

**BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**

**O.A.No.143 of 2021**

**BETWEEN**

Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU Based on the News item in Eenadu Newspaper Edition Dated: 12.06.2021, "Dredging along the embankments of Krishna River to be stopped".

**... APPLICANT**

**-VS-**

The Chief Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh  
& 10 others

**... RESPONDENTS**

**REPORT FILED BY THE 6<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

Date: 19.08.2021



**M/S MADHURI DONTI REDDY  
ADVOCATE**

**STANDING COUNCIL FOR GOVERNMENT OF  
ANDHRA PRADESH**

**A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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**COUNSEL FOR 6<sup>th</sup> Respondent**

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY**

From:

Sri SKV Satyanarayana, M.Sc.,  
Deputy Director of Mines and Geology,  
3/5, Vidyanagar,  
Guntur-522007.

To:

The Director of Mines & Geology,  
Anjaneya Towers,  
Ibrahimpatnam,  
Krishna District.

**Letter No. 2214/NGT/143/2021, dated.19.08.2021**

Sir,

Sub:- Mines & Minerals - Hon'ble NGT, SZ, Chennai - OA No.143 of 2021(SZ) - SUO MOTU case on the news item published in Eenadu news paper edition dated.12.06.2021 "Dredging along the embankments of Krishna River to be stopped" -Joint Inspection with other line Departments- Joint Inspection Report - Submission-Regarding.

Ref:- 1. Memo No.4849504/Sand /NGT - SZ-143/2021, dt.12.08.2021 of the Director of Mines & Geology, Ibrahimpatnam.  
2. Note orders of the Collector and District Magistrate, Guntur dated.16.08.2021.

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I invite kind attention to the subject and references cited. It is to submit that through the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, the Director of Mines & Geology, Ibrahimpatnam with regard to the subject cited has directed the Deputy Directors of Mines & Geology, Vijayawada & Guntur to:

- a) go through the allegations made in the news paper clipping and send a report on or before 17.08.2021 to the undersigned with allegation wise stand to be taken by the Department, duly causing independent inspection, if necessary.
- b) coordinate with the Executive Engineer, K.C. Division, Vijayawada to conduct the inspection of the area along with the District Collector and see that a report is filed to the Hon'ble Tribunal on or before 23.08.2021 as to whether any person to whom the work was entrusted has carried out the dredging in accordance with the provisions and also in a scientific manner as required and if not, whether any damage has been caused on account of the same, if so, what is the nature of damage caused and what is the action taken against the persons who committed the violation. and the District Collector, Guntur in the respect of O.A.No.143 of 2021(SZ) for inspection on subject matter as per the orders dated 28.07.2021 by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, South Zone, Chennai and submit a compliance so as to submit the report to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, South Zone, Chennai.

Through the reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited, the Collector and District Magistrate, Guntur has issued instructions for joint inspection with the Revenue Divisional Officer, Guntur, the Executive Engineer, K.C. Division and the Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, Guntur.

In obedience to the orders issued vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cited, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Guntur, the Executive Engineer, K.C. Division and the Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, Guntur have conducted joint inspection on 17.08.2021 on Krishna Right Flood Bank Upstream of Prakasam Barrage in Mandadam Village of Thullur Mandal, Guntur District. During the inspection, the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation(K.C. Division), Vijayawada, the Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Guntur and the Tahsildar, Tullur have accompanied with the Joint Inspection Team.

The inspection was conducted duly taking the directions of the Hon`ble National Green Tribunal into consideration.

➤ During the inspection, the SE, Irrigation, Vijayawada has informed that :

1. The heavy shoal formation on upstream side of the Prakasam Barrage besides reducing the capacity of barrage also endangers the safety of Barrage & flood banks and damages the Environment, infrastructure. Hence, to safeguard the Barrage, river flood banks and river ecology, as a part of maintenance, Water Resources Depart has proposed to taken de-silting works on upstream side of Prakasam Barrage by dredging process.
2. The existing flood banks are formed away from the banks of the River course. The width of the margin between the banks of the river to the flood banks (River Margins) varies from a minimum distance of 100 Mts to maximum distance of 500 Mts at certain locations.
3. The Government of Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development (CRDA) Department allotted Ac.20.00 Cts land in Mandadam Village to the Water Resources Department for the purpose of dumping the dredged material due to de-silting works on upstream side of Prakasam Barrage, Krishna River vide reference Memo No. 1268811/CRDA/2020, dated 05/08/2021.
4. The Water Resources Department was concluded an agreement with the Agency on 10/08/2021. The agency is having experience in de-siltation operations, mobilizing the Men and Machinery at site and not yet started any de-silting work in Guntur District.

5. The material derived from the de-siltation will be utilized depending on the nature and quality of the material, but it is not suitable for strengthening of the banks of the River or bunds of the canal, since the material is not suitable for strengthening of the banks.
6. The Government has sanctioned widening and strengthen the Krishna Right flood bank upstream of Prakasam Barrage (upto 15.525 KM) including formation of 2 lane road and the work is in progress.



#### **Physical Observations:**

- No dredging activity has been carried out by the entrusted agencies till to date and no damage caused to the flood bank. Since, No Damage occurred, Initiation as action does not arise. The allegation raised by the local people was baseless and not tenable.
- The distance between the banks of the river to the flood banks (River Margins) varies from a minimum distance of 100 Mts to maximum distance of 500 Mts at certain locations.
- Islands covered with vegetation are noticed in the River coarse and the removal of heavy shoal formation on upstream side of the Prakasam Barrage is required, (i). To increase the capacity of the barrage, (ii). For safety of Barrage and flood banks, (iii). To protect the Environment & Infrastructure.
- The SE, Irrigation, Vijayawada has also stated that in compliance of the orders issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A.No.935 of 2018

on dated:24/08/2020, the Chief Engineer, Krishna Delta System, Vijayawada addressed a letter vide Letter No.CE/KDS/VJA/OT-3/AE-10/F-De-silting/ 1107 dated 09-06-2021 to the Senior Environmental Engineer, Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate (South), Bangalore, that the proposed dredging operations be overseen during execution by the Expert Committee to ensure that no damage is caused to the environment. The dredging operations will be carried out under the supervision of Engineers of Water Resources Department of Government of Andhra Pradesh and also the experts on dredging operations nominated by the APMDC Ltd. The proposed de-siltation works on upstream side of Prakasam barrage by dredging process be overseen by the expert committee to ensure that no damage is caused to the environment and River ecology as directed by NGT in OA No:935/2018.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the de-siltation of upstream of Prakasam Barrage may not affect the flood banks of Krishna River.

This is submitted for favour of information and further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: Copy of Joint Inspection  
Report

*S. K. V. Srinivasan*  
Deputy Director of Mines & Geology,  
Guntur

Copy submitted to the Collector and District Magistrate, Guntur for favour of information.

Copy submitted to the Joint Collector, Guntur for favour of information.