

**“Sikkarayapuram quarry pond is covered with garbage dump:  
Affects the project of converting it into a reservoir”**



**News Item in Dinamalar Newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 04th March 2022**



There are 23 quarry ponds at Sikkarayapuram next to Kundrathur. They are 400 - 500 feet deep each. When there is no water in Sembarambakkam Lake, the water stored in these quarry ponds will be treated and supplied to Chennai. Every year, it continues. During the monsoon season, the excess water discharged during the flooding of Sembarambakkam Lake flows into the sea through the Adyar River. Therefore, if the excess water which drains into sea is stored in Sikkarayapuram quarry ponds, those water can be supplied to Chennai and its urban area. There was a demand to study this and implement the plan. Following this, they planned to consolidate all the 23 quarry ponds and convert them into a reservoir.

Officials conducted a feasibility study and a project report for Rs 32 crore was prepared and sent to the government for approval. In this situation, the garbage stored in the Sikkarayapuram panchayat is being dumped in the quarries and covered with soil so that it is not known. In the Sikkarayapuram panchayat, which is part of the Kunrattur panchayat union, there are 12 wards. From these wards, 2 tons of garbage is collected daily. The rubbish was dumped in a Crematorium along the Kunrathur-Kumananchavadi road. Thus, there was a mountain of rubbish. In this case, the garbage from the crematorium is taken by truck and dumped in the quarry on the western side of the Kunrathur-Kumananchavady road. In order to hide this, they cover those places with mud by using JCB.

Further, During heavy rains, the debris dissolves and mixes with other Quarry ponds. It will affect the project of converting into reservoir. Turning it into a dumping ground has caused anguish among the locals. Therefore, community activists have demanded that the district administration intervene in the matter and take action to prevent dumping of rubbish in the quarry pond, which is planned to be converted into a reservoir, and to select an alternative dumping site for the rubbish. Because of garbage dumping dead bodies could not be buried. Therefore, the authorities investigated the removal of them. They said , it is not a quarry which will be converted into quarry pond. After a thorough investigation by the authorities, the resolution is passed in the panchayat and the rubbish is dumped. They cover garbage dump with mud as it will stink. Doing so will turn the garbage into compost. But they say doing so will turn the garbage into compost.