

W.P.No.28665 of 2019

and WMP Nos.28428, 28426, 30411 and 30954 of 2019

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY, J

The matter pertains to the spread of dengue in the metropolis of Chennai and the perceived failure of the authorities to arrest such spread.

2. Indeed, the matter need not be confined to Chennai and may be seen to cover the entire State, including the other towns and cities, where migration leads to the additional people living in poor and unhygienic conditions, allowing stagnant water to remain and creating the breeding grounds for the larvae.

3. It is necessary for the Health Department of the State to convene a meeting of the Health Departments of all Municipal Bodies, at least those of the principal towns in the State. In the wake of the pandemic and the use of technology, such meeting can be conducted on the virtual mode and a road-map prepared to deal with the menace that is dengue.

4. The Health Department should endeavour to obtain expert advice, spread the awareness among those most vulnerable, make regular attempts to remove stagnant water and to educate the citizens to cover water that may have been collected for future use.

5. The use of repellents and other chemicals on a regular basis may also be looked into by an expert body and advisories may be issued by the Health Department thereupon. The Health Department must constantly monitor the implementation of the scheme, particularly in those areas of the cities and towns that have historically shown signs of greater infection or those which may otherwise be perceived as more amenable to an outbreak.

6.The Secretary in the Health Department should file a report when the matter appears next eight weeks hence. The Corporation of Chennai should also file a report to indicate the steps taken, particularly in clearing railway platforms in and around the city and other areas, where vehicles are parked and there may be stagnant water as a result thereof. Particular attention should be paid to areas occupied by fishermen since such areas have a tendency of larger collection of stagnant water.

7.Efforts may be made by the research body respondent to explore the possibilities of developing a vaccine and a paper to indicate the measures to prevent the further spread of disease.

List on 03.03.2021.

(S.B., CJ) (S.K.R.,J.)

06.01.2021

The Hon"ble Chief Justice
and
Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, J.

(sr)

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