

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No.185 of 2023 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SuoMotu
based on the news item published in
The Hindu, The Times of India and Dinamalar,
Chennai Edition dated 06.12.2023, 07.12.2023
and 14.12.2023, "Illegal construction and
encroachment of water bodies"

Versus

The Chief Secretary to Government ,
State of Tamil Nadu

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
OF TAMIL NADU – 1ST RESPONDENT**

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 17.12.2025

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No. 185 of 2023 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion SuoMotu
based on the news item published in
The Hindu, The Times of India and Dinamalar,
Chennai Edition dated 06.12.2023, 07.12.2023
and 14.12.2023, "**Illegal construction and
encroachment of water bodies**"

...Applicant

Versus

(1) The Chief Secretary to Government,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu and Ors.

....Respondent(s)

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
CHENGALPATTU**

I, D.Sneha, I.A.S., S/o Mr.K.M.Divakaran aged about 33 years residing at the Collector's bungalow, Chengalpattu, discharging duties as District Collector, Chengalpattu, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. It is submitted that the National Green Tribunal(Southern Zone), Chennai on its own motion based on news item published in the Hindu, The Times of India and Dinamalar, Chennai Edition dated 06.12.2023, 07.12.2023 and 14.12.2023, " Illegal Construction and Enroachment of Water Bodies" had taken up a Suo -Motto Case in Chengalpattu District O.A.No: 185 of 2023 in which the Chief


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Secretary to Government, Tamil Nadu has been impleaded as the 1st respondent & 16 others as respondents.

2. It is submitted that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (South Zone) Chennai by its order dated 16.12.2023 has directed the 1st Respondent/Chief Secretary to Government, State of Tamil Nadu to examine the issue in detail and to file a report on the following:

i. How many water bodies in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Kancheepuram (herein afterwards referred as Chennai and its neighborhood) have been breached, of which how many are manmade and action taken thereof.

ii. District wise encroachments in water bodies, wetlands and river poromboke land. Nature of encroachments i.e. by cultivation, temporary/permanent habitations, commercial buildings.

iii. Plan of action drawn to evict the encroachments.

iv. Land extent of wetlands (both natural and manmade)/rivers that has been allotted to Government Departments/Bodies for construction of Office/Commercial Buildings and for construction of residential buildings.

v. What is the extent of water storage capacity as per the tank memoirs and how much storage capacity is lost due to shrinkage of water bodies due to encroachment/allotment of water bodies to Government organizations.

vi. Policies enunciated to restore the water bodies.

vii. Regulations brought forward to protect the water bodies, wetlands, inlets/outlets and the rivers along with the floodplains.

viii. What is the action taken based on the Hon'ble Apex Court's orders in delineating buffer zones to protect the wetlands (both manmade & natural) and the rivers and waterways.

ix. Schemes launched since 2015 for increasing the water storage capacity in Chennai and its neighborhood either by new reservoirs/in-stream reservoirs/deepening of water bodies etc.


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x. Pending Projects in Chennai and its neighborhood for enhancing storage capacity and proposals pending for sanction of funds. Timelines fixed for implementation of pending projects and for sanction of funds for the pending proposals.

xi. Planning and regulatory measures put in place by CMDA/DTCP to prevent the residential colonies and buildings from inundation during monsoon months.

xii. Technical solutions being contemplated for impounding more water in the existing water bodies and abandoned quarries as well as at the community level.”

3. It is respectfully submitted that subsequently, when the above case came up for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 13.06.2025, the following order was passed:

”1. The additional report dated 12.06.2025 of the 15th Respondent/ Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) is filed. The report dated 13.06.2025 of the District Collector – Tiruvallur is also filed.

2. However, the reports submitted thus far pertain only to the Tiruvallur District, and the reports from the other concerned districts are yet to be filed.

3. It is further noted that the Water Resources Department (WRD) has not filed its report despite directions issued by this Tribunal on earlier occasions.

4. List the matter on 21.07.2025 for filing the reports.”

4. It is respectfully submitted that, pursuant to the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal, the District Collector, Chengalpattu District, vide office letter R.C.No.3772/2024/L1, dated 30.03.2024, has requested (i) the Commissioner, Tambaram City Municipal Corporation; (ii) the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Araniyar Basin, Chepauk; (iii) the Commissioners of Chengalpattu, Madhuranthakam and Maraimalai Nagar Municipalities; (iv) the


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Assistant Director of Town Panchayats, Chengalpattu District, in respect of all Town Panchayats therein; (v) all Block Development Officers through the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Chengalpattu; (vi) all Tahsildars through the Sub-Collector, Chengalpattu; and the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tambaram and Madhuranthakam, to furnish the necessary particulars, including details relating to encroachments on water bodies, within their respective jurisdictions.

5. It is respectfully submitted that, when the above case came up for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 12.08.2025, the following order was passed:

" 1. The reports of the Water Resources Department, District Collectors of Chennai and Chengalpattu are yet to be filed.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the TWAD Board seeks further time to file the report.

3. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is directed to file a detailed report regarding the mitigation measures, etc. during the flood seasons.

4. Post the matter on 10.09.2025."

6. It is respectfully submitted that, subsequently, when the above case came up for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 10.09.2025, the following order was passed:

"1.Respondent No.9 (TWAD Board) has filed its report dated 09.09.2025. However, the reports from the Water Resources Department, District Collectors of Chennai and Chengalpattu Districts and the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) are still awaited.

2. For filing the reports, post the matter on 17.12.2025."

7. It is respectfully submitted that, in this regard, the concerned authorities were repeatedly reminded to furnish the requisite particulars vide this office letters dated 09.07.2025, 22.08.2025 and 24.11.2025. In response thereto, the Assistant Director of

Panchayats, vide letter dated 05.12.2025, has informed that 3,171 water bodies are presently under the control of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, out of which 901 water bodies fall within Urban Panchayat areas. It has been stated therein that, owing to the sheer volume and extensive nature of the water bodies involved, the process of collection, verification and compilation of details relating to encroachments is time-consuming, and accordingly, the Assistant Director of Panchayats has sought extension of time for furnishing the said particulars. Considering the multi-departmental nature of the exercise and the volume of data involved, this respondent was awaiting receipt of the requisite reports from the concerned authorities.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Lower Palar Basin Division, Kancheepuram, has submitted a report vide letter A3/OA No.185 of 2023 (SZ)/2025, dated 15.12.2025. In the said report, it is stated, inter alia, that 528 tanks are under the control of the Water Resources Department in Chengalpattu District, and that the encroachments identified so far in the water bodies under the control of the said Department have been approximately assessed as 214.15.40 hectares. It is further stated that the process of eviction, including issuance of Show Cause Notices and Form-III Notices, is presently underway in respect of the said encroachments, in coordination with the revenue department officials. It is further submitted that a District-level Action Plan for enumeration and eviction of encroachments in Government lands, with priority accorded to water bodies, has been prepared, and that monthly review meetings are being conducted by the District Collector to monitor the progress of removal of such encroachments.
9. Further, the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, has stated vide above letter that in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Court, necessary actions have been taken for protecting the water bodies and for removal of encroachments in accordance with


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the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act, 1905 and the Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachments Act, 2007.

10. In order to restore and strengthen the water bodies, the following works relating to tanks and allied structures have been completed and are under progress:-

Sl. No.	Taluk	Name of Work	Stage of Work
1.	Tambaram	Eco-Restoration of Chitlapakkam Tank in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District	Work Completed
2.	Thirupporur	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Arungundram Tank in Arungundram Village of Thirupporur Taluk in Chengalpattu District.	Work Completed
3.	Thirupporur	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Oragadam Tank in Oragadam Village of Thirupporur Taluk in Chengalpattu District.	Work Completed
4.	Thirupporur	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of P.V.Kalathur Tank in Thirukalukundram Block in Chengalpattu District.	Work Completed
5.	Tambaram	Construction of Cut and Cover along the Dargas road from Pappan Channel to Adyar River in Tambaram Village & Taluk of Chengalpattu District.	Work Completed
6.	Chengalpattu	Reclaiming and Rejuvenating the Kolavoy lake in Chengalpattu	22% of the work completed. At present the

		Taluk and District for augmenting drinking water supply to the extended Chennai Urban and Chengalpattu areas.	approval by Southern Railway for Construction of Inlet / Outlet across Railway Track is under progress
7.	Tambaram & Pallavaram	Construction of Bed dam across the Adyar River at Thiruneermalai and formation and relaying of Approach Service Road leading to Thiruneermalai at Tambaram and Pallavaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District.	Work is under progress
8.	Tambaram	Formation of Cut & Cover Macro drain from Irumbuliyur Tank to GST Road, Peerkanaranai Flood Regulator to Irumbuliyur Macro drain, link drain from GST Road under tunnel to the Mudichur Road Cut and Cover junction in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District.	Work is under progress
9.	Thirupporur	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Kayar Tank in Kayar Village of Thirupporur Taluk in Chengalpattu District.	Work is under progress
10.	Tambaram	Providing Retaining wall for Existing Channel and Formation of Cut & Cover macro drain under the Existing Road from	Work Completed

		Sembakkam Tank Surplus Course to Nanmangalam Tank in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District.	
11.	Tambaram	Construction of Cut & Cover from Moovarasampet Tank to Keelkatalai Channel of Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District.	Work Completed

11. In continuation of the above, it is respectfully submitted that, apart from the aforesaid works being executed by the Water Resources Department, several proposals for restoration of tanks and water bodies under the control of the said Department in Chengalpattu District, through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding by Non-Governmental Organisations, such as M/s. ExNoRa, M/s. Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI), and others, have been permitted by the District Administration. It is submitted that such restoration works are permitted based on requests received from the concerned NGOs and after obtaining the requisite technical feasibility reports from the Water Resources Department.

12. It is respectfully submitted that, as of now, the actions detailed hereinabove have been taken in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal. It is further submitted that the issues involved necessitate collation and consolidation of data from multiple departments and authorities having jurisdiction over different categories of water bodies, and accordingly, certain reports and particulars are still awaited from the other concerned authorities. Upon receipt of the same, this respondent undertakes to place a comprehensive and consolidated report before this Hon'ble Tribunal and assures that full cooperation shall continue to be extended to


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ensure the effective protection, restoration, and sustainable management of water bodies.

In view of the above submissions, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take the present status report on record and be further pleased to grant additional time for filing the detailed and consolidated report, and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

Solemnly affirmed at Chengalpattu
on this the 16th day of December, 2025
and signed in my presence.


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