

**Item No.05:-**

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

(Through Video Conference)

**Original Application No.23 of 2024 (SZ)**

[Earlier O.A. No. 705/2023 (PB)]

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 "**Tamil Nadu Activities Allege drinking water supplied from Madambakkam lake in Tambaram contaminated with sewage, civic body disagrees**".

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



...Respondent(s)

**Date of hearing: 11.11.2024.**

**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER**

**HON'BLE Dr. VIJAY KULKARNI, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. S. Sai Sathya Jith for R1.  
Mrs. Y. Kavitha for R2.  
Mr. Purushothaman represented  
Mr. P. Srinivas for R3.  
Mr. R. Thirunavukarasu for R4.  
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan for R5 & R6.

## ORDER

1. Mr. Purushothaman representing Mr. P. Srinivas, the learned counsel entered appearance on behalf of the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation (Respondent No.3).

2. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as well as the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) inspected and filed their respective reports, which speak about Madambakkam Lake.

3. It is specifically observed by the CPCB that the sewage generated from the nearby habitats of various colonies is drained into the lake through 05 Nos. of channels. It is specifically found that no industrial activity and no industrial wastewater are being discharged into the Madambakkam Lake. The water sample analysis results are also given by the TNPCB. The TDS is alarmingly high (ranging up to 2000) and other parameters are also exceeding the acceptable limits. Therefore, suggestions were given by the CPCB in its report dated 03.08.2024, which are as follows:-

“To protect water quality of Madambakkam Lake, it is suggested to take following measures:

- A. It is required to delineate the Lake area and steps to be taken to construct proper bund with fence wherever necessary, to protect the water body from human intervention to serve the purpose of improving ground water in the surrounding area as well as to meet the drinking water demand of the nearby area/Panchayats.
- B. There is need to provide sewage collection and treatment system for Madambakkam Town Panchayat and not to allow any discharge of domestic sewage/sullage into Madambakkam Lake.

- C. Proper collection & disposal of Construction and Demolition (C & D) waste and their process be ensured as per the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016 and not to let any public or local body to dump the C & D waste on the bank of Madambakkam lake or any nearby water bodies.
- D. It shall also be ensured that, there shall be no encroachment of lake and to clear the accumulated C & D waste from the banks of Lake with time target.
- E. The Tambaram CMC may be directed to revamp the existing filter beds and to provide new filter beds in all drains joining the Madambakkam Lake to prevent entry of large floating materials such as plastic bags/covers/ wood logs/ trashes.
- F. Periodical maintenance of water tank and storm water drains/channels, as per the need, shall be carried out by removing silt and water weeds from the lake so as to increase water storage capacity of Lake."

4. The TNPCB also issued a show cause notice on 19.07.2024, which is yet to be responded to by the Commissioner - Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.

5. There is no response from the Commissioner - Tambaram City Municipal Corporation though represented by the counsel. They have not given an action to be taken plan pursuant to the directions given by the CPCB nor any response to the TNPCB.

6. If the action plan and the progress shown therein are not furnished before the next date of hearing, the same will be received only on payment of cost of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only). If no such action is taken, the same will also be viewed very seriously and the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation has to pay a heavy penalty.

7. The TNPCB is directed to continue with the show cause notice and bring it to a logical conclusion after affording an opportunity of hearing to the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation.

8. Post the matter on **20.12.2024**.

Sd/-  
**Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM**

Sd/-  
**Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, EM**

O.A. No.23/2024 (SZ),  
11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. AD.

