

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)
IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 141/2021(SZ)**

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT IN COMPLIANCE OF THE ORDER DATED
15.09.2021/FILED BY SECRETARY, WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT**

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Dated at Chennai on this the 18th day of July, 2022.

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

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



**ACTION TAKEN REPORT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDER dated
15.09.2021 IN OA 141/2021 SUO MOTO REGISTERED BY HE HON'BLE
NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ,CHENNAI**

As per the order dated 15.09.2021 in OA No.141/2021 regarding Pallickal river, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directed the Principal Secretaries for Environment, Water Resources, Revenue and Local Administration to come with a holistic action plan after conducting meeting of all stake holders from the different districts viz; Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Alappuzha through which the Pallickal river passes through, before it is being terminated at Vattakkayal lake near Karunagappally and to submit a proper action plan with shorter time line within which the same can be implemented and the said river can be protected against encroachment and pollution.

Action taken pertaining to Irrigation Department is as follows:

Secretary, Water Resources Department convened a meeting with the District Collectors of Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha on 02.12.2021. It was decided in the meeting that the District Collectors should inspect the site in coordination with Irrigation Department and Pollution Control Board and furnish report along with holistic action plan for the protection of Pallickal river.

Pallickal river flowing in towards Kollam District initiate from Kodumon in Pathanamthitta district having an overall length of 42 kms, flows the initial 17 km through Pathanamthitta district and enter Kollam district via Sooranad North and flows the rests 25 km through various panchayaths and ends in Vattakkayal in Panmana Grama panchayath.

Natural characteristics of Pallickal river are getting changed due to extensive sand mining, waste disposal including slaughter house waste, huge amount of plastic more particularly from Karunagappally market and from Kannelty, Chambakkadavu and Kallukkadavu area, causing deep torrential water flow in the river and stagnant water at some other locations, a total menace to the Pallickal river. There is also heavy sewage discharge and urban run-off in the middle and the upper courses. This prevents flow of fresh water into the river's lower course. *To protect and conserve the Pallickal river, Irrigation Department has carried out many works under Disaster Management fund, SDRF, Flood Control/Flood damage works etc. About 35054.395m³ waste has been removed till 2020.*

i) In 2019-2020, four desilting works were arranged in Sooranad North Panchayath at upstream and downstream of Thodiyoor bridge and Thodiyoor check dam to remove deposited silt and waste from Pallickalar river for an amount of ₹9.6 lakhs.

ii) In 2020-2021, four desilting works were arranged in Sooranad North & South Panchayath to remove deposited silt and waste from Pallickal river for an amount of ₹65.98 lakhs.

iii) In 2021-2022, desilting work is arranged in Poruvazhy Panchayath near Moovakkodu Kadavu to remove deposited silt and waste from Pallickalar river for an amount of ₹4.53 lakhs. About 2200m³ waste is proposed to be removed in this work.

iv) Works for conservation of Pallickal river were carried out, where in kadavu and allied fencing works were constructed on the left bank of the river near anayadi bridge in Sooranad North Panchayath for an amount of ₹14.50 lakhs.

As per GO(Rt)No.62/2022/WRD dated 25.01.2022. Administrative Sanction was accorded for ₹8 crores for the rejuvenation and protection of Pallickal river as per DSR 2018 under the head of account 4711-01-103-99-01-00-PV. Break up of the cost is as follows:

Sl.No.	Work	Amount(Rs)
1	Deepening work	36,40,728
2	Construction of kadavus	48,55,539.54
3	Embankment protection work	3,55,26,108.63
4	Construction of cross bar	17,34,108.43
5	Fencing for avoiding waste dumping in the river	2,45,45,662.11
6	Warning boards for banning waste deposit into the river	1,20,325.80
7	Providing surveillance camera at various points of the river banks in town area	10,00,000
	Total	7,14,22,473
	Amount reserved for GST Payment (@12%)	85,70,696.76
	Lumpsum for round off	6,830.24
	Total	8,00,00,000/-

While hearing the case on 21.03.2022, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directed to produce the list of proposed STP Unit, No.of STP units yet to be implemented, the district wise present stages of STP units along with sanction order.

District Collector, Kollam reported that even though eight local bodies encounters with river Pallickal, only three local bodies have made an initiative in implementing STP.

a) Initially STP in Sasthamkotta Taluk Hospital, under Sasthamkotta GP which was undertaken by Sasthamkotta Block Panchayath. Even though this specific project had initiated before few years back where work partially completed, but incomplete due to some socio-political issues.

b. Secondly STP to be installed in the Sooranadu CHC, under Sooranadu North GP, which also been undertaken by Sasthamkotta Block Panchayath. Here STP with advanced Technology of Membrane Bio Reactor(MBR) was initially proposed. But since the operations and maintenance of such technology is a complicated one, it was altered and Moving Bed Bio Film Reactor(MBBR)

technology was then finalized and the estimate preparation is in progress now.

c) Finally it is been under a proposal stage registered a Fecal sludge Treatment Plant in Karunagappally Municipality, in the location of MCF building cum gas crematorium, which is a wet land, where the stage is selection process of suitable agency for preparation of DPR.

District Collector, Alappuzha reported that no STPs are implemented by concerned Grama panchayats.

District Collector, Pathanamthitta reported that all the illegal encroachments on the banks of Pallickal River are identified and issued notices to about 40 persons in the Erath panchayath and Adoor municipal areas for evacuation. Adoor municipal secretary reported that in the municipal area 3 houses and an institution were identified with google location details who are flowing stagnant water into the river through pipes. Notices are given to owners to stop the illegal act and has been stopped accordingly. Continuous inspections are conducting by the health wing of the municipality on the river sides to ensure slaughter and other waste items are not being dumped into the river. And also reported that steps are being taken by the municipality to reduce the pollution to 25% before 30.06.2022 and set up a slaughter house in Adoor municipality. It is reported that the illegal encroachments in the banks of the pallickal river in pallickal panchayath area are evacuated and boards were placed showing 'Panchayath Property' in the evacuated areas. The trees in that places are counted and marked numbers in it and noted into a register. Fencing was also installed in the banks of the river. A 'Public Protection Committee' has been formed with the members from political parties, kudumbasree units, MNREGS workers, Haritha Karma sena and Youth organizations to protect the river from further pollution. They are visiting different regions of the river banks in all month and ensure the river is free from waste materials. All the plastic materials and other wastes flown through the river were removed using the Panchayath fund. Also the pallickal Grama panchayath included a project for the conservation of pallickal river as Project No. 162/22 with an estimate of Rs5,52,500/- in their annual plan for 2021-22. In addition to this a project for the rejuvenation of the small streams which are entering into the said river is also included in the annual plan as project no. 142/22 with an estimate amount of Rs.1,00,000/-. It is also reported that there is no illegal dumping of waste materials is found in the river banks of Kadambanad and Erath Grama panchayath regions. Public awareness programs and activities are conducted in public places and schools about waste management, Health and sanitation in these panchayaths with the help of experts and volunteers of civil society organizations.



PRANAB JYOTI NATH IAS

SECRETARY

Water Resources Department