

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

O.A. No. 194 of 2024 (SZ)
[Earlier O.A. No. 477 of 2024 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **Suo Motu**
based on the news item published in
The Times of India dated 19.02.2024
titled, “**Buckingham Canal remains
choked with garbage, sewage**”.

And

Central Pollution Control Board,
Through its Member Secretary,
New Delhi and Or.

...Respondents

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 7TH RESPONDENT



THROUGH
M/S. GAUTAM S. RAMAN
COUNSEL FOR 7TH RESPONDENT

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Dated at Chennai on this the 14th day of January, 2026



Counsel for 7th Respondent

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI.

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No.194 OF 2024 (SZ)

[EARLIER O.A.No.477 OF 2024 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suo Motu matter in respect of news item appearing in the "The Times of India" dated 19.02.2024 titled "***Buckingham canal remains choked with garbage, sewage***"

Suo motu

AND

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Through its Member Secretary,
New Delhi & Ors.

Respondents



Superintending Engineer-(WWI &R),
CMWSSB,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.

REPORT FILED BY THE 7TH RESPONDENT

I, Mr.K. Ramamoorthy, S/o Mr.N. Kumarasamy, aged about 58 years now working as Superintending Engineer (WWT&R) in the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), having office at No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai - 600002 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

1. I am the Superintending Engineer (WWT&R) of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Chennai, representing the 7th Respondent herein. I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the connected files, and I have been authorized to file this report.
2. A news report titled "Buckingham Canal Remains Choked with Garbage, Sewage" was published in The Times of India on 19.02.2024. It is stated that, despite the lessons from the December floods, the Buckingham Canal remains clogged with plastic waste and continues to receive sewage from stormwater drains. A 100-metre stretch of the Buckingham Canal near Chepauk MRTS station is heavily blocked by waste, including plastic, thermocol, rubber, and wrappers. Originally meant to lie 6 feet below sea level, the canal now stands 3 feet above sea level due to the accumulation of silt and sewage. Residents report that even a brief rainfall leads to the canal swelling and flooding interior areas of Triplicane and Chepauk, as seen during Cyclone Michaung, when water took nearly 12 hours to recede. Five major stormwater drains empty into the canal between Chepauk and Triplicane. A January 2024 study

in Aqua, a journal of water supply, research, and technology, found Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels ranging from 1.2 to 2.5 mg/L, indicating the presence of organic matter that consumes oxygen.

3. I submit that the abovementioned case was originally registered *suo motu* by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, on 30.04.2024 as O.A. No. 477/2024 (PB). Initially, the respondent was not a party to the said application. However, this Hon'ble Tribunal subsequently impleaded the Respondent Board as the 7th respondent by an order dated 19.02.2024 in O.A. No. 194 of 2024 (SZ). Pursuant to this tribunal, in its order dated 15.04.2024, directed the Board to file a report in the matter.
4. It is submitted that, in this regard, a detailed field investigation was carried out, during which it was observed that sewage outfalls were originating from encroachments along the B-Canal and from illegal connections into storm water drains leading to the B-Canal.
5. It is submitted that, as part of the core city improvement works, old, worn-out, and damaged sewer pipelines were removed and replaced with new pipelines, along with the realignment of sewer lines. The areas mentioned in the news report also include the B-Canal. The Water Resources Department (WRD) appointed the Tamil Nadu Water Investment Company Ltd. (TWIC), which has submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the WRD. The report proposes plugging the sewage outfalls through diversion and the use of modular Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), under which the sewage water will be treated before being discharged into the B-Canal. It has also been

reported that encroachments along the B-Canal will be removed by the WRD in coordination with the GCC.

6. It is submitted that a total of 365 sewage outfalls were identified along the B-Canal during the year 2022, and an additional 10 outfalls were identified during the year 2024 by TWIC, thereby bringing the total number of outfalls to 375. Of these, 150 outfalls are presently in dry condition. 7 outfalls are carrying treated water from various sources, including Thiruvottiyur STP, Kodungaiyur STP, CISF Quarters, Cancer Institute, and Perungudi STP. 1 outfall is to be addressed by the Public Works Department (PWD), as the source is located within the Ezhilagam Campus. 1 outfall is to be addressed by CMRL, as the pumping main has been damaged during CMRL works. 3 outfalls are discharging sullage water, and samples are being collected twice a week for monitoring. 1 outfall is discharging sub-soil water from ASTA Construction, and the sample has been sent for laboratory testing. 14 outfalls, remedial works are currently under progress. Additionally, 6 confluence points at spill gates where the Kosasthalaiyar River and B-Canal intersects, Thanickachalam intersects with Kodungaiyur and Kodungaiyur (N), Captain Cotton Drain, Secretariat Colony Drain, Pallikaranai Marsh, and Otteri Nallah, have been noted. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) is taking rigorous action to plug the wet outfalls. The details of the actions taken are detailed below.

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On completion of following schemes taken up by CMWSSB, total of 107 outfalls will be plugged.

S. No	PROJECTS/ AREAS	NO OF OUTFALLS COVERED
1	NELLANGARAI UGSSS	55
	KOTTIVAKKAM, PALLAVAKKAM, NEELANGARAI UGSS	30
2	INJAMBAKKAM UGSS	7
3	OKKIUM THORAIPAKKAM UGSS	8
4	TNHB Scheme	1
5	Laying of 1000mm dia CI pumping main from Tondiarpet F Pumping station to Kodungaiyur STP via Ennore High Road in Area-IV	1
6	VCVT - Strengthening of Sewer collection system in R.K Nagar South SPS, New Sasthiri Nagar SPS and Bharathi Nagar SPS Commending Area (Depot-41&47) in Area-IV	1
7	VCVT - Strengthening of Sewer collection system in R.K Nagar North SPS Commending Area (Depot-38 &41) in Area-IV	3
8	Strengthening of Sewer collection system in Venkatesapuram SPS Commending Area (Depot-72) in Area-VI	1
	Strengthening of Sewer collection system in KP Park SPS Commending Area (Depot-77) in Area-VI	
TOTAL		107

Further, estimates have been prepared for plugging 14 outfalls for which Administration Sanction will be obtained based on the financial support from the Government or other external agencies.

For plugging 7 outfalls, Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation is under progress. Furthermore, 64 sewage outfalls have been identified on WRD land (bund) and railway land to be evicted by WRD and Railways.

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept my response on behalf of the 7th respondent Board and close the case and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on
This day of 14th January 2026 and Signed
his name in my presence



Ms. 6742/2021

BEFORE ME
Advocate, Chennai



Superintending Engineer-(WWT&R),
CMWSSB,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.

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