

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

From
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To
The Joint Committee Members,
Constituted by the Hon'ble NGT
(South Zone), Chennai,
for the Application No 28 of 2020.

Letter No. DB/D1/C-25 /2017 **Date: 10.09.2020**

Sir,

Sub: Fisheries - Construction of Tuna Fishing Harbour at Thiruvottriyur kuppam in Thiruvallur District – Hon'ble NGT(SZ), Chennai-Application 28 of 2020-Joint Committee Inspection on 17-03-2020 and 04-09-2020 - Status Report submitted – Regarding.

Ref: Original Application No.28 of 2020 (SZ) in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal(Southern Zone), Chennai.

As informed, the status report on the Tuna Fishing Harbour at Thiruvottriyur kuppam in Thiruvallur District is submitted, as follows, to the Joint Committee.

The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries has made announcement in the Floor of Assembly in 2014 that Detailed Techno Economic Feasibility Studies would be conducted for Construction of Tuna Fishing Harbour at Thiruvottriyur kuppam in Thiruvallur District to reduce the congestion in Chennai Fishing Harbour and to promote deep sea fishing. The Government of Tamilnadu has accorded the Administrative Sanction, vide G.O.(D) No 373, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-1) Department dated 22-12-2014, for the same.

Accordingly, the Detailed Project Report has been prepared and District level CRZ and State Level CRZ Clearance were obtained vide their letter No. CRZ-29/DEE/TNPCB/ CHN/DCZMA/2016 dated 27-10-2016 and proceedings No P1/2204/2016 dated 10-03-2017, respectively. The SEIAA has issued the Terms of Reference (ToR) to carryout Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and public

hearing meeting, vide their Lr. No. SEIAA-TN/F.No6440/SEAC-C/7(e) ToR-301/2017 dated:22-01-2018. The detailed EIA report was prepared by the Annamalai University, Chidambaram and Public hearing meeting was conducted on 25-07-2019.

The Government of Tamilnadu has accorded Administrative Sanction, vide GO. (Ms.) No.14/ Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-1) Department dt: 01.02.2019 for Construction of Tuna Fishing Harbour at Thiruvottriyurkuppam in Thiruvallur District. ***Considering the long pending request and welfare scheme of fishermen, congestion and frequent boat accidents in Chennai Fishing Harbour, promoting deep sea fishing and project cost escalations, the fisheries department has started extending on 06-08-2019 the existing 150m groins to 320m in North and 400m in South.***

Mr. Thiyagarajan, on behalf of Meenava Thanthai K.R. Selvarajkumar Meenavar Nala Sangam, Royapuram, filed Application 28 of 2020 in the Hon'ble NGT and prayed that the Fisheries Department is executing the Construction of Tuna Fishing Harbour at Thiruvottriyurkuppam without obtaining CRZ and Environmental Clearances from the competent authorities, and doing building construction, dredging, reclamation, construction of roads, illegal structures, dumping of heavy materials and construction debris, which affects the ecosystem and clear violation of the EIA and CRZ Notifications, hence, requested the Hon'ble Court to issue directions to take action against the Fisheries Department as well as restrain from further construction and other related activities.

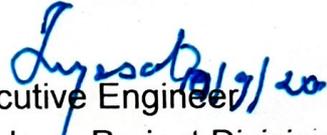
The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai has passed an order on 07.02.2020, that the Fisheries Department should maintain the Status Quo at Project Site and formed a Joint Committee to ascertain the present status at site. Accordingly, the Joint Committee has inspected the project site on 17.03.2020 and submitted the report to the Hon'ble NGT and stated in its **para-2 that the Fisheries Department has obtained CRZ clearance from the Tamilnadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority vide Proceedings No P1/2204/2016 dated:10-03-2017 for the Construction of Tuna Fishing Harbour at**

Thiruvottriyurkuppam under CRZ Notifications-2011 and in para-11 that, at the time of inspection, no Construction/Dredging/Reclamation activities related to Fishing Harbour were carried out within the project site; also the fisheries department has not constructed any permanent structures pertaining to Fishing Harbour except the extension of breakwaters from the existing groins of 150m to 400m in South and 150m to 320m in north.

On hearing from the learned Additional Advocate General, the Hon'ble Court, in its order dated 21-07-2020, has directed the SEIAA to consider and pass appropriate orders in the pending application for Environmental Clearance for the Tuna Fishing Harbour Project in accordance with law and also directed the Joint Committee to assess the environment compensation and submit the report on or before 14-09-2020. As per the direction of the Hon'ble NGT, the SEIAA has issued the Environmental Clearance vide their Lr.No.SEIAA-TN/F.No 6440/EC/7(e)/75/2020 dated 05-08-2020 and the Joint Committee has inspected the site again on 04-09-2020.

As directed by the Hon'ble NGT, the Fisheries Department has stopped all its activities on 07-02-2020 and maintaining the "Status Quo" till date.

Being the public welfare scheme and Government project, delay in execution, affects the general public in getting their basic rights in time and also escalation in project cost, which is again the public money will be spent for creating this infrastructures, therefore, the fisheries department has extended the existing groins and have not done any other activities, causing no damage to the prevailing environment of the project site.


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