



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Water Resources Department- Proposal for River Rejuvenation and Debris Clearance Works of Landslide affected Punnapuzha in Meppadi Grama Panchayath in Wayanad district- Administrative Sanction accorded -Orders issued.

WATER RESOURCES (IR)DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.268/2025/WRD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 18-03-2025

- Read 1 G.O(Rt) No. 636/2024/DMD dated 31.08.2024
- 2 Letter No.MTO 1/1550/2024/Admin-Part I dated 23.12.2024 from the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority.
3. Letter No.44(1)PF-S/2024-25(CAPEX)-Kerala dated 11.02.2025 from the Public Finance-States Division, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- Minutes of the meetings held on 27.02.2025 and 01/03/2025 by Additional Chief Secretry, water resources Department in connection
4. with debris clearance and River Training works of landslide affected Punnapuzha in Meppady Gramapanchayat in Wayanadu
5. Letter NO. CEIA/6452/2024-PL3 dated 15.03.2025 from the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration, Thiruvannathapuram.

ORDER

The torrential downpour riding the 48 hours crest of more than 570 mm rainfall on July 30, 2024 in the upper reaches of Wayanad triggered devastating landslides causing catastrophic massive debris flow with gushing muddy water and massive boulders leading to the ground slip in its entirety.

The 5.7 million cubic meter debris travelled about 8 kilometres along the Punnapuzha river altering its course, causing breaches in the banks, and destroying buildings and homes along the riverbanks. The mass wasting in incised and boulder Punnapuzha river carrying denuded sediments from catchment area primarily consisting of boulders, gravels, shingles breached banks, altered its course leaving the scar of nature's fierce fury on all the anthropogenic systems.

In the existing hydrographic mosaic with morphological metamorphisms, the spatial river valley depicts motely collection of boulders and stones creating braided water flows; an ancient excavated site filled with anthropogenic artefacts; and a stream in despair looking for room for its natural abode. E-flow is distorted; banks are ravaged; biodiversity is compromised; all these requiring interventions for restoring the river to its natural course and rejuvenation for flood mitigation; valley floor sustainability restoration; ecological and environmental flow management to ensure life of river and lives of the people dwelling on river water.

The Government in recognition of the above have found it necessary for river rejuvenation by ways of debris removal and river training measure to guide and confine the flow to the river channel, and to control and regulate the river bed configuration for effective and safe movement of floods and river sediments, and stabilizing the river within a suitable waterway along a certain alignment for a variety of purposes. The major objectives include safe passage of floods without over topping the banks, to protect the banks from erosion and improve their alignment by stabilizing the river channel; to train the river flow along a safe course, thereby avoiding damage by flooding or erosion of valuable lands, habitations, crops, factories, etc; to prevent river from changing its course; to check certain devastation like flash torrents; to confine a too wide river channel due to swinging from side to side and to reclaim the land from river bed; to prevent outflanking of a bridge, barrage or weir by directing the flow in a defined stretch of the river; to transport efficiently bed load and suspended sediment load; to provide sufficient depth of flow for safe navigation; to correct disorderly banks or flow conditions etc.

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in the letter read as second paper above requested for submission of a Detailed Project Report for complete removal of debris/de-silting of Punnapuzha river and removal of boulders, and river training

works to Punnapuzha river. The Chief Engineer, Project I, Kozhikode had submitted ab-initio a Detailed Cost Estimate for the proposals for an amount of ₹ 107,95,00,000/-(Rupees One hundred and Seven Crore and Ninety Five Lakh only) to Government for Administrative approval.

During the meetings held by Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department with Irrigation Department officials and Member Secretary, KSDMA on 27/2/2025 and 1/3/2025, the Member Secretary, KSDMA reported that the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society has been nominated to execute the cleaning and debris removal of Punnapuzha river as per the decision of meeting held on 13/02/2025 chaired by Special Officer, Wayanad Township project.

The following major decisions were taken in the meeting :

1. It was decided to engage the services of qualified consultant for the river training works of Punnappuzha river.
2. The DPR prepared shall have the mode of measuring each item of work done as well as the work plan required for completing the project.
3. After the issue of the Administrative Sanction, steps shall be taken for procurement of agencies immediately .
4. The material required for the River Training work and the quantity to be utilised from the available material at the site for township project are to be quantified.

Accordingly, after conducting a joint inspection to the site Punnapuzha river, Meppady- the landslide affected area, as per letter read 5th paper above Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration has submitted a detailed proposal amounting to ₹195.55 Crore for the following works:

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount
1.	Desilting of Punnapuzha river and removal of boulders.	₹50,05,00,000/-
2.	River Training works to Punnapuzha river	₹ 140,70,00,000/-
3.	Sub Soil investigation, rock testing and Terrestrial Laser Scanning along Punnapuzha	₹ 90,00,000/-

	river and runout area.	
4.	Monitoring, Forecasting and Alert systems	₹ 3,90,00,000/-
	Total	₹ 195,55,00,000/-

As per the letter read 3rd paper above an additional allocation of ₹529.5 Crore have been approved under 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2024-2025 under Part-I (SASCI) 2024-25 and as per the split up details under item 3 of this, for "river training of Punnappuzha (8km stretch)" an amount of ₹65 Crore has been earmarked for Irrigation Department for executing the work. Accordingly Disaster Management Department has requested Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration to furnish DDO code of the implementing agency for the mapping with the Head of Account 5475-115-98-800-75 to facilitate the release of funds under SASCI. Therefore the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration as per letter read 5th paper above has requested to issue Administrative Sanction for the above works amounting to ₹ 195.55 Crore at the earliest.

Accordingly, Government are pleased to accord Administrative Sanction for the DPRs of the above four proposals for the Works to be carried out in the Landslide affected area- Punnappuzha in Meppadi Grama Panchayath in Wayanad district for an amount of **₹195,55,00,000/- (Rupees One Hundred and Ninety Five Crore and Fifty Five lakh only)** .

Funds to the tune of ₹65 Crore (Rupees Sixty Five Crore only) shall be utilized from SASCI (loan) for 2024-25. The excess amount shall be met from the provisions of Disaster management department/FD/CMDRF.

- CE (I&A) shall initiate steps for procurement of qualified agencies immediately to ensure that the works are started immediately after the monsoon is over.
- CE shall undertake all measures for completing the preparatory works in the two months time.
- CE (I&A) shall suggest to Government the method of procurement-item rate, percentage basis, EPC or any other option.
- CE (I&A) shall engage with NIT, Calicut for finalising the scope of the institutional and monitoring in the work and required payment.
- CE (I&A) shall recommend the method of monitoring and supervision of the work.
- CE (I&A) shall suggest the methodology of measurement of execution of the work and methodology for the payment to the selected agencies.

(By order of the Governor)

BISHWANATH SINHA

ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

To:

The District Collector, Wayanadu.

The Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chief Engineer, Project I, Kozhikode.

The Accountant General (Audit) (A&E) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Commissioner, Land Revenue, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Commissioner, Disaster Management.

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

Director of Treasuries, Thiruvananthapuram.

Revenue (DMD) Department.

The Information Officer, Web & New Media, I & PRD.

Stock File/Office Copy.

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

Copy to:

PS to Hon'ble Chief Minister,

PS to Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources Department

PS to Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department

PA to Special Secretary, Water Resources Department

PA to Principal Secretary, Revenue Department