

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 Gmrt. 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. I, 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.
8. Poonamallee Municipality,  
Rep. by its Commissioner,  
Poonamallee,
9. National Highways Authority of India,  
Rep. by its Project Officer,  
Chennai

...Respondent(s)

S. Umf  
6/7/2024  
**Superintending Engineer (South West)**  
**Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,**  
**Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.**

**REPORT FILED BY THE 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 submit the report to this Tribunal on time instead of asking for time again and again by filing some vague reports.

*S. Ravindranathan*  
6/11/2014  
**Superintending Engineer (South West)**  
**Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board,**  
**Chintadripet, Chennai-600 002.**

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 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.

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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. 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.
12. I humbly submit that, As an interim measure and until completion of these UGSS schemes, the sewage generated at these unserved areas are being collected through "Dial for Septic Tank Clearance" scheme by the Board, for which 34Nos of Board hired Sewer Tanker lorries are engaged to collect sewage generated through Phone helpline and Online portal at a nominal cost. These board registered sewer tanker lorries, collect sewage and decant at the nearest Sewage pumping Station/ Sewage Treatment plant (STP) for treatment and safe disposal. The operations of these sewer tankers are closely monitored on daily basis by the Area Engineers of the respective Zones for proper collection and disposal of sewage generated in their Jurisdiction.

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

13. In addition to the above, the Board is in the process of procuring 50nos of Sewer tanker lorries having 6KL and 9KL capacity fitted with GPS tracker for monitoring sewage collection and disposal operations. Notice inviting Tenders have been issued for the same and will be operational by this financial year.
14. Further, it is humbly submitted that, the Board based on the findings has formulated a draft Operative guidelines to regulate the registration of sewer lorries and its operations in the Greater Chennai Corporation limit and has submitted the same to the Government for consideration and to issue necessary G.O for implementation within this current financial year. As per these operative guidelines, the registered lorries will be equipped with GPS trackers for monitoring the septage collection and discharging at the designated decanting facility thereby controlling the illegal discharge at the storm drains/ water bodies.
15. The Hon'ble Green Tribunal during the hearing held on 07.06.2021 has directed the Board to approach the Government for early approval of the draft Operative guidelines submitted for effective regulation of sewage tankers by the Board. Accordingly necessary follow-ups are being made with the Government by the Board for getting approval of the Operative guidelines submitted for effective regulation of sewage tankers in Greater Chennai Corporation limit and for its for implementation in this financial year itself.
16. 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 bodies by the private tankers in its Jurisdictional areas including the 42Nos of local bodies added to the Greater Chennai City.
17. 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  
06<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021 and signed  
his name in my presence

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

BEFORE ME

  
K. GOPI,  
ADVOCATE F. NO. 702 / 2006,  
16 LAW CHAMBERS,  
HIGH COURT BUILDINGS,  
CHENNAI - 104.

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  
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:Applicant

Vs.

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply  
and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB)  
represented by its  
Managing Director,  
Santhome Road, MRC Nagar,  
Chennai – 28.  
: Respondent

REPORT FILED BY 5TH RESPONDENT

G.JANAKIRAMAN  
Counsel for 5th Respondent