

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)
IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 15 OF 2020 (SZ)**

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY,
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT / 1ST RESPONDENT**

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Dated at Chennai on this the 01st day of September 2022.


M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

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

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Status report on behalf of the 1st respondent in compliance with the order dated 24.2.2022 of National Green Tribunal in OA No.15/2020(SZ) "Burning of dried grass lands in the banks of Bharathapuzha

It is submitted that the Master plan for Bharathapuzha include provisions for enhancing the riparian vegetation along the banks with suitable species and strengthening the embankments by natural methods. In compliance with the order dated 28-01-2021 of National Green Tribunal (SZ) in OA No.15/2020, Chief Secretary had taken meeting with the stake holder departments on the the implementation of the approved Master Plan. It was decided in the meeting that Bio-stabilisation of embankments can be taken up with active involvement of LSGIs, Haritha Karma Sena, Biodiversity Board and Forest Department. The Forest department is already in the process of releasing seedlings and that the same is being planted through LSGIs under the MGNREG Scheme. The availability of appropriate species of seedlings as suggested in the Master Plan, in adequate quantities is ensured by Forest Department with the involvement of Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi. The District Collector, Palakkad has been instructed to co- ordinate the activities with the active participation and guidance of Irrigation Department through the Chief Engineer, and Executive Engineers of Irrigation Department in charge of river stretches . The District Collector, Palakkad has also been instructed to hold monthly meeting at District level with the concerned officers every month and furnish the monthly periodical progress report to the Government .

2. The District Collector, Palakkad has convened a meeting with Police, Forest, irrigation and Local Self Government Institution on 8.7.2022 . In this meeting decisions were taken to establish hoardings within a week by the concerned local bodies in their premises. It was to create awareness among general public on not to litter waste or tress pass in to the government property or create fires for recreation or cooking activities. Besides ,as per phase No. 2 specified in the master plan, decision has been taken to constitute biodiversity committees with the co ordination of Irrigation and Local Self Government Institutions to stabilize the biodiversity of the river bank through MGNREGS.

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3. It is submitted that further to review the progress made in implementing the Master Plan prepared for the protection of riparian diversity of Bharathpuzha, another meeting was taken by Chief Secretary on 05/08/2022.



SHARMILA.C

Additional Secretary

Environment Department

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