

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

Original Application No.78 of 2017

With

Original Application No. 248 of 2017

BETWEEN

Suo Motu Proceedings Initiated based on the news Item Published in
"Mathrubhumi Newspaper" – Malayalam Edition dated 25.03.2017 on the caption "Save
Munnar".

AND

The State of Kerala,
Rep by Chief Secretary and 8 others

...Respondents

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE Addl. CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVT.

AS PER ORDER DATED 12.6.2020

M/s. E. K. KUMARESAN

Counsel for Respondent R1,R3,R4 and R8
Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala
NGT (SZ) Chennai Bench.

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It is respectfully submits the status report in the above said application as follows:

- 1.It is submitted that the Hon'ble Tribunal has given direction in the above said application to file a report with respect to the issue of Solid Waste Management in Munnar Grama Panchayat.
2. It is submitted that to comply the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal, the Addl.Chief Secretary to Government has filed report herewith, Annexure A. Therefore it is most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take the said Report filed by respondent on Record and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 3rd day of March 2021.


(E. K. KUMARESAN)
Counsel for Respondent R1,3,4 and 8
Standing Counsel for
State Government of Kerala
NGT (SZ) Chennai Bench.

File No.LSGD-DC1/30/2021-LSGD

Report based on the order dated 12.06.2020 of Honble NGT in OA No.78 and 248 in the matter of Suo Motu proceedings initiated based on the news item published in "Mathrubhumi Newspaper" - Malayalam Edition dated 25.03.2017 on the caption "SAVE MUNNAR"

Solid waste management in Munnar Grama Panchayat is being implemented under a project, Munnar Zone Waste Management, approved by District Planning Committee with a project cost of Rs. 1 Crore. 68 employees and five supervisors are working under this project for collecting solid waste from houses and all shops and other establishments in Munnar Gramapanchayat. Wastes Collected from the source level are first brought to the land at Kallar, the land transferred to Munnar Grama Panchayat by Kannan Devan Hills Plantations Pvt Ltd (KDHP), for segregation. Out of 68 employees 20 employees and 1 supervisor are engaged at Kallar for sorting the waste. Bio degradable waste is processed on the site and the plastic wastes are transported to plastic shredding unit owned by Adimaly Grama Panchayat for processing.

Legacy waste dumped at Kallar is one of the major environmental issues in Munnar Gramapanchayat. As per the directions of Honble High Court and Honble NGT, Munnar Grama Panchayat has framed a project with project cost of Rs.1 Crore for the removal of legacy waste at Kallar. This project is taken by Munnar Gramapanchayat in accordance with the directions of Pollution Control Board and Suchitwa Mission.Munnar Gramapanchayat has tendered the project. Socio Economic Unit Foundation, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram is the agency quoted the lowest amount and the Munnar Grama Panchayat Committee has approved the tender and the Panchayath has executed an agreement with the agency. The agency has installed machinery and the process is going on. For operating the machinery Munnar Grama Panchayat arranged three phase electric connection from KDHP. The agency has agreed to clear the legacy waste within six months form date of agreement. A project with a cost of Rs.2 lakhs is also included in the annual plan of Munnar Gramapanchayat for the setting up of Sewage Treatment Plant at Kallar. Ultratech Environmental agency and Laboratory, Kochi, is the agency identified for the implementation of the project. Munnar has also taken an initiative under the leadership of the District Collector to set up 'green' checkpoints to sensitise and regulate incoming floating tourist traffic with regard to restrictions on the use of plastic.

As per GO(Ms) No.13/2019/LSGD dated 01.02.2019 Government have accorded sanction for the setting up of Waste to Energy (WtE) Plant at Munnar on Build Own Operate and Maintain (BOOM) basis by M/s AG Dauters Waste Processing Pvt. Ltd. The 27th meeting of State Level Advisory

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Committee (SLAC) on Waste Management, chaired Chief Secretary on 27.6.2019 had resolved to issue final notice to M/s AG Dauters to take necessary action as per the agreement executed and submit necessary applications in the prescribed formats with sufficient details as warranted by the concerned departments, state pollution control boards etc with respect to the it's technology for project. SLAC has also resolved to terminate the concession agreement with M/s AG Dauters and to structure the project on a suitable format and tender the project to find a private partner for setting up the waste management project, if M/s AG Dauters fails to adhere to the directions and Statutory provisions within 30 days. Accordingly Government have directed Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC), the nodal agency for the establishment of Waste to Energy Projects in the State, to take necessary action to issue notice to M/s AG Dauters Waste Processing Pvt. Ltd. Based on the decision of SLAC.

30th meeting of SLAC held on 19.10.2019 has resolved to float tender for the development of Integrated Solid Waste Management project with a Waste to Energy plant of 20 TPD capacity in DBFOT basis under Public Private Partnership mode at Munnar. Accordingly KSIDC has floated e-tender for the project. As no bids were received in the first tender process as per the decision of the 32nd meeting of SLAC, KSIDC re tendered the project in January 2020 and Consortium of M/s Al Bucheeri General Transport Est Pathanamthitta, M/s Al Bucheeri Transporting Est, UAE and M/s Organic Recycling Systems Pvt Ltd, Mumbai submitted bid for the project.

The Bid Evaluation Committee meeting chaired by Secretary, Power Department held on 19/08/2020 carried out the detailed technical evaluation of the bid in the presence of representatives from the consortium and the Bid Evaluation Committee after detailed deliberations resolved to consider the bid as technically qualified and recommended to open the financial bid submitted by the Consortium for the project. As per the financial bid submitted, the Tipping fee quoted is Rs.6500/- per tonne. Government have decided to constitute a Negotiation Committee to carry out the negotiation of the Tipping Fee with the bidder for Munnar Waste to Energy Project.

Nallathanni River, Muthirapuzha River and Kallar River are the three major rivers flowing through Munnar Grama Panchayat. These three rivers are merging at Munnar. During 2018-2019 financial year Munnar Grama Panchayat has taken action for removing the muds and other objects from the rivers to ensure free flow of rivers. In Munnar Gramapanchayat periodical inspections are conducted in establishments like resorts, hotels, home-stay and other shops in Munnar town to ensure that soak pits are working properly, to avoid discharge of waste water in to water bodies.

It is expected that waste management issues in Munnar area can be

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resolved effectively on the commissioning of proposed Waste to Energy Plant at Munnar

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