

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No. 23 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Indian Express Dt. 03.11.2023 titled “Tamilnadu Activities Allege drinking water supplied from Madambakkam lake in Tambaram contaminated with sewage, civic body disagrees”

Versus

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Through its Member Secretary Chennai and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY THE 5th RESPONDENT –
THE WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT, LOWER PALAR BASIN DIVISION.

INDEX

S. No.	Date	Description	Page No.
1	29.08.2025	Status Report Filed By 5 th respondent – The Water Resource Department, Lower Palar Basin Division.	1-7

(Note: The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE 05.12.2025

Before the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai.

O.A. No. 23 of 2024

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the news item in The Indian Express Dated 03.11.2023 titled” **Tamil Nadu Activates alleged drinking water supplied from Madambakkam Lake in Tambaram Contaminated with sewage, civic body Disagrees**”

Vs

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Through its Member Secretary Chennai
and Ors

...Respondents

STATUS REPORT FILED BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

WRD., LOWER PALAR BASIN DIVISION, KANCHEEPURAM.

I, R.ARUNMOZHI S/o RAJU aged about 49 Years officiating as Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department (WRD), Lower Palar Basin Division, Kanchipuram file this Status Report pursuant to the order dated 03.07.2025 made by this Hon’ble Tribunal in the Original Application herein.

2. It is submitted that the Hon’ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in its order dated 21.01.2025 on the SUO MOTO case (O.A No. 23 of 2024) based on the news item in The Indian Express Dated: 03.11.2023 titled **“Tamil Nadu Activities Allege drinking water supplied from Madambakkam lake in Tambaram Contaminated with sewage, civic body Disagrees”**, has ordered the W.R.D. as below to take submit an action taken report on eviction of encroachments in Madambakkam Tank,

“5. The Water Resources Department (W.R.D), which is the custodian of all the lakes, particularly the

Madambakkam Lake which is now in dispute, is directed to file its report with the details of the boundary of the lake, encroachments (if any), action taken for evicting the same, etc.,”

- I. The Action Taken Report was filed by this Department before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 17.02.2025, which was already stated vide this office letter 3rd cited and the same is described below for kind information,**

The Madambakkam Tank located in S.F. No. 708 of Madambakkam Village in Tambaram Taluk of Chengalpattu District is under the control and maintenance of Water Resources Department. Due to the rapid urbanization 65% of Command area was already converted into Residential layouts. This Tank is serving for the remaining Ayacut area, also acting as ground water recharger and ecological balancer. The Hydraulic Particulars of the Tank is given as below,

Hydraulic Particulars of Madambakkam Tank

Full Tank Level (FTL)	:	(+) 10.670 m
Maximum Water Level (MWL)	:	(+) 11.280 m
Top Bund Level (TBL)	:	(+) 13.110 m
Length of Tank Bund	:	1956 m
No. of Sluice	:	4 Nos.
No. of Weir	:	3 Nos.
Storage Capacity	:	1.42 MCM
Tank Water Spread Area	:	100.36.50 Ha.
Ayacut	:	259.11.00 Ha.

2. It is submitted that the Storage Capacity of Madambakkam tank is 50.10 Mcft and the Annual Storage Capacity is 75.21 Mcft. It is respectfully submitted that the sewage and garbages from the surrounding residential areas are dumped in the Madambakkam Tank area. In this regard letters were addressed to The Commissioner Tambaram Municipality by the Assistant Engineer, W.R.D., Irrigation

Section, Padappai Lr. No. 57 / AE / Padappai / 2025 / Dated: 04.02.2025 and by this the Assistant Engineer, WRD., Lower Palar Basin Division, Chengalpattu letter No. F. 39 / AEE / CPT / 2025 / Dated: 17.02.2025 to take necessary action for stopping sewage water and garbage let into the lake.

3. It is submitted that in the case of O.A 23 of 2024, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has pointed out regarding the layout approval for house sites in the property located in Survey Nos. 723/1, 2, 3 and 769/1 of Madambakkam Village. Thereby, it is herewith submitted that based on the CMDA approach, the inundation point of view by the Water Resources Department for the layout proposal at Survey Nos. 723/1, 2, 3 and 769/1 of Madambakkam Village was issued by the Chief Engineer, W.R.D., Chennai Region, Chepauk, Chennai - 5 letter DB / T 5(3) / F. NOC / 3412 & 3413 Madambakkam Village 6737 / 2024 / Dated: 23.08.2024 with the following specific technical suggestion.

“ (a) The applicant should prepare the layout proposal by considering the suitable internal storm water drainage network as micro drain (i.e.,) the peripheral drain of size not less than 1.80m x 1.90m and lateral drain of suitable size within the site as per the site condition.

(b) The necessary setback distance of 3.00m especially on Southern side as per site condition as per the norms in existence and as per the rules in force of CMDA.....”

In consequent to the above, it is submitted that the technical suggestion made by the W.R.D. for providing peripheral drain and the set back of 3m adjacent to the applicant land should be strictly followed by the applicant. It is prominent to note that even though the said layout land is not a water body, hydraulically the foreshore water has to pass through the applicants land and drain into Madambakkam Tank. Hence, the peripheral drain is essential at the layout. And the conditions recommended by the CMDA have to be verified by the CMDA itself.

II. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 25.02.2025 & 03.06.2025 has directed the concern department as below,

Order dated: 25.02.2025

"3. Besides, the report of the Water Resources Department (WRD) states that the foreshore water has to pass through the applicant's land and drain into the Madambakkam tank, which requires a peripheral drain at the layout. Whether the said arrangement is made has to be discerned.."

Order dated: 03.06.2025

"5. The learned counsel appearing for the 8th Respondent has stated that a technical suggestion was made by the WRD for providing a peripheral drain and the set back of 3 meters around the project land should be strictly followed by the project proponent.

6. It is also stated that though not the layout is inside the water body, hydraulically the foreshore water has to pass through the project land and drain into the Madambakkam tank. Hence, the peripheral drain is essential at the layout. The layout proposed as a micro drain will be of a size not less than 1.80 meters x 1.90 meters."

III. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 03.07.2025 has initiated as below:

"4. The District Collector, however, has not furnished details regarding the original width of the drain canal from the above residential colonies into the lake, nor the extent to which it has been reduced due to the layout development. Let the said particulars be furnished.

5. While it has been stated that.....

6. From the records available, the water spread area and the buffer zone pertaining to Madambakkam Lake are not clearly demarcated. Hence, the Water Resources Department is directed to furnish precise details in this regard."

Meanwhile, the District Collector Chengalpattu has instructed the W.R.D., and the other line departments to furnish the compliance report regarding the said case. Thereby, all the above said fact was submitted as a Compliance Report on behalf of W.R.D., vide letter 3rd cited.

4. It is submitted that a joint inspection was carried by the Executive Engineer, W.R.D., Lower Palar Basin Division, Kancheepuram; the Assistant Engineer, W.R.D., Irrigation Section, Padappai and the Concern Developing Agency was carried out on **30.07.2025**. During the site inspection the following observation were made by the W.R.D., Officials.

- It was observed that the foreshore areas are fully converted to residential zone. Hence, the road side drain are the only way to connect the macro drain so as to drain out the flood water collected inside the layout area.
- It was also observed that the peripheral drains are provided at the layout as per the design mentioned in the W.R.D., technical opinion.
- The Developing Agency was advised to provide a straight Macro Drain of 1.80 width along the street which was already recommended by the Chief Engineer, W.R.D., Chennai Region, Chepauk, Chennai – 5 vide letter DB / T 5(3) / F. NOC / 3412 & 3413 Madambakkam Village 6737 / 2024 / Dated: 23.08.2024. Accordingly, the lateral and inter-lateral drain system has to be provided based on the area and coefficient of run off inside the layout and the same has to be connected to this macro drain.
- The above said drainage pattern will ensure the flood water from the layout pass through the macro drain and drain into the Madambakkam Lake.

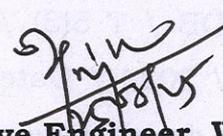
5. It is submitted that, in addition to the above conditions all the other conditions mentioned in the Technical Opinion issued vide the Chief Engineer, W.R.D., Chennai Region, Chepauk, Chennai – 5 letter DB / T 5(3) / F. NOC / 3412 & 3413 Madambakkam Village 6737 / 2024 / Dated: 23.08.2024 has to be complied by the project proponent.

It is, therefore, prayed that the above status report may please be taken on file of this Original Application and pass appropriate further order as deemed fit in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

VERIFICATION

I, R.ARUNMOZHI S/o RAJU aged about 49 Years officiating as Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department (WRD), Lower Palar Basin Division, Kanchipuram, do verify that that submission made in paragraphs 1 to 5 are true to the best of my knowledge and from records and I verify this at Chennai on 29th day of August, 2025.

DATE: 29.08.2025


**Executive Engineer, W.R.D.,
Lower Palar Basin Division,
Kancheepuram.**


29/8/25

