

Metrowater-tankers tussle leads to sewage on streets

Miffed at not being paid, tanker operators released the sewage

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI: A section of residents in Perungudi staged a protest on Tuesday against the discharge of sewage in their residential localities by tanker operators.

The tanker operators resorted to this move as they were reportedly not paid money for clearing water that had stagnated in many flood-affected areas in the city. Members of Sewage Tanker Owners' Association said six of their vehicles were hired to drain out the stagnant rainwater in Royapuram, R.K. Nagar and Perambur, but were not paid for the operations. "When we asked officials to pay us, they temporarily shut down the treatment plant's gates," members of the association alleged.

At Saravana Nagar, sewage



Residents gather to protest against sewage disposal in their area — PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

was discharged into stormwater drains, which led to protests by residents. "If the Metrowater and tanker owners have an issue among them, they cannot resort to draining sewage inside residential ar-

reas," protestors said. They dispersed after Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board officials and police pacified them. Later Metrowater officials said the issue was sorted out.

Metrowater Response

With reference to the above subject it is to be stated that, a report was published in your paper dated 25.11.2015 wherein sewage let out in the streets due to tussle between private tankers and Metro Water.

In this regard it is to be informed that the news in "The Hindu" about the sewer lorries is wrongly reported. The sewage decanting point is in operation at Perungudi Pumping Station adjoining to Perungudi STP. This facility is being utilized by the private sewer lorry operators (not hired by CMWSSB). These private sewer lorry operators collect the septage from the adjoining areas of Perungudi (Shollinganallur, Madipakkam, Karapakkam, residential and Commercial complexes in and around OMR etc) and decant at Perungudi decanting point. None of them were working with us. On 23.11.2015 afternoon heavy rain lashed and due to which flooding on road leading to Perungudi decant point, in the afternoon thus resulted in pilling up of the

private sewer lorries. The opportunists, who could not wait, utilized this situation and let out the septage in flooded road.

The residents of Saravana Nagar and Selvaganapthy avenue protested in the morning of 24.11.2015 not to allow these private sewer lorries to decant the septage collected unless they clear the stagnated sewage in their area. Due to which a tussle between public and the sewer lorry operators occurred, there by decanting operation was stopped for few hours. Further some of the private sewer lorries were being asked for deployment additionally in the city area. They refused and resorted to mariyal. After the refusal CMWSSB officials did not insist. Instead of this it has been reported that they blocked the road because CMWSSB did not pay them. After CMWSSB officials and police pacify them the mariyal was withdrawn and then onwards the decanting operation was functioning smoothly. The total number trip decanted on 24.11.2015 was 197 trips.

Instead of this it has been reported that they blocked the road because CMWSSB did not pay them. These lorries are not working for us , hence the question of paying them does not arise. It is requested that a correct version may be published.