

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)**

**Original Application No. 15 of 2020 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own suo motu initiated proceedings  
based on the news item published in Malayalam Newspaper dt.20.01.2020  
under the caption "Burning banks of Bharathapuzha".  
Anti social elements continue to burn dried riparian grasslands"

...Applicant(s)

Versus

Government of Kerala,  
Principal Secretary, Environment Department,  
Thiruvananthapuram

...Respondent(s)

**MEMO FILED ON BEHALF OF 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT/ THE PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN**

Counsel for R1 to R6

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala

NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

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1. It is submitted that the above case has been Suo Motu registered by this Tribunal on the basis of the News Paper report published in Malayala Manorama, daily dated 20.01.2020 under the caption ("Burning Banks of Bharathapuzha, Anti-Social elements continue to burn dried riparian grasslands).

2. It is submitted that the Hon'ble Tribunal disposed the above case on 28.01.2021 with the direction to the Committee to conduct study that has been proposed to be conducted as per the Master Plan during dry season and then complete the process of preparation of Master Plan that has been recommended by the Committee, before the Hon'ble Tribunal within a period of four months.

3. It is submitted that the Hon'ble Tribunal directed the Chief Secretary, State of Kerala to provide necessary logistic support and other coordination between the departments including financial assistance if any required for the purpose of conducting study and issue necessary instructions to the respective Departments to implement the Master Plan in its letter and spirit and submit a status report.

4. It is submitted that as per the order dated 28.01.2021 of the Hon'ble Tribunal necessary instructions were issued to the all the line departments to coordinate with the joint committee and to extend necessary assistance required for the purpose of conducting the study, take necessary steps to get the master plan implemented in letter and spirit within the time limit.

5. It is submitted that the Revenue Department has been designated as the Nodal department for providing logistic support and other coordination between departments in this endeavor for ensuring the compliance of the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal

6. It is submitted that financial assistance if any required for conducting the study shall borne by the Revenue Department. It is also submitted that the Environment Department has been directed to coordinate the action taken by various Departments/Agencies.

7. It is submitted that the Member Secretary, KSB and Directorate of Environment & Climate Change were also directed to coordinate with the Joint Committee and necessary instructions have been given to the line Department and joint committee for furnishing the action taken report within two weeks for preparing status report.

8. It is submitted that the study report has not been received from the joint committee.

Therefore it is most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to extent the time for submission of study report for the period of three months for complying the direction of this Hon'ble Tribunal dated 28.01.2021 and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



(E.K.Kumaresan)

Counsel for R1

Standing Counsel for  
State Government of Kerala  
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