

Joint Inspection Report on the complaint filed by Sri K.V.R. Siva Rama Prasad, Guntur on the Kolleru Lake in Complaint No. 2006/2022/B1.

The Collector & District Magistrate, Eluru District, Eluru has informed in Letter No. D7/e- 1871335/2021, dated: 06.07.2022 that the Hon'ble Lokayukta has forwarded a complaint filed by Sri K.V.R. Siva Ram Prasad, Guntur and directed to conduct confidential probe on the allegations of the petitioner and submit report before 11.07.2022 and also further informed that the petitioner alleging that due to construction of 3 main roads in Kolleru lake area drainage water got stagnated and agriculture lands were damaged and due to chemicals mixed with the lake water fishes, birds were dying and also alleged that from past 10 years onwards 20,000 hectares of Kolleru lake area was unauthorizedly occupied as aqua culture lands and directed to conduct Joint Enquiry and submit report in the matter.

In this connection, It is submitted that the Eluru Division consisting of 8 Mandals covered by Kolleru i.e., Bhimadole, Denduluru, Nidamarru, Pedapadu, Eluru, Unguturu, Mandavalli, Kaikaluru. The Government has also issued notification declaring the below +5 contour as Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary in G.O. Ms. No. 120 Environment, Forest, Science and Technology (For -III), dated: 05.10.1999 according to which the following extent of lands notified against the Mandals as noted below.

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	Area in Hec	In acres Ac, cts
1	Eluru	9560.00	23622.76
2	Unguturu	53.71	132.72
3	Pedapadu	315.72	780.14
4	Denduluru	234.23	578.78
5	Nidamarru	2735.30	6758.93
6	Bhimadole	8129.00	20086.76
7	Kaikaluru	4117.81	10175.11
8	Mandavalli	2943.81	7274.15
	Total	28089.58	69409.35

In this connection it is submitted that as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, during the year 2006 all encroachments and fish tanks within +5 contour (Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary) were demolished. Further, after demolition the land was handed over to the Forest Department by the Revenue Department in the year 2007 and the land (Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary) is

being protected by the Forest Department. However the Revenue Department has alerted the village Revenue Officers, who are field level functionaries at village level to be vigilant and when ever any information with regards to illegal digging of fish tanks is noticed in the Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary and the matter should be immediately brought to the notice of the Forest Authorities as well as Revenue Authorities and also taking appropriate steps to protect the interest of the birds in the Kolleru area.

Road Network in Kolleru Lake area:

The roads were constructed prior to GO.Ms.No.120 Environment, forest and Technology (For-III) dt.05.10.1999 by the ZP and PR departments and they were handed over to the R&B Department. R&B department maintaining the roads for traffic worthy and this department has not constructed any new roads in Kolleru area for the last 15 years, there is no obstruction for free flow of water at any point. Therefore the allegation of Sri K.V.R.Siva Rama Prasad, Guntur is far away from the truth.

Fisheries:

As per the G.O.Ms.No.120, dated 05.10.1999, Government issued notification all encroachments and fish tanks within +5 contour were demolished and the land was handed over to Forest Department. The Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary land is protected by the Forest Department. Hence the fisheries department has no authority in the below +5 contour area of Kolleru region.

Drains:

There are 113 nos of drains infalling in to Koller Lake in which 67nos of drains are notified drains and 46 nos of Non notified drains covered in 9 mandals. The Honble MLA of Ungutur constituency has represented to the Honble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for desiltation of drains below +5 contour. The representation was endorsed to Drainage Division Bhimavaram for necessary action. The forest officials permission is required for desiltation of drains below +5 contour because the area comes under bird sanctuary. Accordingly the Executive Engineer Drainage division Bhimavaram wrote letters to the Divisional Forest Officer Wild life Management Eluru to give permission for desiltation drains which are in falling in to Kolleru lake below +5 contour vide Lr.No.DB/DD/BVRM/TA-2/526DD Dated 31/3/2022 and Lr.No.EE/DD/BVRM/DB/TA-2/F Koller/675 DD dated 5/5/2022.

The Prl.Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF) and Prl.CCF(WL)&CWLW(FAC), AP, Guntur Rc No.19587/2012/WL-2,dated 11/6/2022 gave permission for desiltation of drains (16 Nos) below +5 contour in Kolleru lake with conditions. Mansoon was started when the permission received in their office. The work should be done in the dry spell only is one of the condition. The estimates will be prepared and submitted to the forest officials. In the year 2021 also forest officials permitted for 15 nos of drains for desiltation. 9 Nos of drains were desilted during the year 2021 The government will give funds for desiltation beyond +5 contour only. The Honble MLA is insisting for desiltation below +5 contour. Desiltation below +5 contour is to be done by local farmers only .The irrigation officials will prepare the estimates and submit to the forest officials. The forest officials will collect 4% of amount as security on estimates from the farmers those who are interested to execute the work. 2% will be refunded to the agency if the work done will be the standards of the forest officials.

Water Quality of Kolleru Lake:

The APPCB has been monitoring Kolleru lake regularly in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT Chennai orders in O.A.No.259 of 2020 (SZ) & O.A.No.2 of 2021 (SZ), the Chief Secretary, Govt of Andhra Pradesh filed a report before Hon'ble NGT, Chennai. The copy of the report is enclosed for ready reference.

APPCB has been monitoring water quality of Kolleru Lake, its inlet streams/drains and outlet of Kolleru. As per the analysis of Kolleru Lake Points, none of the parameters have crossed the drinking water standard limits.

Growth of water hyacinth within the lake portions indicate that the lake is enriched with plant nutrients like Nitrogen & Phosphorous. However, it is a good sign that lake water does not contain appreciable amount of toxic metal and the concentrations of metals are not exceeding the acceptable and permissible standard of drinking water (IS: 10500:2012).

Further, the lake water or the lake sediments does not contain the organocloro or organo phosphorous pesticide residues even in detectable concentrations. May be because of dilution affect and flushing out these contaminants through flooding during monsoon season.

The following recommendations have been submitted to improve and maintain the water quality of Kolleru lake Class A category of CPCB specified criteria for designated best use with the characteristics, pH between 6.5 and 8.5; dissolved oxygen 6.0 mg/lit or more BOD; 2.0 mg/lit or less and Total Coliform 50 MPN/100 ml or less:

- Municipal corporations, Vijayawada & Eluru and Municipality, Gudivada shall ensure that no domestic sewage or the municipal solid waste is discharged / dumped in the Budameru, East & West Tammileru rivulets and Chandrayya drain. These ULBs shall provide facilities for interception & diversion of entire domestic sewage and treatment. Only treated sewage shall either be disposed into the respective streams or shall be utilized for gardening or industrial purposes.
- Provision of treatment facilities for domestic sewage, domestic solid waste and construction & demolition waste in all the villages located in the vicinity of various inlet streams & drains and in the 122 bed & peripheral villages of Kolleru lake to ensure that only treated domestic sewage joins the lake.
- Provision of treatment facilities for the aqua culture pond effluents to ensure that only treated effluents only joins the Kolleru lake. Creation of awareness among the aquaculture formers on the use of feed and antibiotics to ensure prevention of excessive usage.
- To ensure no industrial effluent (treated or untreated) is discharged into the inlet streams & drains or into the lake.
- Continue to monitor water quality of all the inlet streams / drains, lake points and outlet for the characteristics including toxic metals and pesticide residues in future also.
- Creation of awareness among the farmers on the use of fertilizers and pesticides to ensure prevention of excessive use and usage of banned pesticides in the lake catchment. Inventorisation of pesticides (organo-chloro, organo-phosphorus, carbamates, etc.) and fertilizers used in the catchment of Kolleru lake.
- As there were allegations that the lake is subjected to encroachments, drawing of clear cut lake boundary on the field upto its +5 contour for identification of unauthorized encroachments of the Kolleru wildlife sanctuary and for identification of unauthorized establishments of aqua culture ponds and for their removal.

- The subject of improvement of water quality of Kolleru lake involves various Stakeholder Departments like, Municipal Administration & Urban Development (MA&UD), Panchyat Raj & Rural Development (PR&RD), Environment, Forest, Science & Technology (EFS&T), Fisheries and Agriculture. Hence, it is suggested to constitute a team with the officials from the above Stakeholder Departments to formulate action plan for improvement of water quality of the lake to Class 'A' level.

Further, submitted that all the applications for establishment of industries in 10 Km radius of Kolleru lake are rejected as per the Board Resolution No.1719 of 117th meeting dt.13.08.2007. The Board is not permitting the industries within 10 KM radius from +5 Contour of Kolleru WLS as per Board Memo No.353/APPCB/CFE/RO-ELR/HO/2019, dt.01.10.2019. It is submitted that Hon'ble NGT (SZ) is reviewing the issue of Kolleru Lake in respect of encroachments and pollution on periodical basis at State Level by involving all related Stake holders.

Forest Department:

Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary (upto +5ft contour):

Government have issued a draft preliminary notification declaring Kolleru as a Wildlife Sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.76, EFS&T (For.III) Dept, dated 25.09.1995. The Govt. have issued final notification of the sanctuary vide G.O.Ms.No.120, EFS&T (For.III) Dept, dated 04.10.1999. The Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary spread over 9 Mandals, i.e., 7 Mandals in West Godavari and 2 Mandals in Krishna District with an extent of 30,855.20 ha or 77,138 acres upto +5 feet contour MSL. Out of this 14861.33 Acres is privately owned patta lands.

(i) Operation Kolleru: 2006:

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, under "Operation Kolleru" totally, 1776 tanks (1140 in West Godavari +636 in Krishna District) covering an area of about 43,724 acres (28,949 acres in West Godavari +15,775 acres in Krishna) have been demolished in Kolleru wildlife sanctuary upto + 5 contour. The demolition work has been taken up and completed by 15.06.2006 as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court and CEC. The demolition was carried out by the revenue department under the supervision of District Collectors.

After completion of the "Operation Kolleru" in 2006, the revenue department from both the district consolidated the lands falling up to +5 feet contour MSL and handed over to forest department for management. The Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is in the administrative control of Wildlife Management Division, Eluru.

There is a lot of pressure from local villagers to carry out aquaculture activities and number of complex issues involved from paying compensation to downsizing the sanctuary boundary. All efforts are being taken in protecting the sanctuary area despite all hurdles. So far registered 554 cases related to encroachment in all the categories of the and since 2006-07 and the cases are under trial in various courts. Details are enclosed for ready reference.

(ii) Management of Sanctuary area:

The sanctuary area is generally managed based on the prescriptions provided in the approved management plan. The present management plan for Kolleru WLS is being prepared by involving BNHS, Mumbai and it is under progress. The previous Integrated Management Plan for Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary prepared by WISA (Wetland International-South Asia):2008 for a period of 5 years under an assignment from Forest Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Forest department is implementing various activities through state and central schemes. The main activities implemented broadly in the sanctuary area are Protection, wildlife habitat improvement, ecotourism, development of bird congregation sites, infrastructure development etc. Overall, an amount of Rs.30 crores (approx) have been spent in the sanctuary area from 2006-07 to 2020-21. Some of the important state and central schemes being implemented currently in the sanctuary are CAMPA, Bio SAP, 04-Sanctuaries, 06-Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes - Conservation of Natural Resources & Aquatic Ecosystem etc.,

The Important activities being taken by Forest Department in the sanctuary area are 1) Protection 2) Habitat improvement 3) Research and Monitoring 4)Eco Tourism 5)Awareness Creation. As regards protection Establishment of base camps, strike force, check post for regular patrolling, collecting intelligence, preventing encroachment activities, checking vehicle movement that carry fertilizers, chemicals and fish feed into sanctuary area recently 5 base camps, 1 strike force and 5 check posts are functioning from various locations in the sanctuary area.

(iii) Bird Population in the lake area:

It is an important habitat for resident and migratory water birds and over 250 species are reported in this region. As the estimate available with Forest department through Asian Water Bird census conducted every year and the Kolleru Lake basin supports more than 4.0 lakhs birds in recent past. Presently it harbors 50 % of the South Asian population and over 30% of the global population of Spot-billed Pelicans which is a remarkable increase in number of particular important species after declaration of Sanctuary. As alleged in the compliant no large-scale death of birds or fishes observed in this place and the present water quality of the lake is suitable for wildlife propagation.

Conclusion:

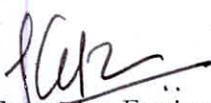
It is submitted that, Kolleru Lake is an important wetland in Andhra Pradesh and it has been historically managed for capture fisheries and traditional agriculture by the communities living in and around. Out of the total area of the lake which is up to 10 feet MSL contour (Ac. 225250) only up to +5 feet MSL contour (Ac. 77138) have been declared as wildlife sanctuary in the year 1999. After "Operation Kolleru -2006" the sanctuary lands were consolidated by the revenue department of both the districts and handed over to forest department. Since then, forest department is managing the sanctuary effectively despite all hurdles, the seasonal encroachments in the area mostly for aquaculture have been tackled by registering offence cases, demolishing the bunds, village level awareness programme etc. All the district level departments related to Kolleru lake management are putting their best possible efforts to protect and conserve the lake area.

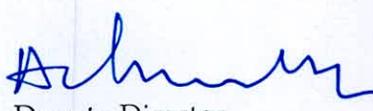

Revenue Divisional Officer,
Revenue Divisional Officer
Eluru


Divisional Forest Officer,
Wild Life Management, Eluru


Executive Engineer
R& B, Eluru.


Executive Engineer,
(Drains), Eluru.


Executive Engineer,
Pollution Board, Eluru.
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
A.P.P.C.B., R.O., ELURU


Deputy Director
Fisheries, Eluru.

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