

**FURTHER REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER i/c OF COONOOR  
MUNICIPALITY, ON THE ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL (SZ) DURING THE HEARING HELD ON 04.01.2021, IN O.A.  
No.:108 OF 2020 (SZ)**

**Background:**

As directed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(SZ) during its hearing on 25.09.2020, the Responses of the District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, Udthagamandalam and the Commissioner, Coonoor Municipality on the allegations in the News Paper Report were submitted, through e-filing. During the hearing on 04.01.2021, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) took the responses in of the District Environmental Engineer, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, and Udthagamandalamon Record, and made the following orders:

“6. The learned counsel appearing for the seventh respondent submitted that some steps are being taken and they have already filed the action plan for remedying the situation. But we have not received the same. The office is directed to verify and place the same before this Tribunal on the next hearing date. The Pollution Control Board is also directed to file further action taken report for non- implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in Coonoor Municipality as has been directed by this Tribunal in several earlier cases and also of the non- compliance of the directions given by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal in O.A.No.606 of 2018 before the next hearing date.

7. Even in the report it is mentioned that whatever steps that have being taken by them will only cater to the possibility of treating 60% of the sewage generated in that area. There is no specific action plan for treating the balance sewage of 40% in an effective manner so as to avoid it is being discharged into the river as alleged in the newspaper report.

8. When this was pointed out, the learned counsel appearing for the seventh respondent submitted that he will come with a complete action plan if some time is granted.

9. The Coonoor Municipality as well as Pollution Control Board and also the Committee are directed to submit their report to this Tribunal before the next hearing date viz, 3.2.2021 by e-filing at [ngtszfilling@gmail.com](mailto:ngtszfilling@gmail.com).

10. The Registry is directed to communicate this order through e-mail immediately to the Members of the Committee, Coonoor Municipality and also the Pollution Control Board so as to enable them to comply with the direction of this Tribunal.”

In response, the following report is submitted for the consideration of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ).

**Action taken for remedying the situation as reported in the response filed.**

**a. Action on Commercial establishments discharging sewerage directly into River**

**Commitments made:**

- Coonoor Municipality proposed to undertake a survey of Commercial establishments discharging sewage directly into water bodies which shall be completed before 31.12.2020.
- Proposed to ensure that all commercial establishments shall be prohibited from discharging sewage in to water bodies directly, before 31.01.2021.

**Action Taken:**

- Survey of the Commercial establishments discharging sewage into water bodies was completed, and 113 establishments were found to be discharging sewerage into water bodies.
- After field verification, Coonoor Municipality issued notices to 109 establishments for directly discharging sewage into water bodies.
- The replies received are under scrutiny.
- Proposed to issue notices for demolition/sealing of such establishments during the first week of February 2021.

- Further action will be taken in accordance with law under the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation, Act, 2013.

**b. Action on households having space but not provided septic tanks and discharging sewage into river directly**

**Commitments made:**

- Proposed to undertake a survey of households discharging sewage directly in to water bodies, which shall be completed before 31.01.2021.
- It is proposed that the households not having septic tank shall be made to provide septic tank and soak pit arrangements, wherever space is available, before 31.03.2021.

**Action Taken:**

- Survey of the households discharging sewage into water bodies was completed.
- 4719 households are found to be directly discharging sewage into water bodies..
- Field verification is being done and notices are proposed to be served to those households not having a septic tank / soak pit, but having space.
- Coonoor Municipality is committed to complete the task by 31.03.2021.

**c. Alternate means in case of households not having space:**

- Proposed to intercept the sewage outfalls and to provide decentralized treatment systems.

**Action Plan for preventing the entry of Sewage in to the River**

The conventional solution for preventing the discharging of untreated sewage from entering in the water bodies is providing of Under Ground Sewerage System, (UGSS), wherein the sewage generated is collected from the households, convey through sewer lines, taking to intermittent pumping stations, then conveying the collected sewage to a centralized location

through conveyance main, providing Sewage Treatment Plant at the central location, treat the sewage and then discharge the sewage.

It is submitted that providing Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS) is not only expensive, cumbersome and time consuming but also very difficult to execute in general, particularly in the much undulated hilly terrain of Coonoor. Therefore, alternate means were thought off.

After consultation with various stake holders, Coonoor Municipality plans to intercept the sewerage outfalls in the river, divert to a nearby location where adequate land is available for construction of treatment system and discharge the treated sewage back into the river, as an alternative to Under Ground Sewerage System (UGSS).

Coonoor Municipality has formulated a road-map for intercepting the sewage out-falls entering in to the River and a detailed study is instituted to identify the discharges into the water bodies, their quality and quantity, availability of space for providing decentralized treatment system, suitable technologies for treatment, and to estimate the CAPEX and OPEX for the scheme. The experts have carried out the reconnaissance survey on 29.01.2021, and the detailed investigation also started on 01.02.2021. The Final Report is anticipated in the first week of April, 2021 and the proposal would be submitted to the Government by the third week of June 2021. The Project after technical and financial approval, would be completed in 9 months' time.

<b>S. No.:</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Scheduled Time Line</b>	<b>Present Status</b>
1	Instituting a Study Team to identify the outfalls, quantify the same, feasibilities of providing decentralised Sewage Treatment Plants, finalizing the Technologies, estimation of CAPEX and OPEX.	Second week of January 2021	Identified and work entrusted
2	Reconnaissance Survey	Last week of January 2021	Completed on 29 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021

3	Detailed investigation, Collection of samples	First week of February, 2021.	Scheduled to Commence on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2021.
4	Analysis of samples	Second week of February, 2021.	--
5	Preliminary Report with viable schemes based on the availability of suitable and adequate land	Third week of February, 2021.	--
6	Draft Project Report	First week of March, 2021	--
7	Evaluation of Report and communicating the comments	Third week of March, 2021.	--
8	Final Report	First week of April, 2021.	--
9	Approval of the Council*	First week of June, 2021.	--
10	Submission of Proposal to Government for Approval	Third week of June, 2021.	--
11	Completion of the schemes	Nine months from the financial approval for the schemes.	--

### **Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant**

We hereby submit that Coonoor Municipality has already commenced the construction of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) for the treatment of the sludge from septic tanks, at a suitable location near Municipal Resource Recovery Centre (RRC). The works are expected to be completed by December 2021.

### **Show cause notice by Pollution Control Board**

Coonoor Municipality received a show cause notice (enclosed herewith) from District Environment Engineer (DEE), TNCB, Nilgiris on 18.01.2021 vide Proc.No.:DEE/NLG/O.A.606 of 2018/NGT -PB/STP/2020-2 Dated:12.01.2021 for non-compliance of the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench) vide orders in O.A No.606of 2018.

Coonoor Municipality has sent a detailed reply (enclosed herewith) requesting to drop all the proceedings on levying of environmental compensation for Coonoor Municipality.

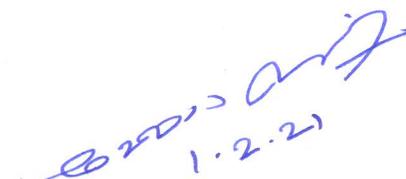
Coonoor Municipality hereby submits before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), that Coonoor Municipality, with all its constraints and financial crunch it is facing, with a view to comply with the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, take all possible efforts to provide treatment of sewage, with a view to ensure that no untreated sewage is reaching water bodies.

We, Coonoor Municipality hereby categorically undertake that all possible efforts in meeting the Time Line submitted in the Road-Map would be adhered with, and the concerned authorities would be appraised of.

#### **PRAYER**

Commissioner, Coonoor Municipality do hereby submits this further Action Taken Report, as ordered by the Hon'ble Tribunal. It is kindly requested that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) to accept the Action Taken Report and pass appropriate orders the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) considers deem and fit on the facts and circumstances of the issue.

It is further prayed that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) may suitably advise the authorities of TamilNadu Pollution Control Board to defer all further proceedings on the show-cause notice issued vide proceedings dated 12.01.2021, in view of the efforts that are being made by Coonoor Municipality in this regard. The authorities of TamilNadu Pollution Control Board, may also be advised that they may proceed with the process of levying Environmental Compensation, if the Time Lines mentioned in the Road-map are not adhered with.

  
1.2.21  
Commissioner

  
12/1

Coonoor Municipality