

TIME BOUND

Ministry of Defence  
D(Q&C)

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**Sub: OA No. 451/2019 Air Marshal Anil Chopra in National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi – Regarding.**

Reference D(CMU) Dy No. 3356/D(CMU)/2019 dated 26.12.2019 & MoD ID of even No. dated 18.02.2020 & 25.02.2020 on the subject matter.

2. NGT vide its order dated 05.12.2019 has sought status report on the following subjects raised by Air Marshal Anil Chopra in his application dated 07.05.2019:

- (i) Environment Issues and Waste Management vis-a-vis Armed Forces
- (ii) Siachen Glacier Ecological Issued, and
- (iii) Cantonment and Military Stations.

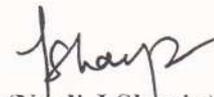
3. Status report on the issue of “Cantonment and Military Stations” pertaining to JS(Lands) Wing is forwarded herewith for compilation alongwith other two issues and submission of combined report alongwith condonation of delay on the matter to NGT before next date of hearing i.e. **02.03.2020**.

4. With regard to delay in submission of requisite inputs in the subject matter, the following para may be inserted in the combined report to be prepared at your end and submitted to NGT:

*“There was no intention to dishonour/disobey the compliance of orders of NGT. However, it is submitted that subsequent to creation of post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a new Department i.e. Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was created recently in the Ministry and thereafter the process of allocation of work & staff between the two departments i.e. DoD & DMA was undertaken which was huge and time-taking. Officers at various levels & subordinate Staff are being reshuffled and new work allocation is being made. The entire exercise is still in progress and would settle down soon. Due to this, there was a gap in coordination of inputs/status report pertaining to different establishments in the Ministry. With regard to non-filing of inputs pertaining to Cantonment and Military Stations, it is submitted that collection of data from lower formations i.e. all 62 Cantonment Boards & 237 Military Stations through Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) & Army Headquarters (AHQ) and its compilation in the Ministry was a time-taking process. Non-filing of status report within the stipulated time was unintentional and the delay caused may be kindly be condoned.*

*This has the approval of Defence Secretary”*

5. It is requested that the combined status report on behalf of Ministry may be filed in NGT before 02.03.2020 i.e. next date of hearing.



(Nazli J Shayin)

Joint Secretary (Lands)

JS(Army), DMA

MoD ID No. 0001/2020-D(Q&C) dated 26.02.2020

Copy to:

NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi – For information w.r.t email dated 13.02.2020  
D(CMU): For information.

## Status Report on environmental norms in “Cantonments and Military Stations”

With regard to NGT directions to file status of compliance of environmental norms from different concerned establishments, it is respectfully submitted that there are 62 Cantonments across the country which are under overall administrative control of Ministry of Defence. They are governed by the Cantonments Act, 2006. Cantonment Boards are deemed municipalities under Clause (e) of Article 243 P of the Constitution of India. These Boards provide municipal services and undertake various developmental and welfare activities. As per Census of 2011, there are more than 20 lakh residents spread over 62 Cantonments.

a) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change in the Government of India has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per Clause (e) of rule 15 of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the local authorities are duty bound to frame bye-laws within one year from the date of notification of the said Rules. Based on the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of Gauri Grover Vs Government of NCT of Delhi in WP (C) No. 8917 of 2015, a committee comprising of all local bodies to frame rules so that there is uniformity in the prescription for different parts of the city i.e. Delhi. In pursuance of the said directions of the Hon'ble High Court, as per the provisions under the said Act and the rules made there under, Bye-Laws relating to Solid Waste Management by various local bodies of Delhi were notified. However, on the request by the Delhi Cantonment Board, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its order dated 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 allowed the Delhi Cantonment Board to follow the procedure of notification of bye-laws as provided under the Cantonments Act, 2006.

Subsequently, Delhi Cantonment Board have prepared the draft Solid Waste Management Bye-Laws for Delhi Cantonment Board after joint deliberations with Government of NCT of Delhi and in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. These draft Bye-Laws were examined in the Ministry of Defence and sent to Ministry of Law & Justice for legal vetting. Subsequent to vetting process, objections/suggestions from the public would be invited on the draft notification. After consideration of these objections/suggestions, final draft would be notified in the Official Gazette.

In the meantime, in a meeting taken by Joint Secretary (Land & Works) on 21.11.2019 with the concerned stakeholders, it was decided to forward the draft Solid Waste Management Bye-Laws in respect of Delhi Cantonment Board to the remaining Cantonment Boards as a model and further action for implementation in a time bound manner. In this regard, Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) has issued necessary directions to all the Cantonment Boards for taking similar action. To expedite the implementation of these Bye-Laws in all the Cantonment Boards, Ministry of Defence has also issued necessary instructions to DGDE.

Further, as per the reports received from the lower formations, the Cantonment Boards have implemented door-to-door garbage collections and disposal of domestic waste in one form or the other, in compliance with SWM Rules. Further, ponds and water bodies are also cleaned as special cleanliness measure. Personal protection Equipments have been provided to all the Conservancy Staff. All the 62 Cantonment Boards have already been certified as Open Defection Free (ODF) area by Ministry of Housing & urban Affairs (MoHUA) and are sustaining the ODF status. Polythene bag use is banned in all the Cantonments. All the Cantonment Boards are conducting awareness campaigns etc against single use plastic. Tree plantation in large number is done by Cantonment Boards to increase green belt. Measures for conservation of water, such as digging of pits for rain water harvesting and roof top rain water harvesting have also been taken up by the Cantonment Boards. As far as liquid waste/sewage is concerned, most of the Cantonment Boards are disposing of the same into the septic tank/soak pits. The Bio-medical waste generated from the Cantonment Board Hospitals is disposed off as per the BMS Rules 2016. There is no industrial waste in the Cantonments. Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) projects in Pune & Deolali Cantonments have been completed and are ongoing in Jhansi, Wellington and Lucknow. Other Cantonments are also preparing DPRs for the STPs.

From the perusal of reports of the Cantonment Boards concerned, it is seen that the Cantonment Boards are taking necessary action as per the Rules, for keeping Cantonment areas, environment friendly, healthy and clean for its residents. As informed above, Cantonment Boards are in the process of framing Solid Waste Management Bye-Laws.

(b) The regulations for waste disposal laid out by Ministry of Urban Development has been promulgated by Indian Army to all implementing agencies. The ongoing initiatives in Cantonments/ Military Stations are as under:-

(i) **Garbage Management in Cantonments**. Initially as a test bed project, waste segregation and composting unit was set up and successfully implemented in Wellington Military Station. Now Waste Segregation System, incorporating separation and collection of recyclable plastics, metal and paper & composting of organic waste has been in practice in most of Cantonments.

(ii) **Modern Technology to Create Energy out of Waste**. A pilot project of creating electricity from waste is under implementation by Delhi Cantt Board under Dept of Defence Estate. This will facilitate quick disposal of waste and also generation of electricity.

(iii) **Plasma Technology for Waste Disposal**. A study is underway to analyse Plasma Technology for waste disposal which has been innovated by Indian Institute of Plasma Research Ahmedabad. This technology is under trial and is likely to be implemented across the country.

(iv) **Waste Converted Into Vermi Compost**. The Madras Regimental Center at Wellington has set up a unit where in the biodegradable waste is being converted into vermicompost. These plants are being replicated in various Military Stations and Cantonments across the country.

(c) **Waste Management in High Altitude Areas**. In High Altitude Areas of North and East, Indian Army has undertaken large number of initiatives to manage the waste generated at various altitudes. Some of initiatives in Leh and Ladakh undertaken by local formations are as under:-

(i) Realistic appreciation of waste accumulation at various posts/ bases.

(ii) Segregation of waste into three different categories.

(iii) In situ disposal of waste at posts.

(iv) In situ disposal of waste through conversion of unserviceable barrels into incinerator and bio digesters where feasible/ disposal of waste at

designated mother central collection point. As trial measures, Bio Digestors for disposal of human excreta have been installed in selected posts in Siachen Glacier and Transit Camp at Leh, Patseo, Karu, Sarchoo, Pang and Partapur. Same are now being replicated at all posts.

(v) Retrieval of maximum non bio degradable waste and backload through Animal transport, porters, civil ponies and troops being de inducted.

(vi) Infusion of latest technologies like:-

(aa) **Packaging.** The use of extra strong jute packaging material instead of plastic and provision of tetra and refill packs for rations have reduced and restricted accumulation of plastic. The replacement of metallic barrels and jericans with reinforced HDPE barrels/ Jericans, has helped in retrieval of waste since these packing materials are lighter in weight.

(ab) **Bio Digestors.** DRDE, Gwalior has developed an innovative technology for disposal of human waste in eco friendly manner at locations where temperature drops to  $-40^{\circ}$  C or lower. Presently 60 such units are operational in Siachen as well other locations. More such bio digesters with better efficiency are being issued to all posts in HAA.

(d) The waste management in high altitude is a problem due to temperature as these places do not lend to fast degradation/ degeneration of refuse and garbage thus a comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the formations under command, these guidelines are governed by principal of "Waste Minimisation" "Collection of Waste" and "Treatment and Disposal of waste".

(e). **Earmarking Areas of Land Fill.** Each Military Stations / Cantonments or posts located in the forward areas have earmarked one central place for landfills where non bio-degradable waste can be dumped. The collected non bio-degradable waste is further being disposed off to central composting facilities in rear as near as possible.

(f). **Monitoring Committee for Waste Material.** The Waste Management Cell (WMC) has been established in every station under the agies of Station HQ, with rep from each Major unit of the station.

(g). **Stations Health Organisation.** Every Army station has a Station Health Organisation with qualified doctors to manage Hygiene and Sanitations in area of responsibility. This is a unique unit which ensures that waste is managed scientifically and the complete station is kept environmentally fit for population. Therefore the petitioner lacks knowledge and information of Army Stations which are actually models for surrounding municipalities as far as management of waste is concerned.

(h). **Swatachhta Pakhwada.** It is to mention that Swachhta Pakhwada under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is being organized regularly by Indian Army on Voluntarily basis across all Military Stations/ Cantonments and in the forward located posts, wherein the inhabitants of the Area are being educated and being made self motivated to inculcate a habit of self discipline in maintaining the surroundings. Further Cantts and Military Stations are the most clean parts of any town and constant efforts are being made to maintain these. As a policy and routine, it is enforced in all Military Stations that least amount of waste is generated and rganized efforts are made to ensure hygiene, sanitation, cleanliness and effective waste management.

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