

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)
IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 117 OF 2021 (SZ)

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
KOTTAYAM / 4TH RESPONDENT

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Dated at Chennai on this the 13th day of November, 2021.

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala - NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

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No. SF3-1089/2021

Date: 30/10/2021

From

The Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Social Forestry Division
Kottayam

To

The Advocate General
Hon.High Court of Kerala
Ernakulam

Sir,

Sub: Compliance of Order of the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone
Chennai, hearing on OA 117/2021 and OA 184/2021 dated
5.10 2021 -report submitting- reg

Ref: 1. Order of National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone
Chennai as per hearing on OA 117/2021 and OA 184/2021 dtd 5.10
2021

I may invite kind attention to the reference (1). As regard to this, I may report that on compliance with the order of Honorable National Green Tribunal,

- 1) A joint committee report on OA 117, signed by all the five members were submitted by the District Collector to Advocate General on 18.08.2021.
- 2) OA184/2021, filed by Sri Abraham Mathew, related to Desilting work in Meenachil River regarding the destruction of petitioners boundary.

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3) The OA 184/2021 came up for hearing before Honorable National Green Tribunal, on 18.08.2021, and before that, the Joint committee had submitted the report on OA 117/2021, hence there was no mention about OA 184/2021 in the report.

1) The joint committee report consisting of members as ordered by NGT for OA 184 was submitted on 15.09.2021 before hearing scheduled on 17.09.2021 which was later scheduled to 5.10.2021 and now up to 9.11.2021.

2) The statement of facts and the individual statement from this office was submitted along with the Joint committee report on 15.09.2021 to that office.

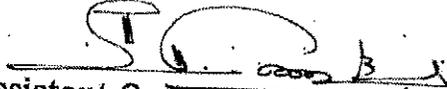
In the Joint committee report and in the statement of facts, in the explanations for the allegation made in the paragraph 2 of the petition in OA 184/2021, it is already stated that the alleged property comes in the end portion of the one of the proposed works, which have been initiated by Major Irrigation Department in Meenachil River and is one of the works related to OA 117/2021 and all the factual are well explained in the Joint Committee report and Statement of facts.

1. Based on the joint committee reports, no specific damage has been caused to the environment due to the initiated desilting work undertaken by the irrigation department.
2. Based on the inputs received from Kerala biodiversity board, rare and endangered species named as 'Attuvanji' (*Ochreinauclea missionis*) found along the banks of Meenachil river and its tributaries. There are about twelve rare and endangered plants on the IUCN red data list on the banks of Meenachil river. These species play a vital role in the protection of the river bank ecology and also prevents landslides and maintains the stability of the river.

3. Considering the facts, the Meenachil river is reported for huge floods almost every year. Since 2018, this scenario has become more terrifying creating a difficult situation for the people residing on the river bank. So, it is very important that desilting and cutting/pruning of branches falling on the river causing obstruction to the natural flow of water, has to be initiated as per the mandate of the irrigation department and revenue department.
4. At the same time, we are also responsible for the reinstation of the riparian habitat for the future. In this context, make necessary Eco-restoration programmes and planting activities initiated by concerned departments with the technical support of social forestry wing.
5. For the further activity, we propose to set up a local public monitoring cell to evaluate the ongoing projects in the area. Such a monitoring facility can also be used to help in studying the problems and do the follow up necessary activities in this region.

This is submitted for favour of necessary information

Yours faithfully,


The Assistant Conservator of Forests.

Copy Submitted to: **EKKumaresan, Standing Counsel for State of Kerala**
National Green Tribunal, Chennai.