

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE)

CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No: 25 of 2021 (SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU Based on the News item in Times of India. Chennai Edition, Dated 19.01.2021. "Private tankers in Chennai brazenly dump Sewage into storm water drains in broad daylight."

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

1. The Principal Secretary to Govt. Of Tamil Nadu, Health and Family Welfare Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600-009.
2. The Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Department of Environment & Forests,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George Chennai,
Tamil Nadu 600-009.
3. Additional Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
Municipal Administration and Water Supply
Department Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600-009.
4. The Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, No. 76,
Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600-032.
5. Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
Rep. by its Managing Director,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet,
Chennai - 600031.
6. The District Collector,
Tiruvallur District,
First Floor, Collectorate,
Tiruvallur - 602001.
7. Greater Chennai Corporation,
Rep. by its Commissioner,
Ripon Building,
Chennai 600 003.

...Respondent(s)

REPORT FILED BY THE 5th RESPONDENT

I, S.Ravindranathan, S/o.K.Subbaian, Hindu, aged about 58 years now working as Superintending Engineer (South West) in the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai do here by solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

1. I am the Superintending Engineer (South West) of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), Chennai and I am Respondent herein and well acquainted with the facts of the case from the connected files.

2. I humbly submit that the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone has given a direction to the committee members as follows:

“...In order to ascertain the genuineness of the allegations in the newspaper report and if it is found to be proved what is the nature of action taken by the authorities against such mischief mongers, we feel it appropriate to appoint a Joint committee comprising of

(1) The District Collector, Tiruvallur District or a Senior Officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector or Sub Divisional Magistrate to be deputed by the District Collector,

(2) a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as designated by its Chairman,

(3) the Superintending Engineer from Public Works Department (PWD) and Water Resources Organisation (WRO) who is in charge of that area

(4) a Senior Officer from Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) and

(5) a Senior Health Officer from Greater Chennai Corporation to be deputed by its Commissioner who is dealing with such issues in the Corporation to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found...”

3. I humbly submit that the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has been appointed as the Nodal agency for co-ordination and also for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.

4. The District Collector, Tiruvallur District has been directed to supervise and coordinate the committee members and review their work and enable them to

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21/4/2024
Superintending Engineer (South West)
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.

submit the report to this Tribunal on time instead of asking for time again and again by filing some vague reports.

5. I humbly submit that, the Joint committee has also been directed to ascertain the persons responsible for doing such mischief by conducting proper enquiry after collecting details from the person mentioned in the newspaper report and also from the reporter who published report and take appropriate action against such persons including launching of prosecution and imposing environmental compensation and other coercive steps in accordance with law.

6. If storm water drains are discharging the same into the any water body, then the committee is also been directed to ascertain the water quality of the water body and if it is contaminated to suggest the remedial measures to be taken to rectify the same including assessment of environmental compensation and recover such amount from those who are responsible for the same.

7. As ordered by the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, the direction has been given to the official concerned to co-ordinate with the committee members. Accordingly, the committee members have inspected the subject area on 12.03.2021 and again on 29.03.2021. Necessary action plans to be taken to monitor and to prevent the activities of private tankers who are dumping the sewage into storm water drains was explored in detail.

8. I humbly submit that The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) is in the process of Implementation and Maintenance of water distribution, sewage collection and disposal network in Greater Chennai Corporation which comprises of 200wards including the recently added 42Nos of local bodies viz., 9Nos of Municipalities, 8Nos of Town Panchayats and 25Nos of Village Panchayats to the Greater Chennai City. The Implementation of Under ground Sewerage Schemes (UGSS) to these newly added areas are under operation in certain places and at various stages of completion in the remaining places.

9. I humbly submit that, As the Board responsible for the Implementation and Maintenance of water supply and Sewerage facilities in the Core Chennai City and to its newly added areas, Water supply Schemes (WSS) and Under Ground Sewerage Schemes (UGSS) are under implementation at various places in the Greater Chennai City. These Schemes have been successfully completed and put into use in certain areas and the remaining areas are at various stages of completion.

Superintending Engineer (South West)
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
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P. Nand
27/4/2021
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The sewage generated at these unserved areas are being collected at a nominal cost through Phone helpline and Online portal by the Board. These registered sewer tanker lorries of the Board collect sewage and decanted at the nearest Sewage pumping Station/ Sewage Treatment plant for further treatment and safe disposal.

10. I further humbly submit that the Complaint site, comes under the purview of the Poonamalle Municipality and is not under the Jurisdiction of Greater Chennai Corporation or the Board. The requisite enforcement action have to be dealt by the Commissioner of the Municipality concerned. In compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), the Joint Committee as constituted with CMWSSB as its Nodal Agency, the Superintending Engineer (South West) of CMWSSB has carried out the inspection in the area in question on 12.03.2021, again on 29.03.2021 and the observed that, Two nos of Sewer Tanker Lorries bearing registration Nos. TN18- 9695 and TN18-9690 were decanting of sewage in the Storm water drain near AGS Dental College (Complaint spot) and a complaint has been lodged with the Poonamalle Police Station for illegal let out of sewage into the drain. A FIR has been registered under IPC section 277, vide no.252 on 15.04.2021 against the erring sewer tanker lorry operator, M/s.Saravana Transport, who has previously involved in the letting out of sewage into the storm drain near AGS Dental college (complaint site) on 19.01.2021.

11. I humbly submit that, In Thirumazhisai Town Panchayat, a 3MLD capacity Sewage treatment Plant (STP) is being Operated and Maintained by the Thirumazhisai Town Panchayat and an average of 25Nos of Sewage Tanker lorries collect sewage in and around Thirumazhisai area including its abutting areas including Poonamalle Municipality at a nominal rate of Rs.150 per Load and decant the sewage collected at the above STP.

12. It is humbly submitted that CMWSSB has further formulated a draft policy to regulate the registration of sewer lorries and its operations. The policy will be formulated and implemented by next financial year. As per policy, the registered lorries will be equipped with GPS trackers for monitoring the septage collection.

13. As ordered by the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, all necessary actions are being taken by the Board in co-ordination with GCC and PWD officials to prevent illegal discharge of sewage water into storm water drains/ water

S. M. M.
21/04/2024

Superintending Engineer (South West)
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.

Superintending Engineer (South West)
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
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bodies by the private tankers in its Jurisdictional areas including the 42Nos of local bodies added to the Greater Chennai City.

14. It is therefore humbly prayed that, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to accept my response on behalf of the Board and thus render justice

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this
day of April 2021 and signed
his name in my presence

S. N. M.
21/4/2021

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (SW)
CMWSS BOARD

Superintending Engineer (South West)
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.

Before the National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone)

Chennai,

O.A.No.25 of 2021(SZ)

Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU Based on the News item in Times of India. Chennai Edition, Dated 19.01.2021, "Private tankers in Chennai brazenly dump Sewage into storm water drains in broad daylight." :Applicant

Vs.

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,
Rep. by its Managing Director,
No. 1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet,
Chennai - 600031. and 6 Others : Respondent

REPORT FILED BY 5TH RESPONDENT

G.JANAKIRAMAN

Counsel for 5th Respondent