

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI
Original Application No.71 of 2024
[Earlier OA No.783 of 2023 (PB)]**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the news item in The Hindu dt:13.12.2023 titled, "Residents complain about encroachments and waste pollution at rear bund of Red Hills Lake".

.....Applicant

-Vs-

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
and Others.

... Respondents

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**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.S.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

A Additional Report submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ by the First Respondent - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) in Original Application No. 71 of 2024 [Earlier O.A. No.783 of 2023(PB)] taken as a Suo Motu based on the news item in The Hindu dt:13.12.2023 titled, "Residents complain about encroachments and waste pollution at rear bund of Red Hills Lake" against Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Others.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) has directed the respondents to file their respective replies/reports vide order dated 21.01.2025 and to comply the Hon'ble Order, the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, S.Vasuki, Daughter of Thiru. P.K.Somasundaram, submits the report on behalf of the 1st respondent.

A. On 8.1.2024, O.A. No. 783 of 2023(PB) was registered as a Suo Moto by the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi based on the News article published in "The Hindu" dated 13.12.2023 titled "Residents complain about encroachments and waste pollution at the rear bund of Red Hills Lake". As per the said news item, Red Hills Lake is one of the major source of drinking water to Chennai but the sewage is flowing freely into the water body at five locations falling under both the Greater Chennai Corporation and the Avadi Municipal Corporation limits and minor inlet channels have been encroached upon. The news item further states that the water body continues to face the challenges of sewage pollution and dumping of garbage along its boundary. It discloses that the sewage continues to flow freely on the rear side of the lake in five locations near Vankateshwara Nagar, Pudur Bhanu Nagar and Kallikuppam in Zone 7 and Thirumullaivoyal and Venkatachalam Nagar in Avadi limits. The Hon'ble Tribunal has transferred the OA to Hon'ble NGT, SZ, Chennai with the direction to the respondents to file their response before the Tribunal.

B. The report filed by the First respondent (TNPCB) before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai on 6.8.2025 shall be taken as a part and parcel of this additional report.

C. On 21.01.2025, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai has passed the following order:

"1. In the report of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) dated 06.08.2024, it was observed that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not yet implemented the Under Ground Sewage System (UGSS) and storm water drainage. So also, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMWSSB) has not connected the UGSS.

2. The TNPCB issued letters to the CMWSSB on 01.02.2024, followed by a reminder on 03.05.2024. However, the TNPCB has not taken any penal action against them. Hence, the TNPCB is directed to issue appropriate notice and also furnish the water analysis report along with it."

D. To comply with the above-mentioned directions to the first respondent, the Officials of DEE, TNPCB, Tiruvallur, inspected the areas of Venkatachalam Nagar, Thendral Nagar, Saraswathi Nagar, and Mullai Nagar under the jurisdiction of the Avadi Corporation on 18.06.2025. The following observations were made:

A. The Underground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) remains completely unimplemented in Venkatachalam Nagar, Thendral Nagar, Saraswathi Nagar, and Mullai Nagar, despite multiple directives and the critical ecological sensitivity of the area.

B. A portion of untreated sewage/sullage from Venkatachalam Nagar is being illegally discharged *directly into Puzhal Lake* through open

stormwater drains (Latitude: 13.148037; Longitude: 80.136530), thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source. (*Ref: P2 in annexure*)

C. Another portion of sewage is diverted to a grey water treatment plant through unregulated stormwater drains; however, this plant is:

- i. Operating without obtaining mandatory Consent to Operate from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), in violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- ii. Grossly deficient in treatment efficiency, resulting in the release of partially treated effluent into Puzhal Lake, thereby posing a significant public health and ecological threat.
- iii. A Show Cause Notice was issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation on 19.06.2025 for the unauthorized and polluting operation. (*Latitude: 13.148073; Longitude: 80.136377; Ref: P3 in annexure*)
- iv. The Corporation has not obtained any No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the competent authority for discharging treated or untreated grey water into Puzhal Lake. The officials' justification that the plant is a "temporary arrangement" is not legally tenable and reflects gross administrative negligence.
- v. No Electro Magnetic Flow Meters (EMFMs) have been installed, and no logbooks are maintained to monitor inflow, outflow, or performance of the grey water treatment plant, violating the standard monitoring protocols.
- vi. In Mullai Nagar, Thendral Nagar, and Saraswathi Nagar, untreated sewage is being continuously and illegally

discharged into Puzhal Lake through stormwater drains, indicating complete disregard for environmental norms and public safety. (*Latitude: 13.139925; Longitude: 80.143988; Ref: P4 and P5 in annexure*)

- vii. Solid waste is being dumped recklessly and unscientifically along the banks of Puzhal Lake and into the stormwater drains. This uncontrolled dumping of municipal waste near a vital waterbody violates the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and further contributes to the degradation of the lake ecosystem.

E. A letter has been addressed by the DEE, Thiruvallur to the Commissioner, Avadi Corporation vide Lr.No.DEE/TNPCB/TLR/O.A.No.71 of 2024(SZ), Dated: 19.06.2024 to furnish clarification and detailed report regarding the above-mentioned observations.

F. In view of the above, a report was submitted to the Respondent directions under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (as amended) to the Avadi City Municipal Corporation.

- a) The Avadi City Municipal Corporation shall mandatorily ensure that 100% of households in Venkatachalam Nagar, Mullai Nagar, Thendral Nagar, and Saraswathi Nagar are connected to a functional Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) within a maximum period of 3 months. Any further delay will be considered willful negligence and shall attract additional environmental penalties.
- b) The Corporation shall, without fail, construct sewage/sullage interception and collection tanks at appropriate locations in the above localities to completely prevent any direct discharge of

untreated sewage into Puzhal Lake. The collected wastewater shall be diverted to a duly approved Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for scientific treatment and disposal.

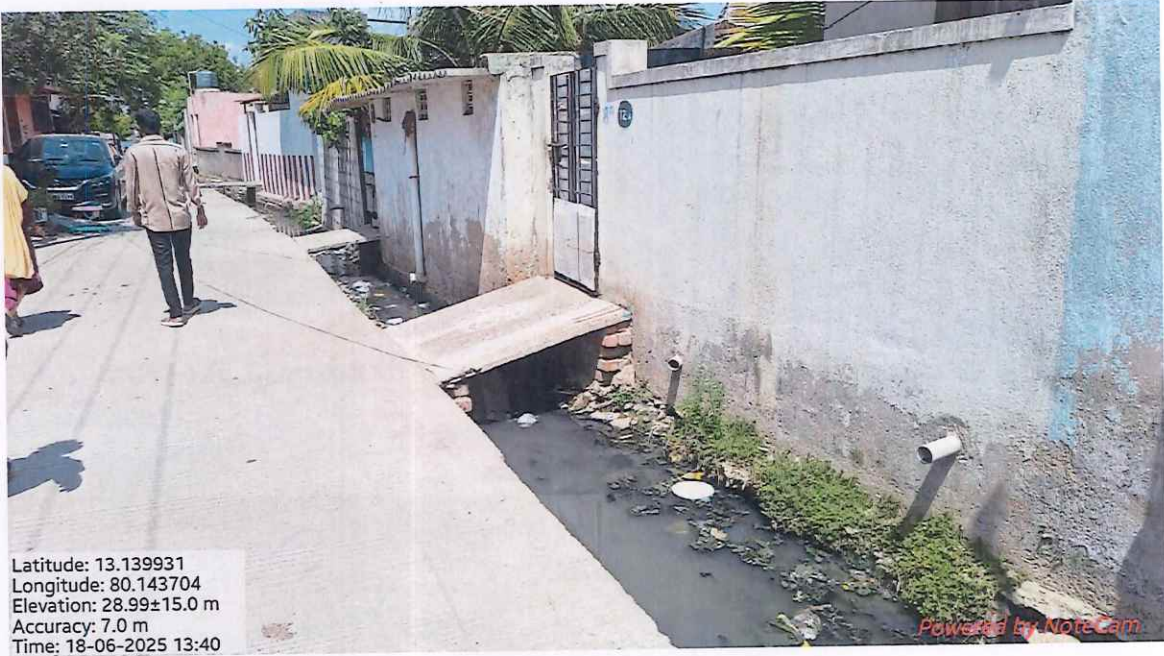
- c) The Corporation shall expedite and complete the implementation of a comprehensive UGSS across its jurisdiction within 3 months, including the commissioning of STPs of adequate capacity. Interim arrangements shall not be accepted as substitutes for permanent infrastructure.
- d) There shall be zero discharge of untreated or partially treated residential sewage/sullage into Puzhal Lake or any other water body under any circumstances. Failure to ensure this shall constitute a violation under the Water Act and may invite criminal prosecution under applicable provisions.
- e) All solid waste dumped on the banks of Puzhal Lake and in stormwater drains shall be completely removed within 15 days. The Corporation shall also ensure full compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, including provisions for door-to-door collection, segregation, safe storage, and scientific disposal of solid waste.
- f) The Corporation shall immediately install fencing and prominent warning signage at all vulnerable stretches of Puzhal Lake to deter illegal dumping of waste. Regular patrolling and monitoring shall be instituted to ensure sustained compliance.
- g) The Avadi City Municipal Corporation is liable to pay Environmental Compensation in accordance with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench Order dated 02.07.2020 in O.A. No. 606 of 2018, for its continuing non-compliance.

G. It was recommended to the Board to levy interim environmental compensation of Rs. 310 Lakhs to Avadi City Municipal Corporation in due compliance of the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench in O.A. No. 606 of 2018 for non-commencement of setting up of STPs before 31.03.2020.

H. The above-mentioned directions were issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation, N. M. Road, Avadi – 600054 vide the Board Proceedings No. T6/F.017432/TLR/2021-01, dated: 11.07.2025 for compliance within a period of 3 months. It was also directed to submit an action taken report in this regard. It is submitted that no report has been received till date.

I. A show cause notice to levy an environmental compensation of Rs. 310 lakhs has been issued The Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation, N. M. Road, Avadi – 600054, in due compliance of the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench in O.A. No. 606 of 2018 for non-commencement of setting up of STPs before 31.03.2020 vide the Board Proceedings No. T6/F.017432/TLR/2021-02, dated: 10.07.2025. It is submitted that no reply has been received in this regard.

Photograph taken during inspection on 18.06.2025



**P1 - Untreated Sullage/Sewage discharged through storm water drains
connecting Puzhal Lake in Thirumullaivoyal Village, Avadi Corporation
limit**



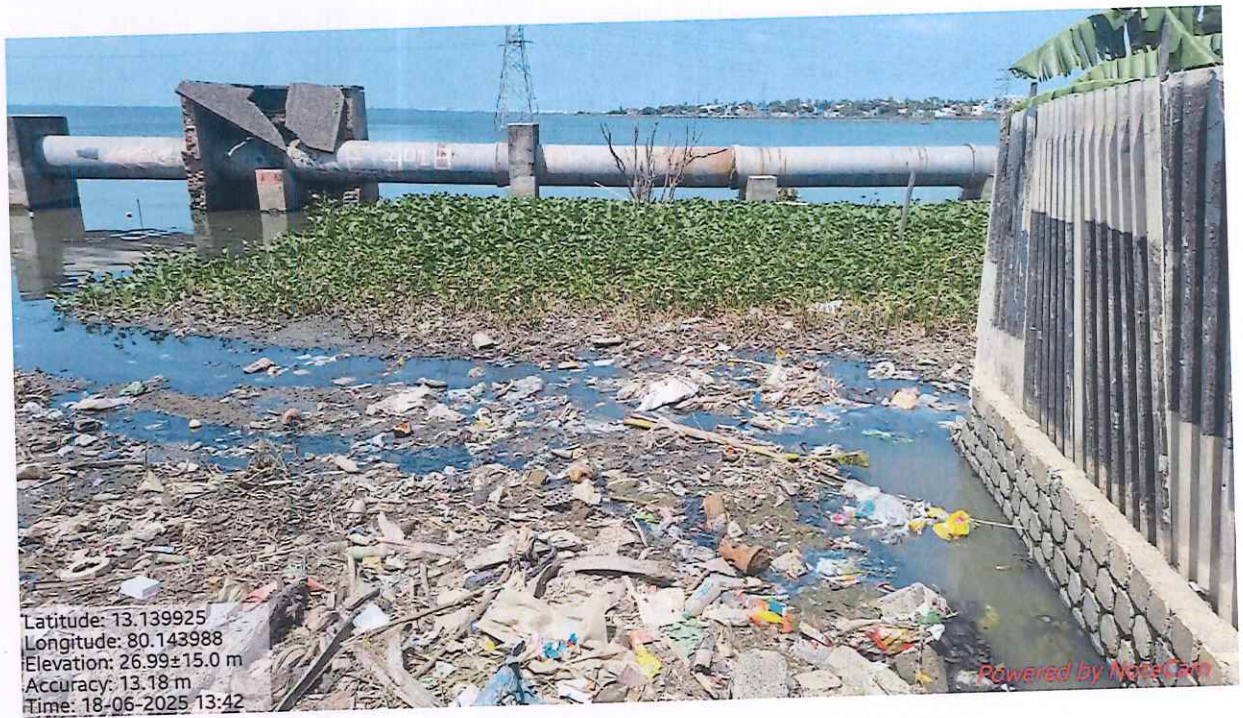
P2 - Mixing of Untreated Sullage/Sewage into Puzhal Lake from Venkatachalam Nagar



P3 - Mixing of Partially treated Sullage/Sewage into Puzhal Lake from Venkatachalam Nagar at the outlet of grey water treatment plant



P4 - Mixing of Untreated Sullage/Sewage into Puzhal Lake from Mullai Nagar



P5 - Mixing of Untreated Sullage/Sewage into Puzhal Lake from Thendral Nagar and Saraswathi Nagar.

J. Already, directions were issued to the Managing Director, CMWSSB under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to remit the interim Environmental compensation of Rs. 120 Lakhs vide Proceeding No. T6/TNPCB/F.31499/NGT/2016 dated. 12.12.2022 (**Enclosed as Annexure-I**) for not properly treating sewage and discharging untreated sewage into storm water drain reaching the water body for the period from April-2020 to March 2022 as per Hon'ble NGT orders in OA No. 268 of 2016 and O.A.No.125 of 2022.

K. The samples were collected at rear side of Puzhal lake at Banu Nagar and Venkateshwara nagar on 02.05.2024 and the report of analysis (**Enclosed as Annexure - II**) reveals that the parameters are within the Standards for Drinking Water Specification (IS 10500:2012) in the absence of alternate source prescribed by CPCB.

L. To comply with the above-mentioned directions, the officials from the DEE, TNPCB, Ambattur, inspected the areas of Venkateshwara Nagar, Pudur, Banu Nagar and Kallikuppam which falls under Zone VII, Greater Chennai Corporation on 25.04.2025 and 24.06.2025 and the following observations were made:

- a. The rear side of the Red Hills Lake in the Venkateshwara Nagar, Pudur, Bhanu Nagar and Kallikuppam area were inspected and it was noticed that some of the residences in these areas were let out the sewage into the storm water drain which finally reaches the Red Hills Lake.
- b. The Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) remains not implemented effectively in Kallikuppam, pudur, Banu Nagar.
- c. A portion of untreated sewage/sullage from Sakthi Nagar (part of Kallikuppam) is being illegally discharged directly into Puzhal Lake through open storm water drains (Latitude: 13°8'13'' N;

Longitude: 80°10' 0" E), thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source.

- d. Also observed that, there was no dumping of garbage in the above said area.

M. The DEE, Ambattur has addressed a letter to the CMWSSB vide Lr.No.DEE/TNPCB/OA.71 of 2024/Puzhal Lake/2025 Dated: 25.04.2025 to furnish the action taken report to curtail the disposal of sewage into Puzhal lake. In this connection, CMWSSB vide its reply letter No.CMWSSB/AreaVII/DAE-18/D-82/NGT/OA71of2024/2-25-26/1.Dt:18.12.2024 signed on 13.04.2025 and received on 05.05.2025 stating the following among the other things that,

“The three locations viz., Venkateshwara Nagar, Banu Nagar and Kallikuppam are located within the jurisdiction of Zone-VII, In these locations RCC covered storm water drains were constructed and found that public have illegally let their sewage water. The above locations will be monitored periodically and water connection will be disconnected to those public who are illegally letting sewage or sullage water into the Storm Water Drain.

In Venkateswara Nagar presently there are 110 streets with about 2224 premises. Out of 110 streets, 30 streets with 628 premises are left out streets in which Under Ground Sewer Facilities are not available. Preparation of DPR is Under-progress for providing Under Ground Sewerage Facility for the 30 nos of left out streets. At present, these 628 premises from the left-out streets are letting sewage into their own Septic Tanks and further disposing the collected sewage by engaging Dial for sewer lorries from CMWSSB. The sewage collected from collection systems in above areas are collected at Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) located in Iyankullam and are pumped to Karukku SPS and to Korattur

SPS and from there it is pumped to Kodungaiyur Sewage Treatment Plant (SPS) for treatment and safe disposal.”

N. As per section 24 of the Water Act, prohibits for the use of any stream or well for the discharge of any polluting matter in to it.

Whereas, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench) vide orders in OA No. 606 of 2018 has ordered among other things that the commencement of STPs shall be by 31.03.2020 and Compensation is payable for failure to do so at the rate of Rs. 5 lakh per month per STP by concerned Local Bodies/States (in terms of orders dated 28.08.2019 in O.A. No. 593/2017 and 06.12.2019 in O.A. No. 673/2018) w.e.f. 01.04.2020.

O. The CMWSSB, Zone- VII has not completed the works related to the establishment of underground sewage system till date and the sewage from the said areas is entering directly into Puzhal Lake through open storm water thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source.

P. In view of the above, the DEE, Ambattur has recommended to the Board on 24.06.2025 to issue the following directions under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (as amended) to the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Zone – VII for immediate and time-bound compliance:

- a. The CMWSSB shall mandatorily ensure that 100% of households in Kallukuppam, Banu Nagar, Pudur, Venkateshwara Nagar of Zone – VII are connected to a functional Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) within a maximum period of 3 months. Any further delay will be considered wilful negligence and shall attract additional environmental penalties.

- b. There shall be zero discharge of untreated or partially treated residential sewage/sullage into Puzhal Lake or any other water body under any circumstances. Failure to ensure this shall constitute a violation under the Water Act and may invite criminal prosecution under applicable provisions.
- c. The CMWSSB is liable to pay Environmental Compensation in accordance with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench Order dated 02.07.2020 in O.A. No. 606 of 2018, for its continuing non-compliance. **(Copies Enclosed as Annexure –III)**

Q. Further recommendation was submitted by the DEE Ambattur to the Board vide letter dated 24.06.2025 to levy interim environmental compensation of Rs. 310 Lakhs to CMWSSB in due compliance of the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench in O.A. No. 606 of 2018 for not completing the underground sewer line & house service connections within the scheduled time and discharging untreated sewage into the storm water drains leading to water body. Further, clarifications were requested on the local body to which environmental compensation is to be levied.

R. TNPCB Officials of DEE, Ambattur, TNPCB carried out an inspection on 22.12.2025 and collected water samples from the storm water drain joining Puzhal Lake at East Bhanu Nagar and Oragadam. The Reports of Analysis (ROA) revealed the presence of Total Suspended Solids, Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Fecal Coliform indicating organic and fecal contamination in the water. While the pH values were within the acceptable range, the presence of BOD and high Fecal Coliform levels indicates deterioration of water quality and non-conformance with the microbiological requirements of IS 10500:2012, which prescribes the absence of Fecal Coliform in drinking water. Hence, the water is not fit for drinking purposes without adequate treatment and disinfection.

S. Based a recommendation was submitted by DEE Ambattur TNPCB to the Board to issue Directions to CMWSSB vide letter dated 24.12.2025 and to levy an interim environmental compensation of Rs. 345 lakhs to CMWSSB, Zone VII and Greater Chennai Corporation, Zone VII in due compliance of the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench in O.A. No. 606 of 2018 for not completing the underground sewer line & house service connections within the scheduled time and discharging untreated sewage into the storm water drains leading to water body.

T. A subsequent inspection was carried out by officials of DEE, Ambattur, TNPCB on 13.02.2026, focusing on the areas of Kallikuppam and Oragadam falling under Avadi Municipality and Ambattur Zone-7. During the inspection, water samples were collected from the storm water drains joining Puzhal Lake at Sakthi Nagar (Kallikuppam), East Bhanu Nagar and Oragadam. The Reports of Analysis (ROA), enclosed in the Annexure, revealed the presence of Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliform, indicating organic and fecal contamination in the water. The analytical results therefore suggest that the water does not conform to the microbiological requirements of IS 10500:2012 and is unfit for drinking purposes without adequate treatment and disinfection.

U. Based on the recommendation by the DEE, Ambattur, a show cause notice was issued to the Zonal Officer, Zone 7, GCC and Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone VII vide Board Proceeding No. T6/TNPCB/F.017449/2025 Dated: 24.02.2026, as to why the Board shall not levy an environmental compensation of Rs. 345 Lakhs for the reasons mentioned therein, with further instructions to reply to the same within a period of 15 days. **(Copies Enclosed as Annexure - IV)**

V. Based on the recommendation of the DEE, Ambattur on 24.12.2025 the following Directions were issued to the Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone VII vide Board Proceeding No. T6/TNPCB/F.017449/2025 Dated: 24.02.2026 for compliance within a period of 3 months (90 days) under section 33A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974, as amended. (Copy Enclosed as **Annexure-V**)

- i) The CMWSSB shall mandatorily ensure that 100% of households in Kallukuppam, Banu Nagar, Pudur, Venkatachalam Nagar of Zone VII are connected to a functional Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) within a maximum period of 3 months. Any further delay will be considered wilful negligence and shall attract additional environmental penalties
- ii) There shall be zero discharge of untreated or partially treated residential sewage/sullage into Puzhal Lake or any other water body under any circumstances. Failure to ensure this shall constitute a violation under the Water Act and may invite criminal prosecution under applicable provisions.

W. The CMWSSB has furnished the following reply dated 13.03.2026 for the Show Cause Notice issued by the Board on 24.02.2026 (**Enclosed in the Annexure-VI**) and stated the following

- i) The allegations regarding sewage inflow into Puzhal (Red Hills) Lake were investigated through detailed field inspections carried out by CMWSSB, Area-VII at Sakthi Nagar, East Bhanu Nagar and Venkateshwara Nagar storm water drain outfalls leading to the lake. During the inspections, no sewage discharge into the lake was observed. It was noticed that certain outfalls had been blocked with debris and earth filling by Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) as a

preventive measure to avoid any possible discharge into the lake. Further, encroachments noticed along the lake boundary were brought to the attention of the Revenue Department vide letter dated 03.03.2026 for taking necessary action.

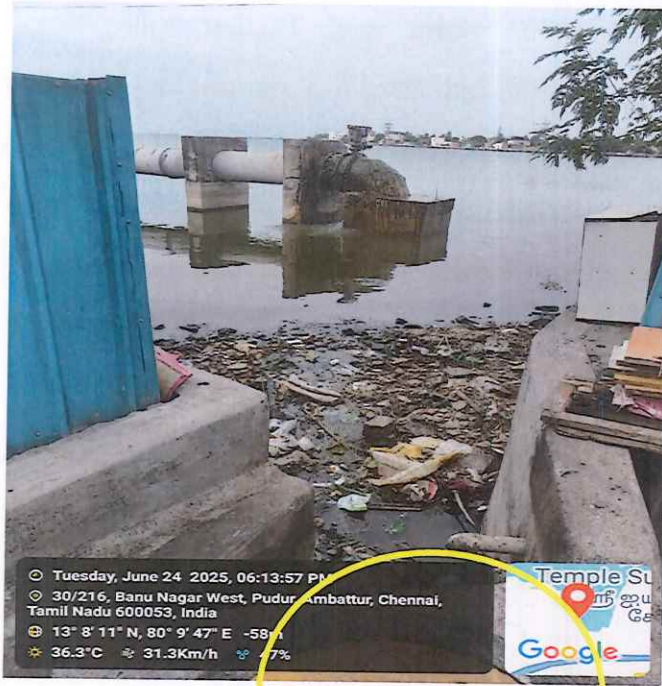
- ii) It has further been stated that Pudur and Bhanu Nagar (Depot-80), comprising about 198 streets and 3,800 premises, and Kallikuppam (Depot-82), comprising 75 streets and about 1,100 premises, are fully covered under the Underground Sewerage System (UGSS), with sewer house service connections provided under the Illam Thorum Inaippu Scheme. The collected sewage is conveyed through various Sewage Pumping Stations and ultimately treated at the Kodungaiyur Sewage Treatment Plant. In Venkateshwara Nagar (Depot-79), sewer connections have been provided to all premises except 30 left-out streets comprising about 628 premises, where sewage is presently managed through septic tanks and periodic desludging by CMWSSB sewer lorries.
- iii) The CMWSSB has further submitted that Greater Chennai Corporation has been taking enforcement action against illegal sewage discharges into storm water drains and has levied penalties amounting to Rs.17,87,500/- in Zone-7 since 01.04.2022. It has also been stated that periodical inspections are being carried out and illegal sewer connections, wherever detected, are immediately disconnected. Although certain habitations along the lake boundary were observed to generate sullage water, coordinated action has been initiated to prevent wastewater from reaching the lake.
- iv) The Wastewater samples collected from Thendral Nagar, Sakthi Nagar, Bhanu Nagar, Venkateshwara Nagar and the storm water

drain discharge point near Puzhal Lake were analysed. The analytical results indicated that parameters such as pH, BOD, COD, TSS, Dissolved Oxygen and Ammonia were within the permissible limits prescribed by TNPCB for discharge into inland surface waters, and no evidence of untreated sewage mixing was observed. In view of the inspection findings, existing UGSS infrastructure, enforcement measures and laboratory results, CMWSSB has concluded that there is no evidence of discharge of untreated sewage into Puzhal Lake and therefore the levy of Environmental Compensation on CMWSSB does not arise. [Enclosure]

Photos taken during inspection on 24.06.2025



P1. Discharge of Sewage from storm water drain into Puzhal lake in Sakthi Nagar



P2 – Sewage outlet from household in Banu Nagar west directly discharging into Puzhal lake



P3 – Sewage outlet from household in West Balaji Nagar, Kallikuppam directly discharging into Puzhal lake



P4 – Sewage outlet from household in Kallikuppam directly discharging into Puzhal lake



P5 – Sewage outlet from household in Banu Nagar directly discharging into Puzhal lake



P6 – Sewage outlet from household in Pudur directly discharging into Puzhal lake

This report is submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in compliance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal. The TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) will abide by all such directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Dated at Chennai, on this the 5th day of June, 2026.

G. V. Kumar
5.6.26
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
76, MOUNT SALAI GUNDE,
CHENNAI - 600 032.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Annexure - I

Proceeding No. T6/TNPCB/F.31499/NGT/2016 dated . 12.12.2022

Sub: TNPCB - Hon'ble NGT(SZ) Order dated 01.07.2022 in O.A No.268 of 2016 filed by the Korattur People's Welfare & Awareness Trust, Chennai – Direction under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as amended by levying interim Environmental Compensation of **Rs. 1,20,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore and Twenty Lakhs only)** - issued – Reg.

Ref: 1. Proc. No. T6/TNPCB/NGT/F.31499/2016, dt.10.05.2022
2. Hon'ble NGT order dated 01.07.2022 in O.A No.268 of 2016
3. News item published in daily "Daily Thanthi" dated 26th November 2022
4. JCEE(M), Chennai letter No. F.79 AMB/ JCEE(M)/ TNPCB/ Korattur/ 2022, Dated:29.11.2022

Whereas the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in O.A.No. 268/2016 has disposed the case on 01.07.2022 along with certain directions.

Whereas the Managing Director, CMWSSB was issued with show cause notice by TNPC Board vide reference 1st cited as to why environmental compensation of Rs.1,20,00,000/- shall not be imposed against the local body under Section 5 of Environmental protection Act, 1986 as amended for the reasons stated therein.

Whereas, News item published in daily "Daily Thanthi" dated 26th November 2022 regarding the pollution of Korattur Lake. In this regard, the JCEE(M), Chennai along with DEE, Ambattur inspected the Korattur Lake and its vicinity on 28.11.2022 and reported the following vide reference 4th cited:

- Ambattur Lake and Korattur Lake are the two significant lakes located within the limit of Zone – 7 (Ambattur) of Greater Chennai Corporation. Ambattur Lake is located at the southwest corner of the Ambattur Corporation area and Korattur Lake is located on the northern side of the Ambattur Corporation area. Korattur Lake is bounded southern side by the Chennai – Arakkonam railway line followed by Ambattur Industrial Estate (North Phase) and the other three sides are surrounded by residential and commercial areas of Zone 7 (Ambattur) of Greater Chennai Corporation.

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068

Email : tnpcb-chn@gov.in Web : tnpcb.gov.in

- A canal called Ambattur lake surplus canal which flows through SIDCO Industrial Estate (North Phase) is used to discharge the surplus water from Ambattur Lake to Korattur Lake during monsoon season through two culverts, one near the DTP colony at the western end of the lake and another at the Eastern end of the lake.
- The untreated and partially treated domestic sewage generated from Thirumullaivoyal, Annanur and Ayapakkam areas of Thiruvallur District finds its way to Ambattur Lake through various storm water drains. The over flow of Ambattur Lake contaminated of the sewage along with the domestic sewage generated from the Ambattur (Corporation of Chennai) areas such as MKB Nagar, Teachers Colony, Dobhi Colony, Ramapuram, Alagesan Nagar, Gnanamoorthy Nagar, Pattaravakkam, Meenambedu, Karukku, Mannurpet, and Mangalapuram flows through Ambattur lake surplus canal which traverse through Ambattur Industrial Estate (North Phase) finally reaches Korattur Lake.
- Generally during monsoon, that too during heavy downpour, the local body and PWD used to open the two culverts (one near the DTP colony at the western end of the lake and another at the Eastern end of the lake) to avoid inundation of nearby areas. This year also the local body and PWD had opened the culverts to avoid inundation of nearby areas.
- During inspection on 28.11.2022, it was observed that both the inlets are opened and noticed that storm water contaminated with sewage (anaerobic condition) flows into Korattur Lake. A part of Lake near the inflow points were covered by water hyacinths. Further, PWD has constructed sluice gate at both the inlets of Korattur Lake and one more culvert also being constructed near the western inlet of Korattur Lake and yet to complete the same.
- The ROA of samples collected in Ambattur surplus canal stretch and Korattur Lake reveals that the presence of BOD, COD, Fecal Coliform & Total Coliform indicating that the Ambattur Surplus canal is contaminated with untreated sewage from the nearby unsewered areas.



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7
சென்னை மாநகர தண்ணீர் மற்றும் கழிவுநீர் கட்டுப்பாட்டு வாரியம்
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as amended, direction is hereby issued to the Managing Director, Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) to remit the interim Environmental Compensation amount of **Rs. 1,20,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore and Twenty Lakhs only)** to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board through Demand Draft drawn in favour of 'TNPCB – Environmental Compensation Fund' within a week time for not properly treating sewage and discharging untreated sewage into storm water drain reaching the water body for the period from April-2020 to March 2022.

Failure to comply with the above said direction, necessary legal action will be initiated against the unit as per the provisions in the said Act.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged.

[Signature]
12/12/20
For Chairperson
M
12/12

To

The Managing Director
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB),
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet,
Chennai - 600 031

Copy to

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai region
2. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Ambattur- for information and necessary action please
3. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer,
Law section,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Corporate office
4. Technical File.

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068

Email : tnpccb-chn@gov.in Web : tnpccb.gov.in



(25)
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

District Environmental Laboratory, Ambattur.

Report of Analysis

Annexure - II

ROA No: 337 - 338/2024-2025

Dated : 28.05.2024

1. Nature and No. of Sample(s) : Two Number of Samples
2. Date of Collection : 02.05.2024
3. Code Number(s) and Point of Collection : DEEAMB2400102 - Rearside of Puzhal lake at Banu Nagar
: DEEAMB2400103 - Rearside of Puzhal lake at Venkateswara Nagar

Sl.No.	Parameters	DEE Code	DEEAMB2400102	DEEAMB2400103
		Lab Code	337	338
		Unit	1	2
1	pH		7.38	7.66
2	Conductivity	µs/cm	1046	554
3	Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	18	12
4	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	692	368
5	Chlorides	mg/l	235	130
6	Sulphates	mg/l	68	34
7	B O D at 27°C for 3 Days	mg/l	4	3
8	C O D	mg/l	40	32
9	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	2.6	1.2
10	Zinc	mg/l	0.098	0.054
11	Copper	mg/l	0.084	0.042
12	Cadmium	mg/l	<0.013	<0.013
13	Lead	mg/l	<0.07	<0.07
14	Nickel	mg/l	<0.05	<0.05
15	Total Chromium	mg/l	<0.05	<0.05
16	Total Alkalinity	mg/l	110	80
17	Phenotholine Alkalinity	mg/l	<1	<1
18	Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/l	<1	<1
19	Total Hardness	mg/l	220	100
20	Calcium	mg/l	56	16
21	Magnesium	mg/l	19	14
22	Sodium	mg/l	116	72
23	Potassium	mg/l	12	6
24	Total Kjeldhal Nitrogen	mg/l	8.96	10
25	Total Iron	mg/l	0.147	<0.05
26	Arsenic	mg/l	FNA	FNA
27	Boron	mg/l	FNA	FNA
28	Turbidity	NTU	1.6	<1
29	Mercury	mg/l	FNA	FNA
30	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	mg/l	4.2	5.6
31	Total Phosphate	mg/l	<0.5	<0.5

FNA - Facility not Available

Sample collection charges Rs.1,400 /-
(Rupees One Thousand and Four Hundred Only)

Analytical charges Rs.22,920 /-
(Rupees Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Only)

b/b

Deputy Chief Scientific Officer
DEL, AMBATTUR

Consolidated Report of Analysis of Puzhal lake samples collected on 02.04.2024:

S.No	Parameters mg/l	Standards for Drinking Water Specification (IS 10500:2012) Permissible Limit in the absence of alternate source (mg/l) & Designated Best Use Water Quality Criteria (Class A)	Rearside of Puzhal lake at Banu Nagar	Rearside of Puzhal lake at Venkateswara Nagar
1.	pH	6.5-8.5	7.38	7.66
2.	TSS	-	18	12
3.	TDS	2000	692	368
4.	Chloride	1000	235	130
5.	Sulphate	400	68	34
6.	BOD	2 (Class A)	4	3
7.	COD	-	40	32
8.	DO	6(Class A)	2.6	1.2
9.	Zinc	15	0.098	0.054
10.	Copper	1.5	0.084	0.042
11.	Cadmium	0.003	<0.013	<0.013
12.	Lead	0.01	<0.07	<0.07
13.	Nickel	0.02	<0.05	<0.05
14.	Total Chromium	0.05	<0.05	<0.05
15.	Total alkalinity	600	110	80
16.	Phenotholine Alkalinity	0.002	<1	<1
17.	Nitrate Nitrogen	45 (Nitrate)	<1	<1
18.	Total Hardness	600	220	100
19.	Calcium	200	56	16

20.	Magnesium	100	19	14
21.	Sodium	-	116	72
22.	Potassium	-	12	6
23.	Total Kjeldhal Nitrogen	-	8.96	10
24.	Total Iron	0.3 (Iron)	0.147	<0.05
25.	Arsenic	-	FNA	FNA
26.	Boron	1.0	FNA	FNA
27.	Turbidity	-	1.6	<1
28.	Mercury	0.001	FNA	FNA
29.	Ammonical Nitrogen	-	4.2	5.6
30.	Total Phosphate	-	<0.5	<0.5



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



From	To
Dr. P. Selva Ilavarasi, M.Tech., Ph.D., District Environmental Engineer, Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, Master Plan Complex, S.F.No.1/6D&1/5B,Perumbakkam Village, Tiruvallur - 602 001.	The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032

Lr No: DEE/TNPCB/TLR/O.A. No.71 of 2024 (SZ) Date: 20.06.2025

Sir,

Sub: TNPC Board - O/o. DEE, Tiruvallur - Hon'ble NGT (SZ) - O.A. No. 7 of 2024 - SUO MOTU case based on the news item published in The Hindu dt:13.12.2023 titled, "Residents complain about encroachments and waste pollution at rear bund of Red Hills Lake"- Recommendations to issue directions - Report submitted - Reg.

- Ref:
1. Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi order dated 08.01.2024 in NGT case O.A. No. 783 of 2023.
 2. Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Chennai order dated 21.01.2025 in NGT case O.A. No. 71 of 2024.
 3. OLMMS Note dated:03.02.2025 in the case O.A. No.71 of 2024.
 4. Inspection of the location by TNPCB officials on 18.06.2025
 5. SCN Proc. No. DEE/TNPCB/TLR/NA/RS/A&W/2024 dated 19.06.2025
 6. Lr. No. DEE/TNPCB/TLR/O.A.No. 71 of 2024 (SZ) dated 19.06.2025

I respectfully submit that the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi has taken Suo moto cognizance of the News article published in "The Hindu" dated 13.12.2023 titled "Residents complain about encroachments and waste pollution at the rear bund of Red Hills Lake" vide O.A. No. 783 of 2023 and is now heard by the Hon'ble NGT(SZ), Chennai as O.A.No.71 of 2024.

(29)

In the order dated 21.01.2025, the Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Chennai directed the following::

"1. In the report of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) dated 06.08.2024, it was observed that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not yet implemented the Under Ground Sewage System (UGSS) and storm water drainage. So also, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMWSSB) has not connected the UGSS.

2. The TNPCB issued letters to the CMWSSB on 01.02.2024, followed by a reminder on 03.05.2024. However, the TNPCB has not taken any penal action against them. Hence, the TNPCB is directed to issue appropriate notice and also furnish the water analysis report along with it."

Accordingly, to comply with the said directions, officials from the Office of the DEE, TNPCB, Tiruvallur, inspected the areas of Venkatachalam Nagar, Thendral Nagar, Saraswathi Nagar, and Mullai Nagar under the jurisdiction of the Avadi Corporation on **18.06.2025**. The following observations were made:

1. The Underground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) remains completely unimplemented in Venkatachalam Nagar, Thendral Nagar, Saraswathi Nagar, and Mullai Nagar, despite multiple directives and the critical ecological sensitivity of the area.
2. A portion of untreated sewage/sullage from Venkatachalam Nagar is being illegally discharged *directly into Puzhal Lake* through open stormwater drains (Latitude: 13.148037; Longitude: 80.136530), thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source. (Ref: P2 in annexure)
3. Another portion of sewage is diverted to a grey water treatment plant through unregulated stormwater drains; however, this plant is:
 1. Operating without obtaining mandatory Consent to Operate from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), in violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
 2. Grossly deficient in treatment efficiency, resulting in the release of partially treated effluent into Puzhal Lake, thereby posing a significant public health and ecological threat.
 3. A Show Cause Notice was issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation on 19.06.2025 for the unauthorized and polluting operation. (Latitude: 13.148073; Longitude: 80.136377; Ref: P3 in annexure)

4. The Corporation has not obtained any No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the competent authority for discharging treated or untreated grey water into Puzhal Lake. The officials' justification that the plant is a "temporary arrangement" is not legally tenable and reflects gross administrative negligence.
5. No Electro Magnetic Flow Meters (EMFMs) have been installed, and no logbooks are maintained to monitor inflow, outflow, or performance of the grey water treatment plant, violating the standard monitoring protocols.
6. In Mullai Nagar, Thendral Nagar, and Saraswathi Nagar, untreated sewage is being continuously and illegally discharged into Puzhal Lake through stormwater drains, indicating complete disregard for environmental norms and public safety. (*Latitude: 13.139925; Longitude: 80.143988; Ref: P4 and P5 in annexure*)
7. Solid waste is being dumped recklessly and unscientifically along the banks of Puzhal Lake and into the stormwater drains. This uncontrolled dumping of municipal waste near a vital waterbody violates the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and further contributes to the degradation of the lake ecosystem.

Also, letter has been addressed to the Commissioner, Avadi Corporation vide reference 6th cited to furnish clarification and detailed report regarding the above-mentioned observations.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (as amended), it is strongly recommended that the following directions be issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation, for immediate and time-bound compliance:

1. The Avadi City Municipal Corporation shall mandatorily ensure that 100% of households in Venkatachalam Nagar, Mullai Nagar, Thendral Nagar, and Saraswathi Nagar are connected to a functional Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) within a maximum period of 3 months. Any further delay will be considered willful negligence and shall attract additional environmental penalties.
2. The Corporation shall, without fail, construct sewage/sullage interception and collection tanks at appropriate locations in the above localities to

- completely prevent any direct discharge of untreated sewage into Puzhal Lake. The collected wastewater shall be diverted to a duly approved Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for scientific treatment and disposal.
3. The Corporation shall expedite and complete the implementation of a comprehensive UGSS across its jurisdiction within 3 months, including the commissioning of STPs of adequate capacity. Interim arrangements shall not be accepted as substitutes for permanent infrastructure.
 4. There shall be zero discharge of untreated or partially treated residential sewage/sullage into Puzhal Lake or any other water body under any circumstances. Failure to ensure this shall constitute a violation under the Water Act and may invite criminal prosecution under applicable provisions.
 5. All solid waste dumped on the banks of Puzhal Lake and in stormwater drains shall be completely removed within 15 days. The Corporation shall also ensure full compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, including provisions for door-to-door collection, segregation, safe storage, and scientific disposal of solid waste.
 6. The Corporation shall immediately install fencing and prominent warning signage at all vulnerable stretches of Puzhal Lake to deter illegal dumping of waste. Regular patrolling and monitoring shall be instituted to ensure sustained compliance.
 7. The Avadi City Municipal Corporation is liable to pay Environmental Compensation in accordance with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench Order dated 02.07.2020 in O.A. No. 606 of 2018, for its continuing non-compliance..

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB), New Delhi in its order dated 28.02.2020 in OA No. 606 of 2018 has directed to impose Environmental Compensation to the local Bodies for non-compliance of the sewage management as per the following procedure.

"The compensation regime already laid down for failure of the Local Bodies and/or Department of Irrigation and Public Health/In-charge Department to take action for treatment of sewage in terms of observations in Para 36 above will result in liability to pay compensation as already noted above which are reproduced for ready reference:

Commencement of setting up of STPs - 31.03.2020. Compensation is payable for failure to do so at the rate of Rs. 5 lakh per month per STP by concerned Local Bodies/States (in terms of orders dated 28.08.2019 in O.A. No. 593/2017 and 06.12.2019 in O.A. No. 673/2018) w.e.f. 01.04.2020

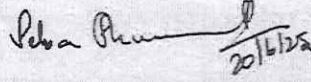
In due compliance of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench in O.A. No. 606 of 2018, Board may levy interim environmental compensation on Avadi City Municipal Corporation as per the above said Hon'ble NGT order for non-commencement of setting up of STPs before 31.03.2020 as follows,

For the period from 01.04.2020 to May 2025.

Rs. 5 lakhs x 62 Months = Rs. 310 Lakhs.

Total Environmental Compensation to be levied = Rs. 310 Lakhs.

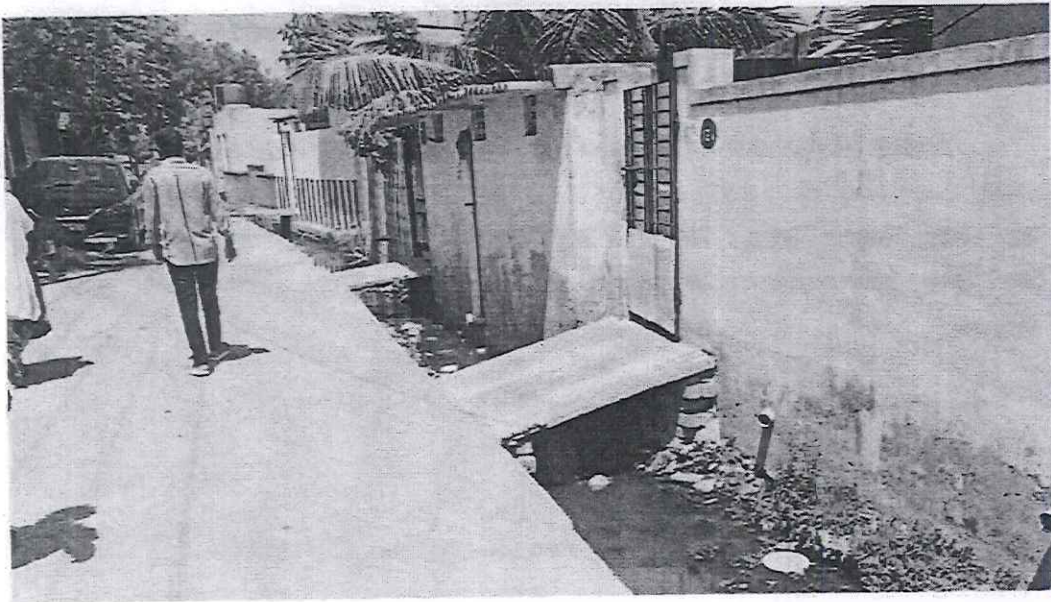
In view of the above, it is humbly submitted that **appropriate directions may be issued to the Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation**, under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, along with imposition of **Environmental Compensation of ₹310 lakhs** for continued violation of NGT orders and environmental statutes.


District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Tiruvallur.

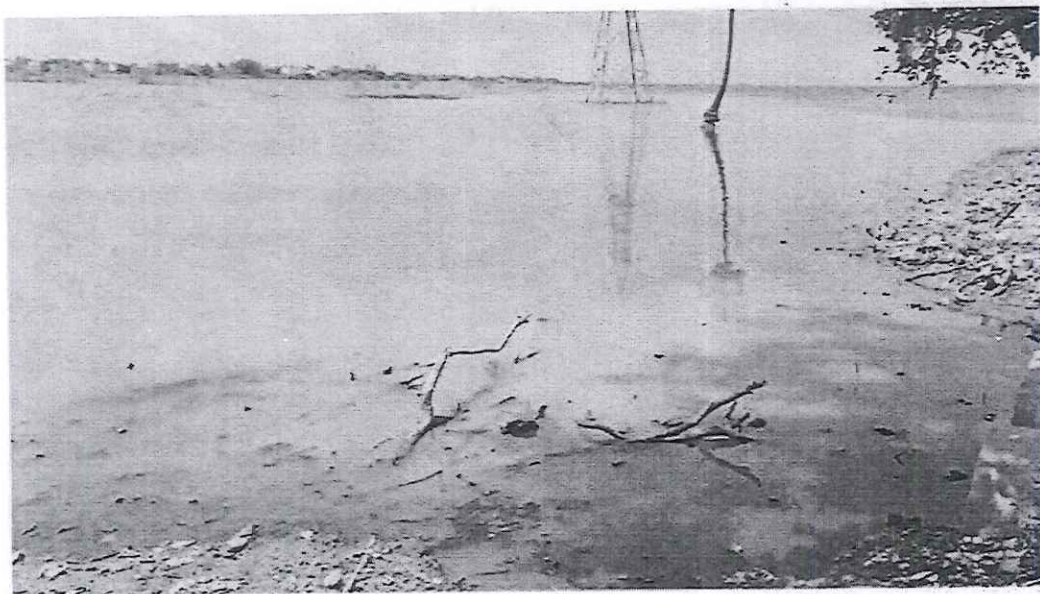
33

Annexure

Photograph taken during inspection on 18.06.2025



P1 - Untreated Sullage/Sewage discharged through storm water drains connecting Puzhal Lake in Thirumullaivoyal Village, Avadi Corporation limit



P2 - Mixing of Untreated Sullage/Sewage into Puzhal Lake from Venkatachalam Nagar



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Proceedings No.: T6/TNPCB/F.017449/2025 Dated: 24.02.2026



Annexure - IV



- Sub:** TNPCB – STP – Orders of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in OA No. 71 of 2024 – Sewage discharged into storm water drains – Levying of environmental compensation – Show cause notice under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, as amended – Issued – Reg.
- Ref:** Letter from DEE Ambattur No. DEE/TNPCB/AMB/News article/ 2025, dated: 24.12.2025

Whereas, the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi has taken Suomoto cognizance of the News article published in 'The Hindu' dated 13.12.2023 titled "Residents complain about encroachments and waste pollution at the rear bund of Red Hills Lake" vide O.A. No 783 of 2023 and is now heard by the Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Chennai as O.A. No.71 of 2024

The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated 21.01.2025 has directed the following:

- "1. In the report of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) dated 06.08.2024, it was observed that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not yet implemented the Under Ground Sewage System (UGSS) and storm water drainage. So also, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMWSSB) has not connected the UGSS:***
- 2. The TNPCB issued letters to the CMWSSB on 01.02.2024, followed by a reminder on 03.05 2024. However, the TNPCB has not taken any penal action against them Hence, the TNPCB is directed to issue appropriate notice and also furnish the water analysis report along with it."***

Based on the above direction, officials of O/o. DEE, Ambattur, TNPCB had conducted an inspection in the area of the Venkateshwara Nagar, Pudur, Banu Nagar and Kallikuppam which falls under Zone-7, Greater Chennai Corporation on 25.04.2025 and 24.06.2025 and the following have been reported:

1. The rear side of the Red Hills Lake in the Venkateshwara Nagar, Pudur, Bhanu Nagar and Kallikuppam area were inspected and it was noticed that some of the residences in these areas have let out the sewage into the storm water drain which finally reaches the Red Hills Lake
2. The Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) remains not implemented effectively in Kallikuppam, Pudur, Banu Nagar
3. A portion of untreated sewage/sullage from Sakthi Nagar (part of Kallikuppam) is being illegally discharged directly into Puzhal Lake through open storm water drains

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(Latitude: 13°8'13 N; Longitude: 80°10' 0° E), thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source.

4. Also observed that there was no dumping of garbage in the above said area.

In this regard, a letter was addressed by DEE, Ambattur to CMWSSB dated 25.04.2025 to furnish the action taken report to curtail the disposal of sewage into Puzhal Lake. In this connection, CMWSSB vide its reply letter No. CMWSSB/Area VII/DAE-18/D-82/NGT/OA 71 of 2024/2-25-26/1. Dt: 18.12.2024 received on 05.05.2025 stated the following among the other things that.

"The three locations viz., Venkateshwara Nagar, Banu Nagar and Kallikuppam are located within the jurisdiction of Zone-VII. In these locations RCC covered storm water drains were constructed and found that public have illegally let their sewage water. The above locations will be monitored periodically and water connection will be disconnected to those public who are illegally letting sewage or sullage water into the Storm Water Drain.

In Venkateswara Nagar presently there are 110 streets with about 2224 premises. Out of 110 streets, 30 streets with 628 premises are left out streets in which Under Ground Sewer Facilities are not available. Preparation of DPR is Under-progress for providing Under Ground Sewerage Facility for the 30 nos of left out streets. At present, these 628 premises from the left-out streets are letting sewage into their own Septic Tanks and further disposing the collected sewage by engaging Dial for sewer lorries from CMWSSB. The sewage collected from collection systems in above areas are collected at Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) located in Iyankullam and are pumped to Karukku SPS and to Korattur SPS and from there it is pumped to Kodungaiyur Sewage Treatment Plant (SPS) for treatment and safe disposal."

Whereas Section 24 of the Water Act, prohibits for the use of any stream or well for the discharge of any polluting matter into it. As CMWSSB, Zone VII has not completed the works related to the establishment of underground sewage system till date and the sewage from the said areas is entering directly into Puzhal Lake through open storm water thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source.

The above said issue was again published in The Hindu news article dated 22.12.2025, wherein residents of Surapet flagged garbage dumping along the bund of Puzhal (Red Hills) lake, and further raised concerns about sewage being discharged through storm water drains from Ambattur Zone into the Puzhal lake.

Based on the said news article, the said locations of Nagathamman koil street near Puzhal lake in Surapet was inspected by officials of O/o. DEE, TNPCB, Ambattur along with GCC officials of ward 32, zone III, and the following have been reported:

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

1. As mentioned in the news article, a parapet wall was constructed along the bund of the lake to restrict public access for cattle bathing and washing. However, at the location near the Surapet water treatment plant, an opening in the parapet wall was observed.
2. The public is using this path to access the lake and to dump waste and garbage along the bund. Dumped waste and garbage was found in the said location.
3. Small boats have been anchored at the location. Access to the said water body by four wheelers has been restricted by digging two large pits.

The GCC officials of ward 32, Zone III have been instructed to clean the dumped waste along the bund of the reservoir, install CCTV cameras, and place warning boards at site. Furthermore, they assured that an awareness program would be conducted, the dumped waste will be removed and the area will be kept clean. The wastes dumped in the bund have been cleared.

Furthermore, as per the news article, at locations where storm water drains join the Puzhal lake, such as Sakthi Nagar (part of Kallikuppam) (Lat: 13.137228 °N, Lon: 80.166535 °E), it was observed that garbage and waste carried through storm water drains were floating on the lake, indicating an illegal disposal of sewage through the storm water drains. Other places in zone – VII where storm water drains join the lakes, such as East Banu Nagar (Lat: 13.134363 °N, Long: 80.158115 °E) and Oragadam (Lat: 13.140356 °N, Long: 80.158115 °E) were also inspected

Under the above circumstances, the District Environmental Engineer, Ambattur has recommended levying environmental compensation to the Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone VII under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, as amended, calculated in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT (PB) in OA No. 606 of 2018 dated 28.02.2020, as calculated below:

Period for which environmental compensation is to be levied	01.04.2020 December 2025 – 69 months
Environmental compensation per drain	Rs. 5 Lakh/month
Total interim environmental compensation	Rs. 5 Lakh/month × 69 months = Rs. 345 Lakhs

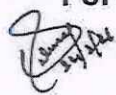
In light of the above said facts, the Board has decided to issue show cause notice under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone VII.

(37)

Therefore, in exercise of the powers vested under the section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, as amended, the Board hereby issues the show cause notice as to why the Board shall not levy an environmental compensation of Rs.345 Lakhs for the reasons mentioned above, to the Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone-VII.

The receipt of the proceedings shall be acknowledged and a reply shall be furnished within 15 days from the date of this notice.

It is informed that, non-receipt of any reply within the prescribed period will be construed that you have no satisfactory explanation to offer to the above said contraventions and action will be taken on merits in accordance with law.

S. V. V. V.
24.2.26
For Chairperson


To

1. Superintending Engineer (Central),
CMWSSB, Zone VII,
No.1, Pumping station road,
Chintadripet, Chennai – 600002.
e-mail: seccmwssb@gmail.com

Copy submitted to

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600009.
3. The Director of Municipal Administration,
No.75, Urban Administrative Building,
Santhome High Road,
Chennai – 600 028.

Copy to

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai,
2. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Ambattur- **For follow up and put up report**



Annexure - V

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Proceedings No.: T6/TNPCB/F.017449/2025 Dated: 24.02.2026

Sub: TNPCB – STP – Orders of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in OA No. 71 of 2024 – Sewage discharged into storm water drains – Solid waste dumped along the bund of Puzhal (Red Hills) Lake – Directions for compliance – Under section 33 A of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 as amended – Issued – Reg.

Ref: Letter from DEE Ambattur No. DEE/TNPCB/AMB/News article/ 2025, dated: 24.12.2025

Whereas, the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi has taken Suomoto cognizance of the News article published in 'The Hindu' dated 13.12.2023 titled "Residents complain about encroachments and waste pollution at the rear bund of Red Hills Lake" vide O.A. No 783 of 2023 and is now heard by the Hon'bleNGT(SZ), Chennai as O.A. No.71 of 2024

The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated 21.01.2025 has directed the following:

- "1. In the report of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) dated 06.08.2024, it was observed that the Avadi City Municipal Corporation has not yet implemented the Under Ground Sewage System (UGSS) and storm water drainage. So also, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMWSSB) has not connected the UGSS:**
- 2. The TNPCB issued letters to the CMWSSB on 01.02.2024, followed by a reminder on 03.05 2024. However, the TNPCB has not taken any penal action against them Hence, the TNPCB is directed to issue appropriate notice and also furnish the water analysis report along with it."**

Based on the above direction, officials of O/o. DEE, Ambattur, TNPCB had conducted an inspection in the area of the Venkateshwara Nagar, Pudur, Banu Nagar and Kallikuppam which falls under Zone-7, Greater Chennai Corporation on 25.04.2025 and 24.06.2025 and the following have been reported:

1. The rear side of the Red Hills Lake in the Venkateshwara Nagar, Pudur, Bhanu Nagar and Kallikuppam area were inspected and it was noticed that some of the residences in these areas have let out the sewage into the storm water drain which finally reaches the Red Hills Lake
2. The Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) remains not implemented effectively in Kallikuppam, Pudur, Banu Nagar

3. A portion of untreated sewage/sullage from Sakthi Nagar (part of Kallikuppam) is being illegally discharged directly into Puzhal Lake through open storm water drains (Latitude: 13°8'13 N; Longitude: 80°10' 0° E), thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source.

4. Also observed that there was no dumping of garbage in the above said area.

In this regard, a letter was addressed by DEE, Ambattur to CMWSSB dated 25.04.2025 to furnish the action taken report to curtail the disposal of sewage into Puzhal Lake. In this connection, CMWSSB vide its reply letter No.CMWSSB/Area VII/DAE-18/D-82/NGT/OA 71 of 2024/2-25-26/1. Dt: 18.12.2024 received on 05.05.2025 stated the following among the other things that.

"The three locations viz., Venkateshwara Nagar, Banu Nagar and Kallikuppam are located within the jurisdiction of Zone-VII. In these locations RCC covered storm water drains were constructed and found that public have illegally let their sewage water. The above locations will be monitored periodically and water connection will be disconnected to those public who are illegally letting sewage or sullage water into the Storm Water Drain.

In Venkateswara Nagar presently there are 110 streets with about 2224 premises. Out of 110 streets, 30 streets with 628 premises are left out streets in which Under Ground Sewer Facilities are not available. Preparation of DPR is Under-progress for providing Under Ground Sewerage Facility for the 30 nos of left out streets. At present, these 628 premises from the left-out streets are letting sewage into their own Septic Tanks and further disposing the collected sewage by engaging Dial for sewer lorries from CMWSSB. The sewage collected from collection systems in above areas are collected at Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) located in Iyyankullam and are pumped to Karukku SPS and to Korattur SPS and from there it is pumped to Kodungaiyur Sewage Treatment Plant (SPS) for treatment and safe disposal."

Whereas Section 24 of the Water Act, prohibits for the use of any stream or well for the discharge of any polluting matter into it. As CMWSSB, Zone VII has not completed the works related to the establishment of underground sewage system till date and the sewage from the said areas is entering directly into Puzhal Lake through open storm water thereby causing direct pollution of a major drinking water source.

The above said issue was again published in The Hindu news article dated 22.12.2025, wherein residents of Surapet flagged garbage dumping along the bund of Puzhal (Red Hills) lake, and further raised concerns about sewage being discharged through storm water drains from Ambattur Zone into the Puzhal lake.



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Based on the said news article, the said locations of Nagathammankoil street near Puzhal lake in Surapet was inspected by officials of O/o. DEE, TNPCB, Ambattur along with GCC officials of ward 32, zone III, and the following have been reported:

1. As mentioned in the news article, a parapet wall was constructed along the bund of the lake to restrict public access for cattle bathing and washing. However, at the location near the Surapet water treatment plant, an opening in the parapet wall was observed.
2. The public is using this path to access the lake and to dump waste and garbage along the bund. Dumped waste and garbage was found in the said location.
3. Small boats have been anchored at the location. Access to the said water body by four wheelers has been restricted by digging two large pits.

The GCC officials of ward 32, Zone III have been instructed to clean the dumped waste along the bund of the reservoir, install CCTV cameras, and place warning boards at site. Furthermore, they assured that an awareness program would be conducted, the dumped waste will be removed and the area will be kept clean. The wastes dumped in the bund have been cleared.

Furthermore, as per the news article, at locations where storm water drains join the Puzhal lake, such as Sakthi Nagar (part of Kallikuppam) (Lat: 13.137228 °N, Lon: 80.166535 °E), it was observed that garbage and waste carried through storm water drains were floating on the lake, indicating an illegal disposal of sewage through the storm water drains. Other places in zone – VII where storm water drains join the lakes, such as East Banu Nagar (Lat: 13.134363 °N, Long: 80.158115 °E) and Oragadam (Lat: 13.140356 °N, Long: 80.158115 °E) were also inspected

Under the above circumstances, the District Environmental Engineer, Ambattur has recommended the issuance of the following direction to the Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone VII, for immediate compliance, under section 33A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as amended.

In the light of the above said facts, the Board decided to issue directions to the Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone VII under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended.

Now therefore, in the exercise of the powers vested under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended the Board hereby issues the following directions to the Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB, Zone VII for compliance within a period of 90 days

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1. The CMWSSB shall mandatorily ensure that 100% of households in Kallukuppam, Banu Nagar, Pudur, Venkatachalam Nagar of Zone VII are connected to a functional Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) within a maximum period of 3 months. Any further delay will be considered wilful negligence and shall attract additional environmental penalties

2. There shall be zero discharge of untreated or partially treated residential sewage/sullage into Puzhal Lake or any other water body under any circumstances. Failure to ensure this shall constitute a violation under the Water Act and may invite criminal prosecution under applicable provisions.

Failure to comply with the above said directions within the prescribed time period, will attract further action in accordance with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended.

The action taken report on the above said directions shall be furnished to this office.

The receipt of this proceeding shall be acknowledged

S. V. 24.2.21
For Chairperson
24/2/21

To

1. Superintending Engineer (Central),
CMWSSB, Zone VII,
No.1, Pumping station road,
Chintadripet, Chennai – 600002.
e-mail: seccmwssb@gmail.com

Copy submitted to

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600009.
3. The Director of Municipal Administration,
No.75, Urban Administrative Building,
Santhome High Road,
Chennai – 600 028.



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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



Copy to

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai
2. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Ambattur – for follow up and put up report

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
5708 SOUTH CAMPUS DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

1964



CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY
AND SEWERAGE BOARD

To

The Chairperson
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Safai,
Guindy,
Chennai-600032.



Lr.No.CMWSSB/OA.71 of 2024/NGT/Puzhal Lake/DAE-18/2025/2

DI. 13.03.2026

Sub: TNPCB – Orders of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in O.A. No.71 of 2024 – Alleged discharge of sewage through storm water drains and encroachments along the bund of Puzhal (Red Hills) Lake – Action Taken Report – Submitted – Reg.

Ref: 1.Proceedings No. T6/TNPCB/F.017449/2025 dated 24.02.2026 issued by the Chairperson, TNPCB.

2. Proceedings issued under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 regarding prevention of sewage discharge into storm water drains leading to Korattur Lake.

3. Letter sent to the Tahsildar, Ambattur Taluk, dt. 03.03.2026.

4. letter sent to the Zonal Officer, Zone-7, Greater Chennai Corporation, dt. 03.03.2026.

5. Laboratory Test Report.

With reference to the above, it is submitted that the allegations regarding sewage inflow into Puzhal (Red Hills) Lake, as reported in the news article published in *The Hindu* dated 13.12.2023, were examined in detail by the officials of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Area-VII through field inspections conducted at the concerned locations.

The areas mentioned in the complaint, namely Venkateshwara Nagar, Bhanu Nagar, Pudur and Kallikuppam, fall within the jurisdiction of CMWSSB Area-VII (Zone-7) and within the limits of Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). Among these areas, Pudur and Bhanu Nagar fall under Depot-80, Kallikuppam falls under Depot-82, and Venkateshwara Nagar falls under Depot-79 of Area-VII.

AREA VII

No. 1, T.S. Krishna Nagar, Mogappair, Chennai - 600 037.

A detailed field inspection was carried out by officials of CMWSSB covering the storm water drain alignment, the discharge point into Puzhal Lake, the surrounding habitations, and the lake boundary areas. During the field inspection at the location where the storm water drain joins Puzhal Lake near Sakthi Nagar (Latitude: 13.137228° N and Longitude: 80.166535° E), the storm water drain leading towards the lake was examined at the discharge point. At the time of inspection, no sewage flow was observed entering the lake through the storm water drain. At the entry point of the drain into the lake, debris accumulation was noticed, which presently prevents any discharge into the lake.

On further enquiry, it was observed that about four metres upstream of the discharge point, the storm water drain had been filled with earth by officials of Greater Chennai Corporation. This action has effectively plugged any minimal flow towards the lake and appears to have been taken as an immediate preventive measure to stop any possible discharge into the lake.

Similarly, the storm water drain outfall points joining Puzhal Lake near East Bharu Nagar (Latitude: 13.134363° N, Longitude: 80.158115° E) and Venkateshwara Nagar, Oragadam (Latitude: 13.140356° N, Longitude: 80.158115° E) were also inspected during the field visit. During the inspection, certain encroachments along the lake boundary were noticed. In this regard, the matter has been brought to the notice of the Revenue Department, and a letter has been addressed to the Tahsildar, Ambattur Taluk, requesting inspection of the lake boundary areas and necessary action regarding identification and removal of encroachments, if any, along the bund of Puzhal Lake.

In Depot-80, comprising Pudur and Bharu Nagar with about 198 streets and approximately 3,800 premises, CMWSSB has already provided a comprehensive Underground Sewerage System (UGSS) and sewer house service connections have been effected to all premises under the Illam Thorum Inaippu Scheme. The sewage generated in these areas is collected and conveyed to the Sewage Pumping Stations located at Sangam Street, Ayyankullam and VOC Street, from where it is pumped to Karukku SPS and Korattur SPS, and thereafter conveyed to the Kodungaiyur Sewage Treatment Plant for treatment and safe disposal.

Similarly, in Kallikuppam under Depot-82, which comprises 75 streets with about 1,100 premises, CMWSSB has already provided a comprehensive Underground Sewerage System, and sewer connections have been effected to all premises under the Illam Thorum Inaippu Scheme. The sewage generated in this locality is conveyed to the Sewage Pumping Stations located at Pillaiyar Kovil Street and Thendral Nagar, from where it is pumped to Karukku SPS

and Korattur SPS, and thereafter conveyed to the Kodungaiyur Sewage Treatment Plant for treatment and safe disposal.

In Venkateshwara Nagar under Depot-79, which comprises 110 streets with about 2,224 premises, sewer connections have been provided to all premises except 30 left-out streets comprising about 628 premises, where underground sewerage facilities are not presently available. Preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for providing underground sewerage facilities to these left-out streets is currently under progress. At present, sewage generated from these premises is managed through individual septic tanks, and the accumulated sewage is periodically removed through CMWSSB "Dial for Sewer" lorries and transported to designated disposal points, thereby preventing sewage inflow into storm water drains or Puzhal Lake.

It is further submitted that the Greater Chennai Corporation has been taking enforcement action against illegal discharge of sewage or sullage water into storm water drains. Since 01.04.2022, GCC has levied penalties amounting to Rs. 17,87,500/- on offenders in Zone-7. GCC officials are also carrying out periodical inspections, and wherever illegal sewer linkages are detected, the connections are immediately disconnected and the discharge points are plugged to prevent sewage inflow. The offenders are also instructed to obtain House Service Connections from CMWSSB.

During the inspection, it was also observed that certain habitations have developed along the boundary of the lake, and in some locations sullage water from nearby habitations appears to flow towards the lake vicinity. Such instances require coordinated action by the concerned authorities to ensure that wastewater does not reach the lake.

It is also submitted that Puzhal Lake is presently at Full Reservoir Level, and the subject locality is situated in close proximity to the bund of the lake, forming part of a low-lying catchment area. Due to the high water level in Puzhal Lake, the outfall level of the storm water drains is hydraulically restricted, resulting in temporary stagnation of rainwater in the storm water drains during such periods.

Further, wastewater samples were collected from various locations of the storm water drains, including Thendral Nagar 3rd Street, Thendral Nagar 4th Street, Sakthi Nagar 1st Street, Bharu Nagar, Venkateshwara Nagar, and the storm water drain discharge point near Puzhal Lake. The collected samples were analysed for relevant physical and chemical parameters. The laboratory test results indicate that the effluent quality conforms to the standards prescribed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) for discharge of treated wastewater into inland surface waters. Parameters such as Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), pH,

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Dissolved Oxygen and Ammonia were found to be within the permissible limits. The laboratory results further indicate that there is no evidence of discharge of untreated sewage and no mixing of sewage with the storm water drains in the subject locality.

In order to prevent any possible discharge towards the lake, a letter has been addressed to the Zonal Officer, Zone-7, Greater Chennai Corporation, requesting necessary action to prevent discharge of sewage or sullage water into storm water drains leading to the lake.

It is further submitted that the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) is continuously monitoring the above areas in coordination with the Greater Chennai Corporation and other concerned departments to ensure that no untreated sewage is discharged into storm water drains or nearby water bodies. Field officials of CMWSSB are carrying out periodical inspections of sewer networks, manholes and pumping stations, and necessary action is being taken wherever any irregular discharge is noticed.

In order to ensure long-term protection of the lake, Greater Chennai Corporation has been requested to provide a permanent gate or shutter arrangement at the storm water drain outfall point. The gate may be maintained in closed condition to prevent any possible sewage entry into the lake, and will also prevent backflow of lake water into the storm water drain. During monsoon periods, temporary pumping arrangements may be made from the storm water drain if required.

In view of the above inspection findings, the status of Underground Sewerage System in the area, and the results of laboratory analysis of wastewater samples, it is furnished that there is no evidence of discharge of untreated sewage into Puzhal Lake. Hence, the proposal for levy of Environmental Compensation under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not arise as CMWSSB had taken steps to curtail flow of sewage into the lake.


for MANAGING DIRECTOR

Copy To:

1. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (M),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai.
2. The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
77A, South Avenue Road,
Ambattur Industrial Estate,
Chennai - 600 058.

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL SZ AT CHENNAI**

Original Application No.71 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the news item in The Hindu
dt:13.12.2023 titled, "Residents complain
about encroachments and waste pollution
at rear bund of Red Hills Lake".

.....Applicant.

With

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
and Others.

...Respondents

**ADDITIONAL REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF
THE FIRST RESPONDENT - TAMIL NADU
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

Date of filing :05.06.2026

Date of hearing :08.06.2026



Thiru.S.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate for ^{1st} Respondent: TNPCB.

