

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

Original Application No.27 of 2021 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Hindu
E-paper, Edition dt: 28.01.2021, "Faecal contamination high in Perandoor,
Edappally canals".

...Appellant(s)

Versus

The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Kerala, Environment Department,
Thiruvananthapuram and Ors.

.....Respondent(s)

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF 1ST
RESPONDENT/ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

Counsel for R1 to R3,R6

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala

NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

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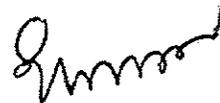
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It is submitted that the 1st Respondent herein has filed the action taken report in the above Original Application as per the direction of this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 22.06.2021.

Therefore it is most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take the said Action taken report filed by the Environment Department/ 1st Respondent on Record and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 30th day of July 2021.



(E.K.Kumaresan)

Counsel for R1 to R3,R6
Standing Counsel for
State Government of Kerala
NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

Through E-mail



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Environment (A) Department

29/07/2021, Thiruvananthapuram

No.A3/41/2021-ENVT

From

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

To

Adv. E.K.Kumaresan

Standing Counsel, National Green Tribunal

Chennai

Sir.

Sub: Environment Department - Order dated 22.06.2021 in
O.A.27/2021 - Action Taken furnishing of - Reg.

Ref:

1. Order dated 22.06.2021 of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A.27/2021
2. Government letter of even number dated 14.06.2021

I am to invite your attention to the reference cited and to forward the action taken by the Government with regard to the Order cited and to request you to file the same before the Hon'ble Tribunal and seek time atleast by six months from 30-07-2021 for submission of the detailed Action Plan.

Yours Faithfully,

Sharmila C

Joint Secretary

For Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

Approved for Issue,

Assl. Section Officer.

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**Action taken by the Government of Kerala in
compliance of the order of the Hon'ble NGT in their
order dated 22.06.21st O.A. 27/2021**

The Hon'ble NGT in the Order dated 22.06.2021 had expressed their displeasure for non-implementation of the directions issued by the Tribunal in various matters dealing with waste management in several parts especially in respect of Kochi Corporation. However, considering the present pandemic situation prevailing in the State of Kerala, the Tribunal had given some more time to the Joint Committee to submit the report to this Tribunal on or before 30.07.2021.

Vide the Order, implementing authorities are directed to come with an independent action plan as to how they are going to solve the issue in an effective manner with long term and short term measures with lesser time line as allowing such menace for a longer time will have great impact on health of the people. Kochi Municipal Corporation was designated as the nodal agency for co-ordination and for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.

*Kochi corporation is also directed to come with an action plan as to how they are going to resolve the issue permanently and also consider the observations and some of the solutions. **The Chief Secretary is also directed to look into the issue and prepare a detailed action plan as to how such things can be resolved through out Kerala as it is not a problem relating to Kochi alone.***

The committee appointed by the Hon'ble NGT in their Order dated 05.02.2021 in O.A.27/2021 is also directed to ascertain the remedial measures to be taken, damage caused to the environment and assess the environmental compensation to restore the damage caused including the expense required for implementing the remedial measures and who is responsible to pay the same as well.

It is submitted that the COVID 19 pandemic situation in the State has not subsided as compared to other

States. Lock down and restrictions consequent to Covid 19 pandemic situations still exists and many of the machinery have not started functioning properly. However, even in the pandemic situations, weekly review meetings were conducted by Local Self Government Department, Water Resources Department and Environment Department for assessing progress in the action taken in pursuance of this Hon'ble Tribunal in various OAs(O.A.673/2018, 829/2019, 27/2021 etc) which deals with the pollution caused to various water bodies in the State of Kerala. Chief Secretary also conducts monthly review meeting in the matter.

Co-ordinated efforts by Environment Department with various Departments of the State are done in connection with both Liquid and Solid Waste Management. The State Government is in the process of drafting Liquid Waste Policy to address pollution from liquid waste including sewage. Regarding the Solid Waste Management, land availability is a huge problem.

Though it was proposed to set up a waste treatment facility in West Kochi, it was not able to make progress due to local agitation, in spite of the proposed facility being a modern technology one, utilising vacuum suction.

In the above circumstances, it was decided in the High level meeting convened by the Chief secretary on 27.07.2021 that legal action like charging cases against the vested forces unnecessarily impeding developmental and environmentally relevant projects like implementation of STP has to be to be resorted to, to get such genuine projects implemented. It was also decided that while transferring Govt. land, first priority shall be given for waste management/ disposal projects like treating sewage & septage and Revenue and Puramboke land now available Statewide shall be identified for this at a war footing. It was also decided that State Policy on making land available for Government projects for waste management will be taken up and as a first priority land has to be assigned or earmarked for such utilization.

Apart from the above mentioned factors, Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) has come up with Integrated Urban Regenerated Water Transport Project (IURWTS). The below mentioned are the major highlights of the project which includes the rejuvenation of 5 canals.

Activities proposed in IURWTS include:

- Cleaning of Canals
- Dredging & Cutting
- Bank Protection
- Reconstruction of Cross Structures and Foot Over Bridges
- Sanitary Sewer Line & STPs
- Sanitation Facilities
- Jetties
- Infrastructure Development
- Beautification of canals including Tourism & Sports Park

Successful implementation of the proposed project will lead to

- Cleaner and Greener Environment,
- Better drainage,
- Rain water harvesting systems,
- Effective and enhanced connectivity from various locations,
- Improved landscape around the facility,
- Reduced risk of potential flooding near the canals,
- Properly treated and reused sewage water from the facilities and circulate the treated water.

Though the entire machinery of Government is being geared up to address waste management, it may take few more months for the results to be visible. Anyway the Government is committed to solve the impasse in waste management sector.

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