in width & height of the existing coom bund.

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Complying to the same the contractor has been instructed to execute the stacking process with appropriate protective measure, ensuring that the width of the existing bund shall not be increased, and the height of stacked material will be maintained below the compound wall of the Cooum, additionally, a gap of 3 will be maintained where at storm water drain cross locations.

10.I further submit that NHA ensures WRD that the stacking will be executed in such a manner that the width of the bund will be increased, with the height of filling not exceeding 75 cm from existing bund level. This measure is intended to maintain the linear flow and carrying capacity of the river during monsoon period.

Status report & reply submitted:

11. I am to state, following the orders passed of NGT, as on date 60 nos. of temporary platforms have been removed and the remaining removal are in progress. All the of platforms will be removed by 10th October, 2024.

Description	Total Temporary platforms formed	Temporary platforms removed as on 30.09.2024.	Balance Temporary platform to be removed.
Package - I	29	14	15
Package - II	25	19	6
Package - III	20	18	2
Package - IV	15	9	6
Total	89	60	29

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Additionally, to ensure the free water flow in the Cooum river, the 6 excavators will be deployed along the 15 Km Cooum stretch. These excavators will be utilized to provide essential measures for ensuring the water flow in the cooum river. Following the directions of WRD, if any eventualities warrants in the Cooum river. The status of the removal as on 28.09.2024 was communicated to the Executive Engineer (EE), WRD on 28.09.2024.

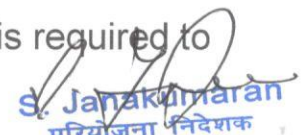
Dynamic Hydraulic Model study current status:

12. I am to state that the Hydro- Dynamic Mathematical Model Study was initiated through The Director Centre for Water Resources, Anna University with respect to introduction of 3.5 m dia piers in the Cooum river. Further, NHAI has given undertaking upon completion of study, the mitigation measures, if any, required to be implemented due to construction of piers will be carried out by NHAI.

13. I am to state that in accordance with the directions of NGT and as per the instructions of WRD, the current status of the study was sought from the Director Centre for Water Resources, Anna University, and the status of the study has been submitted to this office. Further, the Director, Centre for water resources stated that fifty percent of the analysis have been completed and assured that the remaining study will be completed as per the planned schedule. The same were communicated to the Executive Engineer, WRD.

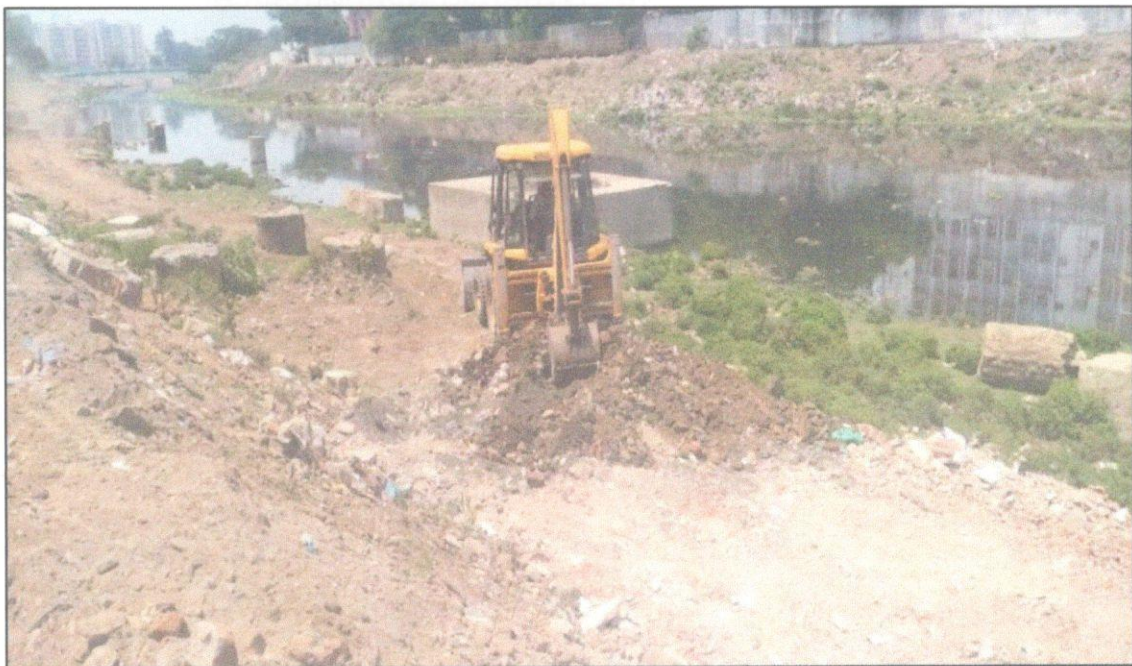
Regarding Dismantling of Old Pile, Pile Cap & Piers:-

14. I further submit that as per earlier contract executed in the year 2008, some of structures has been constructed in the river cooum between Ch. 4+985 To Ch. 8+247. There are around 273 Nos of Piles, 47 Pile Caps & 15 Nos of Piers constructed earlier is required to be demolished.


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As the earlier constructed structures in in the middle of the river, so before taking up the present Construction activities the older structure is to be removed in order to ensure that there is less disturbance to river flow. Accordingly temporary bunds were made to reach the old structure location & demolished all the old structures and taken away the debris away from the river which are not required as per present proposal.

Few photographs showing the removal of old structures is as below:-




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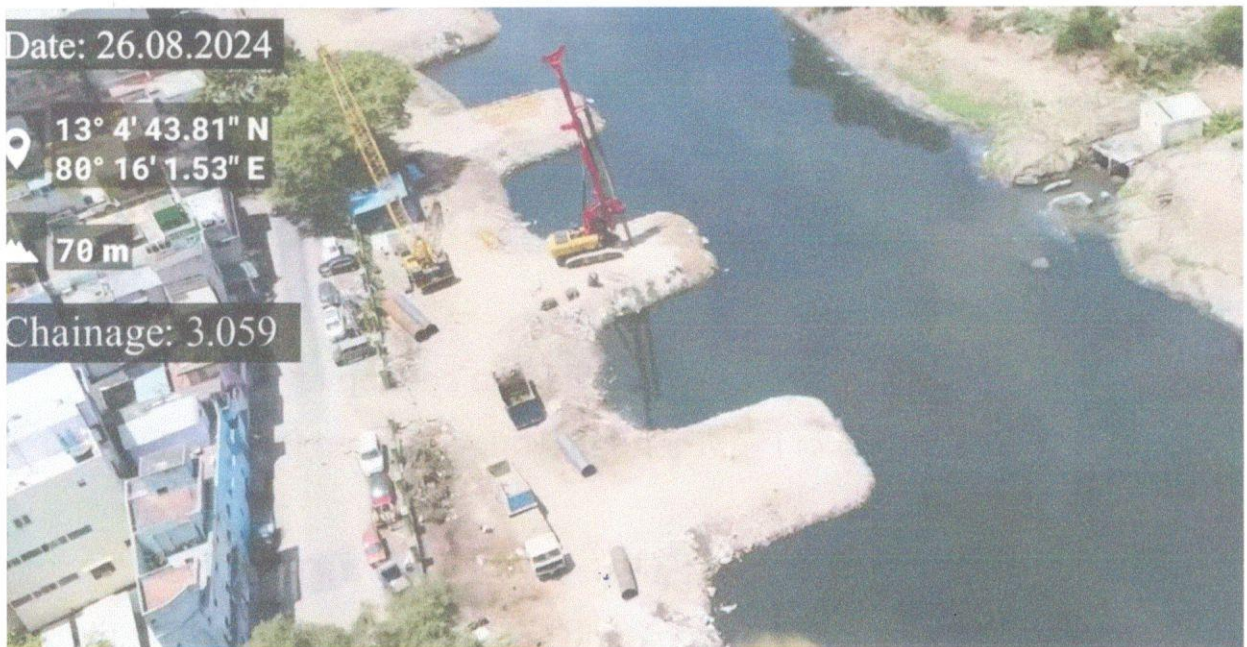

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15.I most respectfully submit that as required the old structures are removed along with the temporary access platform and the proposed foundation works will be taken up as per project requirement by making fresh temporary bunds.

Regarding Construction of Existing Flyover:-

16.I humbly submit that as per MOU held on dated 16.05.2022 total 604 Nos of Pier Structures are to be constructed in the river and as per design in order to ensure the smooth & safe riding and the Alignment of Flyover shall not be modified. In- order to take up the structures inside the river temporary access / platforms should be prepared to reach the foundation location and to start construction activities. This is particularly required to position the machinery like, Piling Rigs, Excavators, Cranes, Dumpers etc., safely.

Photos of the same is enclosed for your reference.



After completing the Bored Cast-in-Situ piles, further Foundation works like Pile Cap, Pier, Pier- Cap works to be taken up. As per Said MOU

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to ensure the free flow of water all the foundations should be constructed min. 500mm below the Bed level.

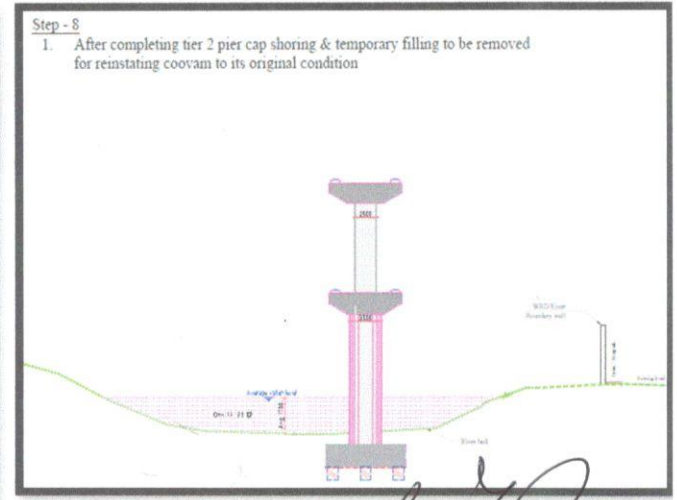
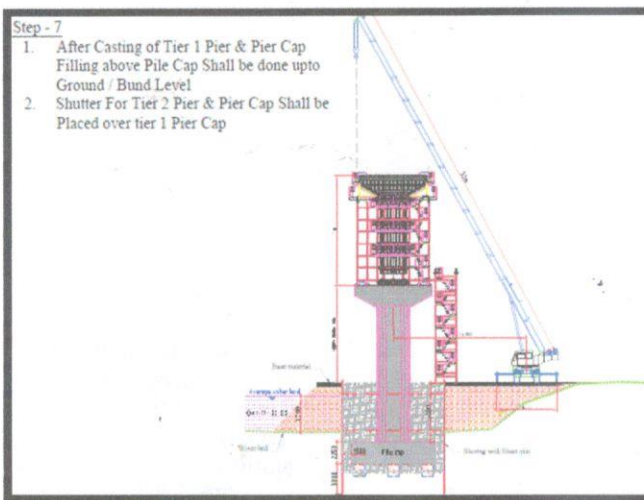
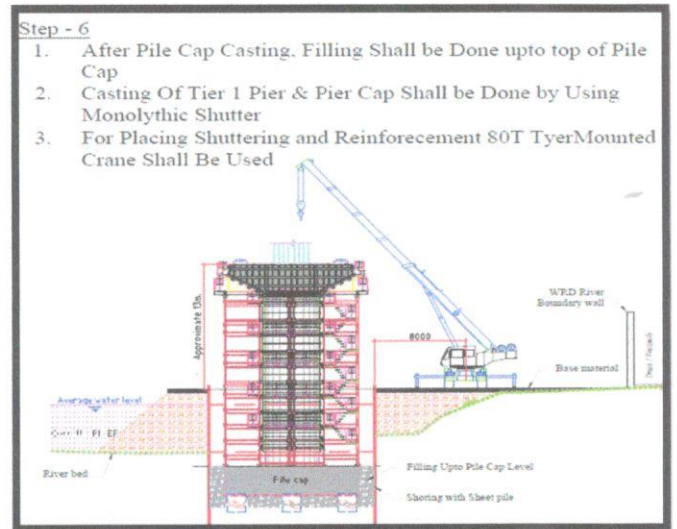
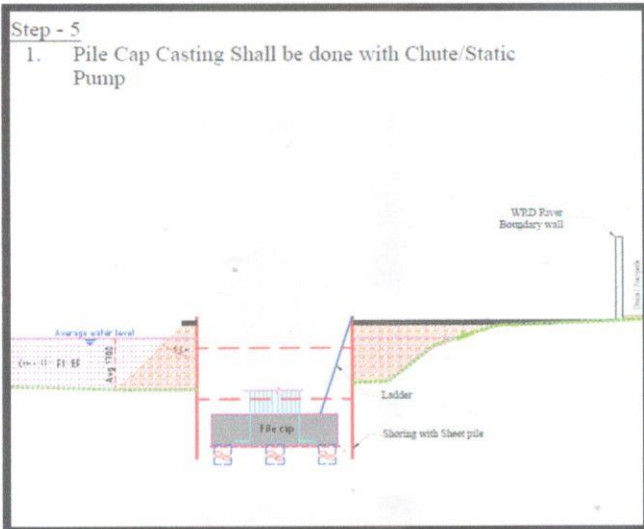
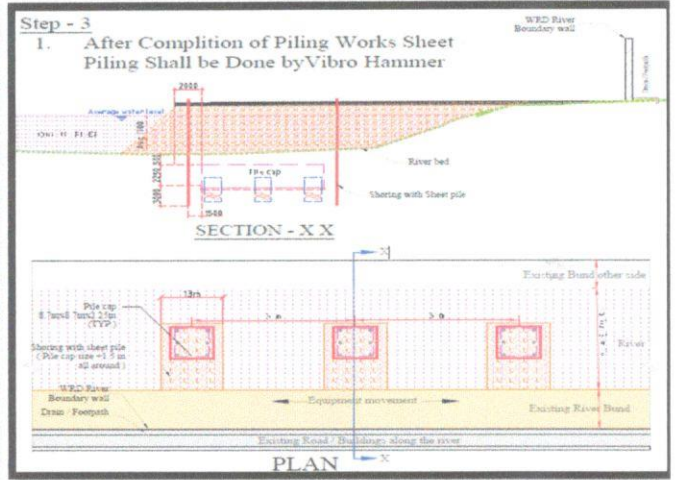
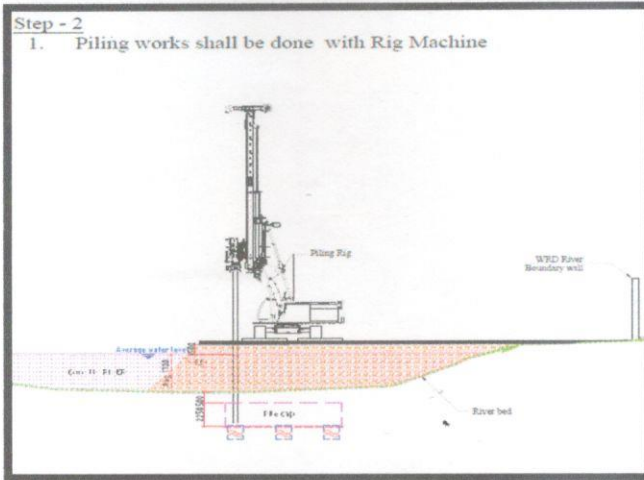
17. I further submit that as per site condition the level of river bed is 3m to 5m below the existing bund level and the depth of foundation approx. 2.5m depth. So we have to excavate to the depth of 5m to 7.5m at every foundation location. As the foundation is completely in water, we cannot excavate directly we have to create a safe working platform with temporary shoring with sheet pile / Bund

18. I further submit that Sequence of Work procedure to work inside the river is as below:-

- i) Preparation of Temporary platform
- ii) Doing Piling Works as per design
- iii) Sheet pile driving all around the pile cap of size min, 12m X 12m
- iv) Excavating upto Pilecap depth varying from 5.0m to 7.5m from bund existing bund level.
- v) Liner cutting, Pile head chipping & Pile head removing upto Cut-off level.
- vi) Pile integrity testing & doing Reinforcement, Shuttering works of pile cap
- vii) Concreting of Pile cap
- viii) De-shuttering & Filling Upto Pile cap top level
- ix) Taking up of Pier/Pier cap works required for Tier 1 - Upto bund level
- x) Removing of Sheet piles
- xi) Required Filling upto bund level to position the crane for doing Tier 2 Pier & Pier cap
- xii) Constructing Tier 2 Pier & Pier Cap
- xiii) Removal of all the temp bunds.


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Detail Scheme & photographs is enclosed for reference:



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Excavation P93 @ Km 3+590


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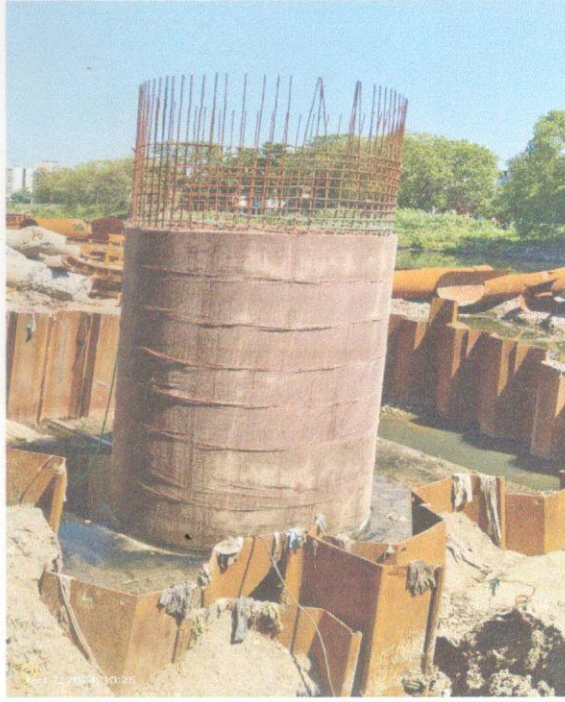


Pile cap-P 173 @ km 6+513



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Pier – P99 @ km 3+819

I most respectfully submit that all efforts are made to remove all the Temporary platforms before 10.10,2024. All the piling rigs are demobilised from the Cooum river. Further 6 no of excavators will be deployed along the river to remove the blockages if any along the alignment of the elevated corridor.

Hence in view of the facts narrated above,, it is humbly prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record the status report for removal of temporary platform, along with the response submitted by this Respondent on behalf of National Highways Authority of India and grant extension of time and thus render justice .

Solemnly affirmed that the above facts are true and gave my signature at Chennai on this the 2nd t day of October, 2024


RESPONDENT
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