



## GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

### Abstract

Water Resources Department- Irregularities in Kerala Water Authority IPD Section, Thiruvananthapuram- Surprise Check conducted by Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau- Disciplinary action- Finalized-Orders issued.

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### **WATER RESOURCES (WATER SUPPLY-B) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.(Rt)No.29/2025/WRD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 15-01-2025

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- Read: 1. Letter No. E1(SC09/14/TVM) 2347/2014 dated 09.04.2014 from the Director, Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. Government Letter No. 11783/B3/2014/WRD dated 09.01.2015 issuing MoC and SoA.
3. Reply to MoC submitted by Smt. K. Sujatha, Shri. Sulaiman. K, Shri. E. Abdul Rahman, Smt. T.A. Sobhana Kumari, Smt. K. Kumari Lathika, Shri. Arun. V.V and Shri. Amesh. M.S.
4. Letter No. KWA/JB/E6(A2)12700/12 dated 26.09.2015 of Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority.
5. Letter No. KWA/JB/E6(A2)10916/14 dated 19.11.2018 and 17.08.2022 of Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority.

### ORDER

On a source report alleging that the surveyors of IPD Sub Division, Thiruvananthapuram are not doing any survey works demanding advance HR rates, a Surprise Check was conducted by Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau at IPD Sub-Division, Thiruvananthapuram on 18.02.2014.

2. The surprise check revealed that the officials misuse the HR provision. Based on the shield of PWD manual, the surveyors accept the amount of HR payment. It is also informed that previous practice is the dawn money for assistance of labourers was shared among the survey officials. The HR payments and its necessity may be verified in detail.

3. In the light of the above findings, Director, Vigilance & Anti

Corruption Bureau recommended the following:

- i. Suitable action may be taken against the Surveyors of IPD Sub Division of Kerala Water Authority for abstaining from Survey work.
- ii. A detailed enquiry through Kerala Water Authority, Vigilance Wing may be conducted about the irregularities in the HR Payments and its necessity.

4. In view of the first recommendation above, Memo of Charges and Statement of Allegations were issued to all the delinquent officers of the IPD Sub Division, Thiruvananthapuram viz, Smt. K. Sujatha, Head Surveyor, Shri. Sulaiman. K, Head Surveyor, Shri. E. Abdul Rahman, Head Surveyor, Smt. T.A. Sobhana Kumari, Surveyor Grade- I, Smt. K. Kumari Lathika, Surveyor Grade- I, Shri. Arun. V.V, Surveyor Grade- II and Shri. Amesh. M.S, Surveyor Grade- II alleging abstention from survey works even though there were pending survey works read as 2<sup>nd</sup> paper above. In the statement of allegation it was alleged that the officials misuse the HR provisions and based on the curtain of PWD manual, the surveyors accept amount of HR payment. As per the second recommendation of V&ACB, Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority was directed to conduct a detailed enquiry about the irregularities in the HR Payments and its necessity.

5. In the statement of defence, the alleged officers stated that they do not have a proper assistance in the supply of certain number of labours for the purpose of conducting survey works as appended on section 802, 802(a), 803 and 803(a) of PWD manual. The Assistant Engineer is authorised to provide sufficient number of labours and he is the custodian of the survey instruments/survey documents and the payment of survey works. As per the proceedings of Assistant Executive Engineer, dated 02.10.2015 Smt. Sujatha. K, Head Surveyor was given the additional charge of Sri. Santhosh. S. T, Assistant Engineer who has been relieved off his duties on 15.10.13. In the statement of Defence of Smt. Sujatha. K stated that as per the proceedings of Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority dated 10.06.2014 the IPD office was stopped and the incumbent joined in the new office. Smt. Sujatha. K also submitted that, she was not in charge of that pending survey work. It is also submitted

that the survey works have been informed to Assistant Executive Engineer, erstwhile IPD from time to time and they have part of it and the works were done successfully. The duty certificates were also produced with the statement of defence. And also stated that the Assistant Engineer/ Assistant Executive Engineer concerned are reluctant to allot labours as envisaged under PWD manual is the real reason behind in it and were responsible for the entire issue.

6. The Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority opined that there was no dereliction of duty on the part of the said officers. As per the remarks offered by Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority the survey work was in good progress till the transfer of Assistant Engineer, IPD on 15.10.2013. The absence of Assistant Engineer in co-ordinating the survey works delayed the completion of the survey works. Managing Director also reported that Assistant Engineer in charge had submitted a request for the release of temporary advance amounting Rs. 20,000/- for arranging temporary labourers for assisting survey works. But Sri. Chandra Babu, then Assistant Executive Engineer did not sanction the requested amount and thus he was responsible for the lapse. The survey work could not be carried out by the survey team and hence there was no lapse on the part of the Surveyors/ Head Surveyors.

7. With regard to the second recommendation of the V&ACB, Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority informed that effective and strong action had been taken to prevent the loss of money occurring due to the HR system in KWA through MARCH Software. MARCH Software is being implemented since March, 2014 so as to disburse the wages of HR Workers in a transparent manner. O&M Portal Software is in implementation since January, 2013 for reporting the leakages in pipe lines and other maintenance works.

8. Government have examined the matter in detail. On going through the Statement of defence and specific remarks of Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, the alleged officers in this case have no dereliction of duties on their part and hence the defence statement of the accused officers may be justified.

9. In the view of fact, the officers alleged in this case are exonerated from the charges levelled against them and the disciplinary action is dropped to the extent. Government is of opinion that Sri. Chandra Babu, the then Assistant Executive Engineer who failed to sanction the release of temporary advance of Rs.20,000/- for arranging temporary labourers for assisting survey works and hence was responsible for the lapse.

Hence Sri. Chandra Babu, the then Assistant Executive Engineer is given **strict warning** for the failure of supervisory lapse. As effective action has already been taken by KWA to prevent loss of money due to engagement of HR Workers and maintenance works, the report submitted in this regard read as 4<sup>th</sup> paper above is accepted and further proceedings in pursuance of the second recommendation of the V&ACB is dispensed with.

(By order of the Governor)  
BISHWANATH SINHA  
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

1. The Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. Sri. Chandra Babu, then Assistant Executive Engineer, KWA IPD Section, Thiruvananthapuram (Through Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority)
3. All the accused officer (Through Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority)
4. The Director, Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram.
5. The Principal Accountant General (A&E/ Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
6. Vigilance (D) Department (Vide File No. Vig-D2/513/2019-Vig)
7. The Director, I&PR (Web & New Media) Department
8. Stock File/ Office copy.

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

Copy to:- PS to Minister for Water Resources.

PS to Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department