



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.121 of 2024 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO-MOTU

Based on the news Item in Times of India

Newspaper, Chennai Edition

Dated:11.01.2024 titled "Landgrabbers take over Cooum"

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

Greater Chennai Corporation,

Rep. by its Commissioner

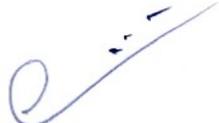
.....Respondent(s)

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS - 6TH RESPONDENT

I, **M.GOPI**, son of T.R. Manipal, aged above 50 years, officiating as Executive Engineer in the Greater Chennai Corporation, Ripon Building, Chennai- 600 003 do solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I humbly submit that I am presently working as Executive Engineer in the Greater Chennai Corporation, Ripon Building and hence I am acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case from the available records. I am filing this Status Report on behalf of Greater Chennai Corporation.
2. I humbly submit that when the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone; took up the said case for suo-moto hearing on 07.07.2024 notice was ordered to the Greater Chennai Corporation.


Executive Engineer
Parks Department
CORPORATION OF CHENNAI

2

3. I humbly submit that the Hon'ble Tribunal has **SUO-MOTU** entertained this Original Application No.121 of 2024 based upon the news item published in Times of India Newspaper, Chennai Edition Dt:11.01.2024, titled as "Landgrabbers take over Cooum".
4. I humbly submit that the river bund of the Cooum River stretch runs from Napier Bridge to Padikuppam causeway near Koyambedu which originates in a village, which is known as Cooum in Kadambathur union in Tiruvallur District situated at about 70 kms from Chennai, all though starting its main course at Sattarai village around 65 kms from Chennai.
5. I humbly submit that, "the said news item discloses that the landgrabbers have been dumping loads of sand and debris and leveling a vast area, entering more than 10 feet into the river bed From Padikuppam causeway to Napier Bridge". This is due to the formation of approach road executed by NHAI.
6. I humbly submit that the Government of Tamil Nadu had accorded in-principle approval to the NHAI for construction of four lane elevated road from Cchennai port to Maduravoyal by using one side of the cooum river bank vide, G.O.Ms.No.199,Public works (WRD) Department, dated : 22.06.2007. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Tamil Nadu Government and NHAI in this regard. Now the NHAI has commenced preliminary works by forming approach road inside the Cooum River. After completion of NHAI work, the debris deposited on the cooum river bed, will be removed and the cooum will be restore to the original standards at the cost of NHAI.
7. It is respectfully submitted that even the preliminary works was stopped by the field Engineers for want of deposition of the security deposit for Rs.50 Crore to ensure that the return of the cooum River regime condition is done by NHAI. After receipt of the security deposit amount Rs.50 crore approved by the Government and an undertaking from NHAI, further work were allowed by this department.


Executive Engineer
Parks Department
CORPORATION OF CHENNAI

3

8. I respectfully submit that, under the CRRT project of Eco restoration of Cooum river, Construction of Compound wall, Boundary fencing of the Cooum river has been taken up for a length of 23.92 Km for preventing encroachments and preventing dumping of Garbage and Solid wastes and so far 20.54 Km length compound wall has been completed. The balance work will be taken up after resettlement of the project affected families in coordination with Water Resource department (PWD) and Tamil Nadu Urban development board (TNUHDB).
9. I respectfully submit that, under the CRRT project of Eco restoration of Cooum river, Trash booms have been provided at 8 locations across Cooum river for intercepting and collecting the Hyacinth and other floating materials from entering the sea and are removed periodically using porcelain and Lorries and so far around 39000 Mt. Hyacinth and floating materials are removed periodically from this 8 locations.
10. I respectfully submit that, under the CRRT project of Eco restoration of Cooum river, 1,00,485 MT. of debris and garbage dumped along the banks of Cooum river has been removed at a cost of Rs.6.25 Crore.
11. I respectfully submit that, 14257 project affected families have been identified as encroached along the banks of Cooum river. So far 13484 slum families encroached along the banks of Cooum river have been resettled in TNUHDB tenements. Action is being taken for shifting of the balance slum families to TNUHDB tenements.

Dated at Chennai this the 02nd Day of February 2026.



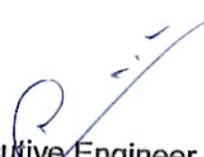
6TH

Counsel for Respondent

^


E NO. 340/26

Respondent


Executive Engineer,
Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust,
Greater Chennai Corporation
Executive Engineer
Parks Department
CORPORATION OF CHENNAI

4

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN BENCH AT CHENNAI**

APPLICATION NO.121 OF 2024

**Tribunal on its own motion SUO
MOTU based on the news item
in "the Times of India" dated 11.01.2024
titled "Landgrabbers take over Cooum"**

...PETITIONER

-Vs-

**The Commissioner
Greater Chennai Corporation**

...RESPONDENTS

**STATUS REPORT SUBMITTED ON
BEHALF OF THE 6th RESPONDENT**

**N.R.RAMESH KANNA
COUNSEL FOR 6th RESPONDENT**