



Minutes of the meeting held on 17/05/2023 in the matter of National Green Tribunal in OA No. 147/2022 regarding Remedial Action for the protection of Ashtamudi & Vembanad – Kol Wetland

Meeting commenced at 12.00 noon with Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department presiding. Director, Local Self Government (Rural) Department, Joint Director(Solid Waste Advisory Group- SWAG), Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board and concerned officers of local bodies, Managing Director Kerala Water Authority, Chief Engineer (Irrigation & Administration), Member Secretary Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission, Director, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUTH) were present . A total of 99 persons attended the VC.

Additional Chief Secretary (Environment) welcomed all the participants and requested Member Secretary Kerala State Pollution Control Board to give an introduction. Member Secretary briefly explained the judgment of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA 147/2022 dated 22.03.2023. As per the order, the State has to pay compensation of Rs.10 Crores on Polluter Pays Principle and it is to be deposited in ring-fenced account to be operated under the Authority of Chief Secretary of Kerala. The amount is to be utilized for conservation/restoration measures by preparing an action plan to be preferably executed within six months. Action taken report of progress is to be filed to the Tribunal on expiry of six months.

Then the progress of actions taken by Stakeholder departments is discussed in detail.

1. Ernakulam South Railway and Loco sheds.

Railway was addressed by Kerala State Pollution Control Board for taking urgent action and Environmental compensation is being assessed as no remedial measures are provided so far.

(Action- Kerala state Pollution Control Board).

2. Houseboats

Actions are being taken up with District Tourism Promotion Council and concerned municipalities. Closure intention notices are issued for house boats functioning without proper treatment facilities. Online meeting arranged with National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) Phytoid technology. Joint site visit with NEERI experts conducted on 12.05.2023.

(Action- Ports Department, Kerala Maritime Board, District Tourism Promotion Councils).

3.Pollution in Manichithodu in Kollam

Kerala State Pollution Control Board issued notice to Kollam Corporation specifically pointing out the pollution in Manachithodu. The Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, District Office, Kollam was asked to report the status of the actions so far taken against violators for whom notice is served. Details of notices issued were reported. A total of 27 notices were issued including Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus Station, 14 house boats, 2 apartment units, hotels , Neendakara peeling shed etc. Additional Chief Secretary (Environment) instructed to take further action in this regard.

(Action- Principal Director Local Self Government Department, Managing Director Kerala water Authority,Chief Engineer (Irrigation & Administration)).

4.STP Kureepuzha

The Member Secretary, Kerala state Pollution Control Board requested to brief the status of implementation of 12 MLD STP at Kureepuzha.The Managing Director Kerala Water Authority, explained that 80 % work completed and plant can be commissioned in first week of June without networking from households by transporting wastewater with suckers and tankers. ACS inquired the Secretary, Kollam Corporation regarding the plan for alternate arrangement for the conveyance of wastewater to the treatment plant. Kollam Corporation informed that action proposed for purchase of tankers with fund from AMRUT , finance commission grant etc. Bye law preparation is in final stage and discussions are going on. ACS expressed concern regarding the delay.

(Action- Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, Principal Director, Local Self Government Department , Secretary, Kollam Municipal Corporation)

5.Utilization of STPs at Elamkulam

Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board informed that necessary directions were given to Kerala Water Authority and Greater Cochin Development Authority to take urgent necessary action to divert untreated waste water from nearby establishments/apartments to the CSTPs for its full utilization for avoiding noncompliance of order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA 147/2022. Progress of co-treatment facility at Elamkulam plant was discussed. Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority informed that facility for co-treatment will be ready by 31.05.2023 and testing of effluent to be done by Kerala State Pollution Control Board for trial run . Since Kerala Water Authority has lab facility there, it may explore the feasibility of testing water quality from there.

The Environment Engineer, District Pollution Control office informed that district level meeting was arranged with Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Kerala Water Authority and the Local Self Government Institutions and

decided to start trial run by 31.5.2023; tank registration is to be done by Kochi corporation. Sampling was done. It is decided that quality of sewage is to be reported by Kerala Water Authority. The Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority informed that joint meeting will be conducted at Ernakulam on 20.05.2023. ACS directed KWA not to delay the project further, and complete all procedures to make the unit functional within the shortest possible time.

(Action - Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Secretary Greater Cochin Development Authority Director, Local Self Government (Urban)Department .

6.Notices issued on violations

Details of notices issued by Board and status of reply were reported. Additional Chief Secretary (Environment) instructed that further action on the closure intention notices issued are to be taken and asked to report the details of fine collected by each local body . Deputy Director Urban Affairs reported the details of inspections and fine collected by local bodies. In 10 urban local bodies (Kollam, Alappuzha, Cherthala, Kochi, Kottayam, Vaikkom, Ettumanoor, Changanassery, Maradu & Thrippunithur) in 2022-23 total No of inspections done by Health Squads and Night Squads are 1906 and 787 respectively and a fine of Rs.13,85,270/- imposed against Single Use Plastic. Fine imposed against illegal dumping of waste in public places and water bodies is Rs.37,99,825 and Rs.6,11,100/- imposed against illegal outlets. In 48 Gramapanchayats (Aymanam, Thiruvvarppu, Kumarakom, Tv Puram, Udayanapuram, Vechoor, Arpookkara Maravanthuruthu, Thalayazham, Chembu, Kundara, Chavara, Neendakara, Thrikkaruva, Perinadu, Panayam, Thekkumbhagam, Perayam, Mundrothuruthu, East Kallada, Thevalakkara, West Kallada, Mannachery, Chennam Pallippuram, Thanneermukkam, Muhamma, Kainakkari, Aroor, Ezhupinna, Kodamthuruth, Kuthiyathode, Thuravoor, Vayalar, Perumbalam, Arukutti Panavally, Thaikkattussery, Aryad, Chellanam, Elankunnapuzha, Ezhikkara, Kadamakkudy, Kottuvally, Kumbalam, Kumbalangy, Mulavukadu, Udayamperoor, Varappuzha) the total No. of inspections done by Health Squads and Night Squads are 754 and 48 respectively. Total amount of fine imposed against Single Use Plastic is Rs.1,30,651/-, against illegal dumping of waste in public places & water bodies is Rs.2,40,000/ and against illegal outlets is Rs.2,86,020.

Additional Chief Secretary (Environment) instructed Director of Panchayath to follow up the matter. He informed that review meetings are being conducted regularly and inquired the details of Panchayats which need to be work more. It is then informed that list of poor performers will be submitted to the National Green Tribunal and compensation will be levied from the own fund of Local Self Government Institutions . Poor performs will affect the financial status of Local

Self Government Institutions and hence proactive action is to be ensured in this regard. Solid waste management progress is to be monitored and campaigns are to be arranged by Local Self Government Department regularly. Progress is to be made in case of liquid waste management also. Details reported in next meeting should be specific and only monthly data to be reported. Next review meeting will be conducted in June. Liquid waste management projects to be completed in time and results are to be reported to the Court. Long term measures also to be undertaken in this regard.

(Action- Director, Local Self Government (Urban)Department , Director, Local Self Government (Rural)Department,Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board).

Meeting concluded at 1 pm.

DR VENU V I A S
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY
O/O ACS ENVIRONMENT