

Minutes of the Monitoring Committee meeting, constituted in connection with O.A. 395/2013,396/2013 & 242/2016, convened by Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department on 29.07.2022 at 3 pm

Meeting commenced at 3 pm with the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department in chair. Additional Chief Secretary, Local Self Government Department; Secretary, Water Resources Department; the Chairman and the Member Secretary of Kerala State Pollution Control Board; District Collector, Thrissur; Sub Collector, Ernakulam; Deputy Collector, Idukki; and other officers concerned were present.

At the outset ACS, Envt welcomed the participants and briefed the circumstances which led to the constitution of the Monitoring Committee.

ACS, LSGD pointed out the following points regarding the Periyar River Rejuvenation Action Plan prepared by Local Self Government Department;

- The Collectors of the Districts concerned shall ensure that the items mentioned in the action plan were converted into individual projects and are placed before the DPC. Once the proposals get the approval of DPC, funds shall be availed from Kerala Solid Waste Management Project fund, Urban Agglomeration fund, Finance Commission Grant, etc., where ever applicable. It was also mentioned by ACS that adequate fund is available through various sources.
- The District Collectors shall review each projects related to Periyar rejuvenation and also ensure that the same are being implemented at the field level.
- Most of the projects are getting delayed due to non availability of land on account of various hindrances. Finance commission grant can be used for procuring private land for the purpose of installation of waste treatment facilities. Abandoned/isolated quarries also need to be identified .
- LSGD is taking a lot of initiative. Plan should be an extract of the overall initiatives. Faecal contaminated water bodies have been identified in three districts as a part of "Thelineerozhukum Navakeralam" Campaign. LSGD has the data and also have the information on what action to be taken to rejuvenate the river. So a consultative workshop may be conducted in each district by including all the findings.

- Regulatory authorities have taken actions to regulate the pollution but not documented enough. So the actions already taken shall also be included in the reports.
- Most of the actions are already initiated/going on/implemented. The same shall be captured correctly and shall be reported. Necessary action shall be initiated for treating the waste water from Pallivasal Gramapanchayat, in the STP of Adimali GramaPanchayat if the same is not being utilized in its full capacity.

Secretary, Water Resources Department reported that some of the domestic waste disposal points have been identified .

ACS, Emt suggested that the data received from field inspections has to be divided into action points for particular districts and shall be given to the District Collectors concerned for monitoring. State wise data has to be forwarded to Environment Dept/SPCB.

Executive Engineer, Irrigation, informed that the action points mentioned in the draft action plan are already being reviewed in the DLTC meeting being conducted in every second Tuesday and the progress is being reported.

ACS, Emt asked the Chairman, KSPCB to add remarks if any. Chairman said that further course of action can be planned on getting the report from District Collectors of the three districts on the current status after conducting the DLTC meeting.

Subsequent to detailed discussion the following decisions were taken.

As most of the actions mentioned in the Action Plan are already initiated/going on/on the various stages of implementation, all the data shall be integrated correctly. Specific projects shall be prepared by local bodies and shall be monitored by the Collectors district wise. Industries, Water Resources Depts are having important roles in the implementation of action points but most of the inputs shall come from local bodies. The Collectors should make sure that the pollution sources are properly identified and controlled at the source level itself. Also Collectors need to make sure that the list of actions suggested has been implemented along with the help of local bodies in the area concerned.

[Action: LSGIs, District Collectors of Ernakulam, Thrissur and Idukki and KSPCB]

Meeting ended at 4 p.m.