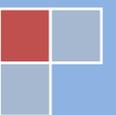




**Reply on Hon'ble NGT's Orders
dated 09.03.2022 on
O.A.No.147/2021 (SZ)**

By Joint Committee



Reply on the applicant's objection to the report of the Joint Committee on O.A. 147/2021 (SZ) in connection with Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme in Telangana

In connection with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) Southern Bench, Chennai, Order dated 9th March, 2022 directing the Joint Committee to conduct a study to assess the damage caused to environment and also restoration methodology to be adopted, it is to state that -

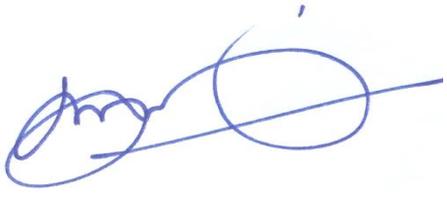
- (i) The Uddandapur Reservoir is being built by constructing a bund. The bund consists of an impervious core mainly responsible for retaining water in the reservoir and is made primarily with BC soil. This BC soil, as per the project proponent, is being sourced from nearby tanks. This impervious layer is protected on the both sides by a pervious gravelly soil; this gravelly soil is being sourced from the place which will, in future, become a part of the reservoir.
- (ii) The Joint Committee had clearly brought this out in its report dated 18.11.2021.
- (iii) In the objections raised by the applicant, it seems the applicant failed to understand the difference between BC soil being sourced from the tanks and the gravelly soil being sourced from the reservoir area.
- (iv) As the tanks are owned by the Irrigation Department itself and the project proponent which is also Irrigation Department has obtained permission for sourcing/mining BC soil from the tanks and also mining of BC soil from tank is a regular maintenance exercise, the Joint Committee opined that there is no illegal mining from the tank as alleged by the applicant.

- (v) Even if there is over excavation of BC soils from the tanks as alleged by the applicant which the irrigation department denies in its replies, there is no way it can be verified by the committee now, as much time has already lapsed (since 2017). Also, the committee is of the opinion the any over excavation within the tanks (which will get eventually filled up by incoming silt) will not cause any perceptible damage to the environment.
- (vi) With regard to sourcing of gravelly soil from the reservoir area without obtaining any environmental clearance, as the matter is already being considered by Hon'ble NGT in O.A.No.148/2021, the Committee has not recommended any compensation for the same.
- (vii) With regard to the claim of the applicant that BC soils are being sourced from the agricultural land (which was not alleged in the Original Application) for which the applicant has not produced any supporting document/evidence and the same denied by the project proponent. The Joint Committee, in its reply dt. 8th March, 2022 opined that if the allegation is true, a study needs to be made to assess the damage caused to the environment and also to recommend restoration methodology.
- (viii) As no area is identified by the applicant, the Committee cannot, on its own, conduct such study unless such agricultural land is marked and shown to the Committee by the applicant by providing supporting documents.
- (ix) In view of the above, Hon'ble NGT may pass orders as it deems fit. Also, as the matter is primarily of Civil Engineering in nature, a member from Civil Engineering background, may be

from CWC, is included in the Committee, if any recommendation is to be made, will be immensely helpful.

Report dated : **May 06, 2022**
Place : **Hyderabad, Telangana**

Signatures of the Committee Members

| S.No | Name and Designation | Signature |
|-------------|--|---|
| 1. | Dr. E. Arockia Lenin, Scientist 'C', IRO, MoEF&CC, Hyderabad |  |
| 2. | Smt. Poornima B.M., Scientist 'D', CPCB, IRO, Chennai; |  |
| 3. | Dr. Shaik Basha, Sr. Pr. Scientist, Zonal Centre, NEERI, Hyderabad (Dr. P.R. Meganathan, Scientist represented on the site); |  |
| 4. | Shri S. Venkat Rao, IAS, District Collector, Mahabub Nagar, Telangana; | A separate view/remark is enclosed |
| 5. | Dr. G. Vijay Kumar, Assistant Diector, Mines & Geology, Mahabub Nagar; | |
| 4. | Shri L.B. Muanthang, Member (Power), KRMB (Nodal Agency), Hyderabad |  |

VIEW/REMARKS OF TWO MEMBERS

We, the following two members of the Joint Committee, had agreed with the views/comments of the Joint Committee in all the points, except with regards to Para No. IX. As regards Para No. IX, we opined that there is no need to include a member of Civil Engineering background in the Committee, as that Shri M. Ramesh Kumar, Director, Central Water Commission, himself is a Civil Engineer and being a Member of the Joint Committee in O.A. No. 148 of 2021 had also attended during the site visit of PRLIS by the Committee in the month of September 2021. The Joint Committee had made clear in its report dated 18.11.2021 that there is no illegal mining at all.

Signatures of the Committee Members:

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 4. | Shri S. Venkat Rao, IAS, District Collector, Mahabub Nagar, Telangana; |  |
| 5. | Dr. G. Vijay Kumar, Assistant Diector, Mines & Geology, Mahabub Nagar; |  |