

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 23 of 2024 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based
on th news item in The Indian Express Dt
03-11-2023 titled "**Tamil Nadu activitiees
Allege drinking water supplied from
Madambakkam lake in Tambaram
contaminated with sewage, civic body
disagrees**"

-Vs-

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

... Respondents

TYPED SET OF PAPERS

S.No	DATE	PARTICULARS	PAGE No
1.	4.01.2025	Report filed by the 3 rd Respondent Tambaram city municipal corporation	1

Certified that the contents of the typed set are true copies of their originals

Dated at Chennai on this the 04th day of January, 2025.



Counsel for 3rd Respondent.

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REPORT FILED BY THE 3rd RESPONDENT

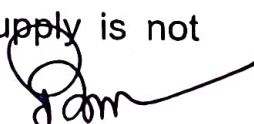
I, Balachander, son of Srinivasan, Hindu aged about 34 years,
Working as Commissioner, Tambaram Corporation, Tambaram, do
hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I am the Commissioner of the Tambaram Corporation. The
Tambaram Municipality, the 3rd respondent herein and will conversant
with the facts set out hereunder from the connected files.

2. It is submitted that I have perused the orders of this
Honorable Tribunal in regard to the cause of action for the above
Original Application and submit my report as follows:-

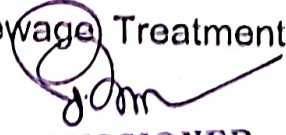
A. Steps taken for avoiding the Pollution of Drinking Water:The

initial News item relates to the supply of drinking water that is
supposedly mixed with sewage from the Madambakkam Lake. In
this regard it is submitted that the Drinking Water supply is not


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done directly from the Madambakkam lake and it was drawn for some time from the Wells that have been installed in the periphery of the lake which draws water that is naturally filtered by the ground and the said water was supplied to the residents after treatment of the water. This water has been regularly tested and the quality of the water was regularly monitored. This Supply from the wells around the Madambakkam Lake was done during a short period time when the other sources were not available. Subsequently as other sources of water such as Supply from the WRD from the Palar Water supply scheme and the supply of water from the Desalination Plants operated by the CMWSSB are made available for supply, the water was not drawn any longer from the Madambakkam lake area since the Month of March, 2024.


B. Drainage of waste water & UGSS Project: The drainage of the residential areas of Madambakkam are situated in a semi rural area and the same are using the disposal through their individual Septic tanks. Only the surface run off in some cases is carrying the waste water in addition to carrying the surface water from rains. In this regard, the scheme for the covering of the entire areas of Thiruneermalai, Peerkankaranai, Perungalathur, Madambakkam, Chitlapakkam and Sembakkam in a Underground Sewage System has been drawn up and the DPR in this regard has been prepared and submitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu for Administrative and Financial sanction. The Outlay for the said project is Rs 1,241.32 Crores. On obtaining the sanction, the project will be taken up following the requirements of the Tender Transparency Act. The estimated time for the completion of the project that involves the formation of the UGSS network with the HSCs, Pumping stations, Lifting stations, Manholes, Sewage Treatment


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Plant, etc is a total of 24 Months from the date of award of the Contract/ Work Order to the successful Bidder. As the DPR is pending Financial approval and allocation of funds, the lead time for publishing the Tender is not finalized and steps are being taken to obtain the requisite sanctions at the earliest possible time.

C. **Temporary measures till UGSS project is implemented:**In the meanwhile till the completion of the project for the comprehensive UGSS, the respondent herein has proposed a Interception and Diversion project to intercept the waste water that flows into the Madambakkam Lake by the construction of peripheral Channels and collect the flows and divert the same for treatment before discharge. A total of 11 points are leading to the lake that is found to be carrying waste water. The said 11 points are being lead into a total of 5 collection and treatment points (Mini STPs). The said STPs (with capacity of 2 MLD (1 No), .5 MLD (2Nos) and .25 MLD (2 Nos) totaling 5 STPs with total installed capacity of 3.5 MLD will be situated in the collection points itself and will treat the waste water and discharge the same into the natural flow itself. The flow of waste water at present is estimated to be 2.5 MLD. A DPR in this regard to the estimate of Rs 12.01 Crores for construction and Rs 2.57 Crores for the estimated cost of maintenance for 3 years totaling Rs 14.58 Crores has been prepared for the Interception and Diversion of the said waste water and lead the same to a Sewage Treatment Plants with total installed capacity of 3.5 MLD. The said DPR has been submitted for Administrative sanction. The Time line for the completion of the said I & D project is estimated as 6 Months.

D. **Construction & Engineering Wastes: (C & D Wastes):** All Zones are having separate vehicles for the collection of C & E Wastes.

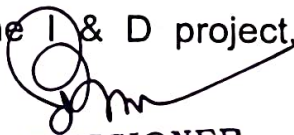


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Each of the 5 Zones is equipped with 2 Bulk carriers for the C & E Wastes and collection is carried out on a regular basis. Any unauthorised dumping of waste is imposed with fines of Rs 2000/- Minimum and based on the quantum of wastes. The C & E wastes are being used for filling up the low lying areas belonging to the Corporation.

E. **Encroachments:** In regard to the encroachments on the lake area, it is submitted that the Lake as such is vested with the Water Resources Department (Formerly part of the PWD). The action is being taken by the WRD, in consultation with the Surveyor and the encroachments on the lake area are being identified. In several instances, the removal of the encroachments is being carried out only with the men and machinery of the Tambaram Corporation on necessary orders of the competent authority of the WRD.

F. **Prevention of entry of solid wastes into the Lake:** As the Interception of surface flows is being done by means of the I & D project, the requirement to install Screens for filtering the plastic wastes may not arise on completion of the said project. Further all silt and solid wastes including plastics, wood, floating debris, etc, accumulated in the channels leading to the Lake have been cleared by the Corporation using its workers. Further, the area of the Madambakkamlake has been brought under the daily sweeping schedule of the Solid waste management system of the Tambaram Corporation and all wastes are being collected on a regular basis for disposal and thus avoiding the flow of such wastes to the Lake through the surface flows. Monsoon preparation works have further taken care of the removal of all wastes in the surface that may get pushed into the lake due to the rain water flows. Till the implementation of the I & D project,


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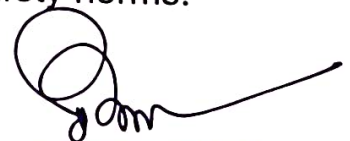
temporary screens will be placed in the 11 points leading to the Lake and these points are included in the daily clearance schedule of the Solid waste removal system under operation.

G. Drinking Water supply, Maintenance & Quality Monitoring:

Supply of the Drinking Water is through the newly revamped Supply systems and the said system consisting of the OHTs, Pumping stations, main lines and distribution lines are maintained on a regular basis. The OHTs are cleaned once in 15 days to ensure that there is no contamination of the water supplied. Regular monitoring of the water supplied is being carried out a daily basis for Chlorination, turbidity and potability. Monitoring of the daily supply is done at three places, namely the OHTs, mid point testing at installed tapping facilities and also in the tail end where the water is reaching the houses. Samples are collected for testing by the King Institute every month for comprehensive testing. Though the standards for such testing are prescribed at 6 month intervals, this Respondent is carrying out the testing every month, apart from the daily monitoring as above.

3. In the above circumstances it is submitted that this Respondent is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that only safe and potable drinking water is supplied to the residents as per the details set out above.

4. **Water drawal from madambakkam Lake:** It is further submitted that the supply at present is not drawn from the Madambakkam lake as already stated above due to the availability of other sources in excess of the requirement. Only in case where the other sources are not available, the supply of water from the Madambakkamlake will be considered after following all safety norms.



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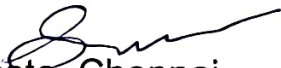
5. Water Treatment Plant at Madambakkam: A Water treatment plant for the water drawn from the Madambakkamlake of the estimated value of Rs 4.60 Crores has also been prepared and the DPR is also under consideration of the sanctioning authority. This Treatment plant will consist of all the required treatment facilities such as aeration, clarifier apart from UV treatment to remove all the impurities from the water. This project has the capacity of 1.5 MLD and the said plant will be situated in the A.S.K. nagar 4th Street, Madambakkam.

6. Therefore it is submitted that all necessary steps have been taken by this Respondent and the same are in the project sanction stage. In the interregnum the water supply is being done from the Palar Water supply system which draws water from the infiltration wells on the Palar river basin and the same is a naturally clean and safe source that can be supplied with minimal safeguards such as Chlorination for drinking purposes.

In the foregoing circumstances it is prayed that this Honourable Tribunal may be pleased to pass necessary orders in O.A. No 23 of 2024 and thus render Justice.

Solemnly affirmed on
This the 30th day of
December 2024 and the
Deponent herein has
Affixed his signature
in my presence


COMMISSIONER
Tambaram City
Municipal Corporation


Advocate, Chennai
C. RAM SENTHIL KUMAR
ADVOCATE, E. No. 2522/06
DS. 31/15, 1st Main Road,
Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai - 600 020

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ)
BENCH AT CHENNAI**

OA.No. 23 OF 2024 (SZ)

REPORT FILED BY 3RD

RESPONDENT

DATED 4.01.2025

**M/S.P.SRINIVAS (828/1994)
R.PURUSHOTHAMAN (263/2011)**

COUNSEL FOR 3RD RESPONDENT.

Cell No. 9940118337