

Minutes of the 2nd Monitoring Committee Meeting convened by Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department at 04.30PM on 26.10.2022, to discuss the progress achieved with regard to the abatement of Pollution in River Periyar (O.A. 395/2013, 396/2013 & 242/2016)

Meeting commenced at 04.30 PM with Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department, on Chair. Additional Secretary, Finance Department; Deputy Secretaries of Local Self Government Department and Water Resources Department; Development Commissioner, District Development Council; Additional District Magistrate, Ernakulam; Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board; General Manager, DIC, Ernakulam; Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department; Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department and other officers concerned were present to provide their valuable inputs.

Additional Secretary, Environment Department, explained that the purpose of the meeting is to monitor and to discuss the progress made by each Department with regard to the 100 point Action Plan prepared for the abatement of pollution in River Periyar. NGT has given a time of one year for the completion of work by various Departments and that ends by the last week of May, 2023.

Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department explained that the e-flow of the river Periyar is maintained properly and that action is being carried out to continue the same by operating regulators. Through 'Operation Vahini' tributaries and canals leading to the river has been desilted and free flow is maintained. These are the work completed by Irrigation Department. Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department explained that the polluted stretches and drains leading to river Periyar were being identified and reported to River Rejuvenation Committee and that more than 60-70% of work pertaining to Irrigation Department has already been completed.

Chief Engineer of Ernakulam District Office of Pollution Control Board explained that periodical inspections are being done by the officers in Industries, Flats, ETP and STP located within the limits of Cochin Corporation. ACS demanded for precise data of inspections made by PCB. CE also said that the work regarding installation of night vision

cameras will be completed within a month. River water monitoring is done regularly. ACS insisted for the timeline within which the data of River Water Monitoring can be made available to public.

It was also directed by ACS to submit scientific study report that is being carried out by Central Laboratory of Pollution Control Board with regard to colour change of water in Padalam Bund.

Decisions made:

1. Scientific study report carried out by Central Laboratory of Pollution Control Board with regard to colour change of water in Padalm Bund shall be requested to submit as soon as possible.

(Action: Kerala State Pollution Control Board)

2. Completion of the work of Night Vision Cameras.

(Action: Kerala State Pollution Control Board)

3. Data of River Water Monitoring must be made available to public at the earliest.

(Action: Kerala State Pollution Control Board)

4. All the stakeholder Departments were directed to submit the precise and updated progress report with regard to the 100 point action plan in the format provided, the next day itself.

(Action: KSPCB, Irrigation Department, Local Self Government Department, Finance Department, District Collectors of Ernakulam, Idukki and Thrissur Districts and other officers concerned.)

5. All the stakeholder Departments has to expedite their action in order to complete their work within the time limit provided by Hon'ble NGT (i.e. before the last week of May 2023.)

(Action: KSPCB, Irrigation Department, Local Self Government Department, Finance Department District Collectors of Ernakulam,

Idukki and Thrissur Districts and other officers concerned.)

The meeting was concluded at 05.00PM

V. Venu