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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, AT CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 43 of 2025 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion-

SUO-MOTO Based on the News

item in The Times of India,

Chennai edition dated 03.3.2025,

"500 tonnes of waste to end in landfills".

.....Applicant

Versus

The Commissioner

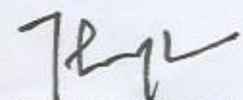
Greater Chennai Corporation

..... Respondent

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE GREATER CHENNAI  
CORPORATION. - 5<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

I, J.Kumaragurubaran, I.A.S., son of Th.S.Jayabalan .(Late), Hindu aged about 45 years, the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, Ripon Buildings, Chennai - 600 003, do hereby solemnly and sincerely affirm as follows: -

1. I am filing this status report and I am well acquainted with the facts of the above case as per available records.
2. I submit that the Counter Affidavit is being filed by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) in response to the case lodged by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding the closure of Micro Compost Centres (MCCs) and Material Recovery Facility Centres (MRFs) in Chennai. The Greater Chennai Corporation has taken all



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necessary steps, in compliance with the directives issued by the Commissioner, Zonal Officers, and through Council Resolutions, to ensure the effective management of waste, while addressing the public health concerns, the sanctity of sensitive areas, and other related environmental concerns.

3. I submit that the Greater Chennai Corporation has been operating 190 MCCs and 137 Material Recovery Facility Centres across 15 zones. Over time, complaints related to public health, foul odours, and environmental concerns, as well as opposition to the location of certain MCCs in burial grounds, have been raised. Due to large objections to operate the MCC's and MRF's that are located in burial grounds and residential areas and inability to process the waste for the past one year, it is inevitable of close these centres where it is not possible to process the waste further. As a result, the Greater Chennai Corporation has undertaken several initiatives to address these issues, which include the closure of MCCs in residential areas, relocation of MCCs from burial grounds, and the proposal of new waste management solutions.
  
4. I submit that the closure of MCCs and MRF's was undertaken after a thorough evaluation, to ensure that public health is safeguarded and that environmental concerns are addressed. These closures are in line with the growing demands from residents, NGOs, and elected representatives to ensure that the MCCs do not negatively impact the community, particularly in terms of air quality and public health. The closure process was executed in compliance with council resolution No. 70 dated 27.02.2025.

  
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5. I submit that the removal of MCCs situated in burial grounds was undertaken in respect of the cultural sentiments of the public. The sanctity of burial grounds holds immense significance in the cultural and religious practices of Chennai's residents. In light of the objections raised by NGOs, RWAs, elected representatives, and the public, the Greater Chennai Corporation decided to decommission these MCCs and relocate them to alternate sites. This is a step needed to protect the sanctity and maintain harmony between waste management initiatives and cultural norms. Details are submitted mentioned below;

Zone	No. of MCC & MRF		No. of MCC & MRF closed in Burial Ground		No. of MCC & MRF closed due to Public Objection		No. of Functioning MCC & MRF	
	MCC	MRF	MCC	MRF	MCC	MRF	MCC	MRF
1	5	5	0	0	4	2	1	3
2	4	8	0	0	2	4	2	4
3	4	16	1	0	3	11	0	5
4	30	13	4	3	24	6	2	4
5	9	14	0	0	7	11	2	3
6	28	11	7	4	18	4	3	3
7	22	18	7	0	13	14	2	4
8	39	15	11	3	26	9	2	3
9	12	9	6	3	4	4	2	2
10	7	3	4	0	2	0	1	3
11	4	4	1	1	3	0	0	3
12	9	3	6	0	1	0	2	3
13	6	8	3	0	3	4	0	4
14	6	5	0	0	4	2	2	3
15	5	5	0	0	4	3	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>49</b>

  
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6. I submit that after thorough discussion, 168 MCC's and 88 numbers of MRF's had been closed after obtaining Council approval on 27.02.2025.
7. I further submit that the present working conditions of MCC's is 22 having a design capacity of 116 MT/day and MRF's 49 having a design capacity of 140 MT/day.
8. I submit that the closure of MCCs and MRFs have resulted in the temporary reduction of waste processing capacity in certain zones. However, the Greater Chennai Corporation has proposed viable alternatives to address the growing need for waste management and to compensate for the loss of the capacity at the closed MCCs. These alternative measures include the establishment of windrow composting sites, Bailing centres, and bio-CNG plants.

#### **SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO NGT'S QUERIES:**

##### **1.Reasons for Closure of MCCs and MRFs:**

- a) **Health and Environmental Concerns:** I submit that the Greater Chennai Corporation acknowledges that the decentralised MCCs located near residential areas were generating significant amounts of foul odour due to open type waste composting methods. These odours had adverse impacts on the health and well-being of nearby residents, leading to public objections and calls for closure. Such MCCs, particularly in close proximity to populated areas, were closed to mitigate public health risks.

  
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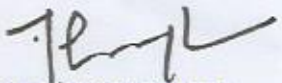
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**b) Cultural Sensitivities:** I submit that the MCCs & MRF situated in burial grounds, which have deep religious and cultural significance for the residents of the city, were closed to preserve the sanctity of these locations. The removal of such centres was deemed necessary to maintain respect for the local community's traditions and practices.

## **2. Proposed Compensatory Actions:**

**a) Windrow Composting Facility at Perungudi:** I submit that as a part of the 2025 -2026 Mayor's announcement, the Greater Chennai Corporation has proposed the establishment of a windrow composting facility with a processing capacity of 100 metric tons per day at the Perungudi reclaimed land. This facility will provide an effective and eco-friendly solution for managing organic waste and producing high-quality compost. The windrow method, a proven composting technique, will ensure the efficient processing of large quantities of organic waste while mitigating any environmental impact. Compost plant and the Bio CNG plant are to be commenced at Kodungaiyur with as part of Integrated Waste Processing Facility (IWPF) the design capacity of 1100 MT/day, for that LOA issued on 13.03.2025.

**b) Material Recovery Facility Centres (MRFs) in 10 Zones:** I submit that as part of the 2025-26 Mayor's announcement, the Greater Chennai Corporation plans to establish 10 new plastic bailing Centres, each with a processing capacity of 10 metric tons. These plastic bailing centre's would significantly improve the segregation and recycling of waste materials,

  
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ensuring that recyclable materials are efficiently processed and diverted from landfills. And also Automated Material Recovery Facilities is planned at Kodungaiyur as part Integrated Waste Processing Facility with the design capacity of 1200 MT/day, for that LOA issued on 13.03.2025.

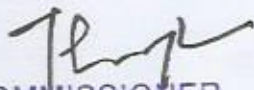
**c) Bio-CNG Plants:** I submit that the Greater Chennai Corporation has also planned the establishment of two Bio-CNG plants One at Sholinganallur (part I) and other one at Madavaram (Part II) within six months each with a capacity to process 100 metric tons of organic waste per day and also three more Bio-CNG plants are under construction are in various stages. These plants will convert organic waste into renewable energy in the form of compressed natural gas (CNG), providing a sustainable source of energy while addressing the city's waste disposal challenges.

**3. Action Plan for the Future:** I submit that the Greater Chennai Corporation is committed to implement an integrated waste management plan that includes the closure of inefficient and problematic MCCs, while imultaneously establishing new facilities that meet the growing waste management needs of Chennai. The development of the windrow composting sites, bailing centres, and Bio-CNG plants will ensure that Chennai continues to meet its waste management goals without compromising on environmental, health, or cultural considerations.

  
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**4. Timeline for Implementation:** I submit that the proposed windrow composting facility, plastic bailing centres, and Bio-CNG plants will be developed as per the announced timelines, with construction expected to commence in the financial year 2025-26. The completion of these facilities will mitigate any adverse effects caused by the closure of the MCC and MRF and ensure that the waste management infrastructure in the city is enhanced and sustainable.

9. I submit that the closure of the MCCs and MRFs was a necessary action undertaken by the Greater Chennai Corporation in response to public health concerns, cultural sensitivities, and environmental issues. The Greater Chennai Corporation has taken proactive steps to ensure that these closures do not adversely impact waste management in the city. The proposed alternatives, including windrow composting facilities, bailing Centres, and Bio-CNG plants, will ensure that Chennai continues to effectively manage its waste and address environmental concerns in a sustainable manner.
10. I submit that the Greater Chennai Corporation respectfully submits that the actions taken by it are in the best interest of the environment, public health, and the cultural integrity of the city. The Greater Chennai Corporation seeks the Tribunal's approval for these measures, as well as its guidance in ensuring that the new facilities are established in a manner that respects the legal and environmental standards of waste management.

  
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This Counter Affidavit outlines the Greater Chennai Corporation's position and the proposed remedial actions it has taken in response to Hon'ble NGT's concerns. It emphasizes the city's commitment to ensuring an environmentally sustainable and socially respectful approach to waste management.

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal may be pleased to consider the above facts and pass appropriate orders as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper under the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.



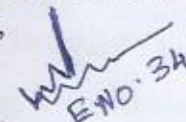
COUNSEL FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai }  
on this day of 27<sup>TH</sup> March 2025 and }  
signed his name in my }  
presence.



COMMISSIONER  
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Before me,



ENO. 340/96

Advocate: Chennai.

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SOUTHERN ZONE, AT CHENNAI**

**Original Application No.43 of 2025(SZ)**

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY  
THE GREATER CHENNAI  
CORPORATION.**

**TH.N.R.RAMESH KANNA,  
COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENTS**