

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 68/2021 (WZ)

IN THE MATTER OF: -

VANSHAKTI & ANR.

APPLICANT

VERSUS

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OF GREATER MUMBAI &
ORS.**

RESPONDENT(S)

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Place : Pune

Date : 11.01.2022



(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Regional Director
Central Pollution Control Board
Regional Directorate, Pune

भारत कुमार शर्मा/Bharat Kumar Sharma
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पुणे/Regional Directorate, Pune
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Min. of Env't, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India
पो बॉक्स नंबर-1, संजीवनी निवास, बालेवाडी, पुणे-411045
Horse No.-1, Sanjivani Nisarg, Balewadi, Pune-411045

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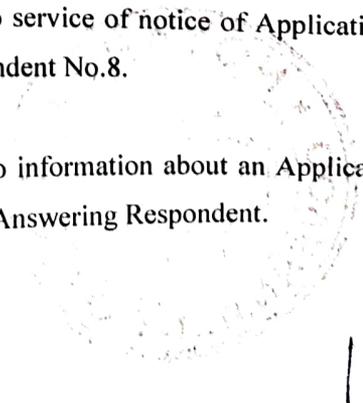
Reply Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 8, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

I, Shri Bharat Kumar Sharma S/o Shri. D.P Vishwakarma aged 48 years, and having office at Regional Directorate (Pune), Central Pollution Control Board, Hirabi Dhankude Hall, Survey No. 110, Baner Road, Pune – 411045, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under;

That I am presently working as Scientist 'F' & Regional Director, Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Pune. I am fully conversant with the facts of the case and hence, competent and authorized to depose and swear the present Reply Affidavit as under:

1. That the averments made in Paras 1 & 2 pertains to service of notice of Application and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent No.8.
2. That the averments made in Paras 3 & 4 pertains to information about an Applicant and Respondents and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.

Signature of Shri Bharat Kumar Sharma
Regional Director
Central Pollution Control Board
Regional Directorate, Pune





That the averments made in Paras 5 to 7 pertains to continuing rise of pollution levels in Powai lake due to discharge of unwanted effluents and sewage directly into the lake and illegal actions of Respondent Authorities in carrying out reclamation of Powai lake for the construction of a cycling and jogging track, that includes laying tar road, cutting trees and dumping debris, in and around Powai Lake ecosystem, which is an ecologically fragile Wetland and is home to various Schedule - I species under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. These averments attract no comments from this Answering Respondent.

4. That the averments made in Para 8 pertains to actions taken by Respondent Nos. 1 and 2 to construct a cycling and jogging track inside the boundaries of the lake. These averments are against Respondent No. 1 & 2 and that this Answering Respondent is not aware of the construction activities relating to cycling & Jogging track inside the boundaries of Powai Lake and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
5. That the averments made in Paras 9 to 16 pertains to the report of IIT, Bombay, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai about ecosystem of Powai Lake, Diversity and Distribution of Macrophytes in Powai Lake respectively, about the presence of protected area-Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Report of World Wildlife Fund entitled 'Study of Biodiversity of IIT Bombay Campus', are mere statement of facts, and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
6. That the averments made in Paras 17-19 refers that the Powai Lake is facing massive deterioration due to pollution due to sewage disposal from surrounding residences, encroachments and industries and has reached a critical stage. Also, about the report of NMCG entitled 'Urban Wetlands/Waterbodies Management Guidelines, 2021' which indicate that 40 % of Powai Lake has been disappeared, eutrophication of Powai Lake due to discharge of phosphorous containing detergents, immersion of thousands of Ganesh Idols made of Plaster of Paris during Ganesh Festival every year which has led to heavy siltation and reduction in depth of the lake, growth of water hyacinth, weed, which are mere statement of facts.

It is pertinent to mention here that CPCB has prepared and issued "Guidelines for Idol Immersion, 2010" and circulated to all the stakeholders for ensuring its implementation in compliance to Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai orders in Public Interest Litigation (PIL) / W.P.(C) No. 1325/2003 in the matter of Janhit Manch Vs. The State of Maharashtra & Ors. These guidelines have been prepared with a view to ensure environmental friendly idol immersion with use of bio-degradable or compostable worship material without affecting the quality of water bodies while ensuring religious observance. Subsequently, in view of several developments took place over the years in terms of making idols etc., CPCB has revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion (as on 12.05.2020) that are also available on CPCB website at (<https://cpcb.nic.in/guidelines-wqm/>). As per the guidelines,

- (i) As far as possible idol immersion in Rivers/Ponds/Lakes shall be encouraged only at specific designated artificial confined tanks/ponds with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner, on the banks shall be promoted.
- (ii) A temporary artificial tank or pond with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner (HDPE), and having earthen bunds on the bank of the river/lake/pond shall be created for Idol Immersion by the concerned ULBs. Temporary artificial tank or pond. In case of immersion of idols in rivers, lakes or ponds is inevitable, a designated location (having proper approach, access, corner portion of a river/pond/lake, having shallow depth of water in river or lakes or ponds) should be identified and safety provision preferably steel or wooden barricades shall be made by concerned ULBs.
- (iii) All the flowers, leaves and artificial ornaments of idols should be removed prior to immersion of idols and only such idols may be immersed in a designated place provided with safety provisions.
- (iv) Lime or alum or any other equivalent coagulant should be added in designated temporary lined pond/tank as pre-treatment option for ensuring settling of solids. After completion of immersion, only supernatant water may be allowed to flow into river/pond/lake, as the case may be, after checking for colour and turbidity as per BIS specification for Drinking Water IS 10500:2012.
- (v) Post immersion, with remains of idols and activities such as desludging of the designated area should be undertaken and ensured its disposal as per Solid Waste



Management Rules 2016 as amended thereafter, within 24 hours by the concerned ULBs, as per these guidelines.

7. That the averments made in Paras 20-21 pertains to decline in DO level and water quality of Powai Lake, which has been less than the minimum legal standards, to which this Answering Respondent submits that under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP), this answering respondent No. 8 i.e., Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is not monitoring Powai Lake located in Mumbai and hence latest water quality data is not available with CPCB. However, as per joint monitoring carried out by then RD, CPCB, Vadodara and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) on 18.04.2017, water quality of Powai Lake as observed by the joint monitoring team are detailed below:-

Based on the Analysis Results: Water quality of Powai Lake:

- a. The Physico- chemical and microbiological characteristics of water samples of lake shows that the measured pH value was ranging from 8.2 to 8.7 and the conductivity was ranging from 320.5 to 344.2 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, which indicate the presence of normal range of dissolved solids in ionized form.
- b. The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) were ranging from 0.0 mg/l to 5.4 mg/l, TDS was ranging from 308 mg/l to 328 mg/l, COD were ranging from 96 mg/l to 496 mg/l and the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) were ranging from 7 mg/l to 150 mg/l. The results are indicating that there is organic contamination in the lake.
- c. Other parameters measured were Total hardness, Chlorides, Sulfates, Alkalinity, Ammonia; Fluoride etc. are also present. The values were higher and water quality was poor. The reasons for the poor quality of water may be attributed huge discharge of sewage from surrounding population, immersion of Idols during festivals and other anthropogenic activities.
- d. The water of the Lake is not being used for any purpose other than recreation. If compared with standard limit of use category. The water of the lake is fit for only irrigation.

e. The microbiological characteristics of water samples of lake reveals that the measured Total Coliform values were ranging from 11 MPN/100ml to >1600 MPN/100ml and the Faecal-Coliform values were ranging from 1600 MPN/100ml, which indicate the presence of Total and Faecal Coliform may be due to the wastewater coming from drains.

A copy of the detailed assessment report is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure R8-I.**

8. That the averments made in Para 22 pertains to shrinkage of water spread area of the lake due to pollution, to which this Answering Respondent offers no comments.
9. That the averments made in Para 23 pertains to the suggestions made by Applicant for removal of water hyacinth in phased manner for revival of lake. This Answering Respondent submits that CPCB prepared Indicative Guidelines for Restoration of Water Bodies including both stagnant water bodies & rivers and circulated to all States/ UTs including Maharashtra State so that it can be used as a reference for preparation of action plans for restoration of water bodies in respective States/UTs in compliance to Hon'ble NGT orders in O. A. No 325/2015 titled as Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs UOI & Ors.
10. That the averments made in Para 24 wherein Applicant refers to 2018 study on the fisheries of the lake, conducted by Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
11. That the averments made in Para 25 wherein Applicant refers to study conducted by Dr. Salaskar, a researcher regarding reduction in number of crocodiles in the lake. This Answering Respondent is not part of the said study and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
12. That the averments made in Para 26 wherein Applicant refers to 2015 study on Powai Lake undertaken by national and international researchers stating that the assimilative capacity of Powai Lake for various pollutants has been affected due to the decreased area in recent years which is a result of urbanisation and construction activities



Respondent.

13. That the averments made in Para 27 & 28 wherein Applicant refers to 2017 paper presented by Dr. Pramod Salaskar, an expert at Powai Lake conservation, at the 16th World Lake Conference entitled "*Strategy for Conservation and Management of Urban Lakes in Mumbai*" and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
14. That the averments made in Para 29 to 36 pertains to submission of Applicant that Powai Lake was included in National Lake Conservation Plan (hereinafter referred as 'NLCP') by MoEF&CC and restoration work was undertaken after DPR prepared by MoEF&CC, sanctioning of Rs.6.62 Crore to the Respondent No.1 (MCGM) for implementation of the schemes on priority. After audit report of CAG of India for the period July 2010 to February 2011, merging of NLCP with National Wetland Conservation Programme later became a unified scheme called National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) in February 2013 as provided in the Standing Committee on Water Resources Report dated 26.06.2016. Guidelines for the Conservation of Aquatic Eco-system, 2019, applicable for all the water bodies, lakes and wetlands either artificial or permanent. CPCB has no information relating to NLCP as the issue now falls under the purview of Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)
15. That the averments made in Para 37 to 39 pertains to revival plan of Powai Lake by desilting, planting of trees and clearing hyacinths undertook by Municipal Corporation to revive Powai Lake, and reply to an RTI application relating to the work of removing hyacinth carried out between 01.10.2015 to 10.6.2018. This is beyond the knowledge of this Answering Respondent and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
16. That the averments made in Para 40 to 46 pertains to samples collected by the Applicant on 03.09.2021 and 16.09.2021 from 5 different areas of Powai lake, Desingated Best Use Water Quality Criteria prescribed by CPCB, non-compliance to the DBU criteria by the samples collected by the applicant in the afore-said dates and their analysis results indicating organic pollution. CPCB is not aware about the sampling carried out by the applicant. Also, CPCB is not monitoring Powai Lake



- encroaching into Powai lake's boundaries and no comments from this Answering Respondent.
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located in Mumbai through MPCB under NWMP and hence latest water quality data is not available with CPCB.

17. That with respect to the averments made in Paras 47 & 48, this Answering Respondent submits as follows :

Vide Orders passed by Hon'ble NGT, PB, New Delhi in O. A. No 325 of 2015, M.A. No 26/2019 in O.A. No. 325/2015 titled as Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs UoI & Ors thereby directed all the States and UTs to review the existing framework of restoration of all the water bodies by preparing an appropriate action plan.

Information received from Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as 'MPCB') regarding restoration of stagnant waterbodies vide e-mail dated 31.03.2020 is detailed below:

Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board vide e-mail dated 31.03.2020 informed that in order to revive, restore and rehabilitate the traditional water bodies, the Government of India launched a Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies, under which funds were made available for irrigation. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) since February, 2013 for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country in a holistic and integrated manner. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for undertaking various activities for conservation of wetlands and lakes, which also include a small component of lake front development and beautification, especially in urban lakes.

Further, informed that Maharashtra State has identified 354 water bodies including ponds, lakes, dams, reservoirs etc. and all the water bodies are government owned. Geo-tagging is yet to be done. These lakes and ponds are used for a variety of purposes like irrigation, pisciculture, drinking and in some cases for household activities also. But due to its continuous use and in some cases, especially in urban areas, dumping of debris, the quality of the ponds and lakes has deteriorated. There has also been a shrinking of size due to encroachments and construction purposes. A

framework has been developed categorizing by the level of interventions required for prioritization

Action plan for restoration of stagnant water bodies includes:

- **Recognition of water bodies-** In this phase, the information like name of the lake/pond, location, address (Khasra No./ Plot No./ Survey No. in which the water body is located), Latitude and Longitude and all geographical data is identified using Google Maps, MRSAC (geo-mapping) and secondary data. This data is also acquired with reference to the toposheets and the data received from the 383 Urban Local Bodies (hereinafter referred as 'ULBs'). The location of each lake is marked on the toposheets with the help of GIS software as well as marked on Google Earth. By analysis of the data is found out that there are more than 350 lakes in Maharashtra state however only those falling in territory of Urban Local bodies are considered in this study. The data has been received from 103 Urban Local Bodies for total 91 lakes/ water bodies. Most of the ULBs don't have any water body pertaining to their jurisdiction. The identified lakes/ponds/ water bodies are marked on Google Map. MPCB has collected geographical details, hydrological description and catchment description of the water bodies from ULBs. The total number of water bodies in the state is around 354 including ponds, lakes, dams, reservoirs etc.
- **Restoration of water bodies-** Based on the data received from Urban Local bodies regarding water bodies for required parameter of 'designated best use' MPCB has formulated different strategies for restoration of these water bodies as per its feasible implementation. The proposed River/Lake/Water Bodies restoration frame work for Maharashtra shall consist of following steps:
 - ✓ Building environment and setting up restoration team,
 - ✓ Preparation of Restoration plan / Detailed Project Report for individual water body,
 - ✓ Feasibility of Treatment,
 - ✓ Monitoring to review timely progress, effectiveness of the projects and maintenance,
 - ✓ Identification of other associated issues which requires attention as a part of restoration of pond or lake,
 - ✓ Protection of restored water bodies.

The Measures proposed are creation of Buffer Zone, control of liquid waste, control of solid waste, de-silting and dredging, slope stabilization and also other techniques include-Introducing aquatic animals and plants that eat or compete with waterweeds shall be done, Removal of encroachments in the drainage channels shall be carried out periodically to facilitates enhancement in aeration naturally in the water body, Provision of properly designed 'spill way' with a provision of controlled gates shall be done for smooth flow of excess water or run off during monsoon and to control flood situation. Removal all blockades at inlet or outlets shall be done to avoid stagnation or blockage of storm water.

- Improvement of restored water bodies includes adoption of In-situ techniques for remediation of ponds or lakes, Physical treatment approaches, Chemical treatment approaches, In-situ techniques by development of Ecosystem in the Moat, using biological techniques; constructing a Healthy Food Web in the core lake, Green or Buffer Zone, Lake front area development.
- Sustenance of rejuvenated water bodies includes revenue generating activities, maintenance, generating public awareness and sensitization, lake monitoring program, landscape management and encouraging participation of local public.

Action taken report of Maharashtra State is also referred in CPCB website at https://cpcb.nic.in/NGTMC/Report_325_3.pdf. Maharashtra State is required to take action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies including Powai Lake in compliance of the Order passed by Hon'ble NGT in O.A No. 325 of 2015 titled as Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs Union of India & Ors.

The progress made by Maharashtra State Govt. is presently being reviewed by Central Monitoring Committee constituted by Hon'ble NGT under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti at Centre. Maharashtra State Government yet to designate the nodal department for taking action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies in the State.



18. That the averments made in Paras 49-53 pertains to Glyphosate, an agricultural herbicide dispersed by MCGM on Water Hyacinth of the lake in anticipation to clear space for idol immersion in the lake, negative impacts of Glyphosate elaborated in a 2013 report was funded by the European Commission, likely threat posed in Powai Lake due to use of Glyphosate, notice issued to MCGM (Respondent No.1) by MPCB (Respondent No.4). Glyphosate is not a prohibited pesticide or herbicide in the country. Issues does not pertain to this Answering Respondent and the comments for the same need to be suitably replied by concerned Respondents and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
19. That the averments made in Paras 54 & 55 pertains to construction of a 10 km cycle and jogging track in and around Powai Lake by the Respondent No. 1 and the multiple representations on 19.08.2021 and 23.08.2021 to the respondent authorities by the applicant. Hence, no comments as this issue does not fall under the work domain of this Answering Respondent.
20. That the averments made in Paras 56 to 62 refers to Powai Lake which has been inventoried and mapped as a Wetland under the National Wetlands Atlas prepared by Satellite Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad for the MoEF&CC, Hon'ble Supreme Court in MK. Balakrishnan & Ors. vis Union of India & Ors. W.P. (Civil) No. 230 of 2001 (hereinafter "MK. Balakrishnan"), has recognised the need for conservation of lakes, ponds and wetlands in the country and the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 26.03.2009 suo-motu expanded the scope of the matter to include the issue of water shortage in the country, Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Bombay passed on 14.10.2013 directing that no reclamation and any kind of construction shall be allowed in Wetlands areas as identified and covered under the Wetland Atlas prepared by the Central Government without the leave of the Court. That the above position was further reiterated by the Hon 'ble High Court of Bombay, in its subsequent orders dated 09.12.2013 and 15.01.2020, failure of Respondent No. 1 for reclamation of Powai Lake Wetland and also not complied to the activities prohibited under Rule 4 of Wetlands Rules, 2010 and allowing illegal works of the cycling track inside Powai Lake without any heed and restoration of Powai Lake Wetlands to its original position. No comments to offer by this Answering Respondent as it is the responsivity of all the concerned authorities to comply to the directions passed by the Hon'ble

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Courts. Maharashtra State Government is required to take necessary action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies including Powai Lake in compliance to Hon'ble NGT orders passed in OA No. 325 of 2015 in the matter of Lt.Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs Union of India & Ors.

21. That the averments made in Para 63 relates to short-term suggestions for restoration and conservation of Powai Lake, made by the Applicant. It is pertinent to mention here that the Maharashtra State is required to take action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies including Powai Lake in compliance to various order passed by the Hon'ble Courts including Hon'ble NGT orders passed in OA No. 325 of 2015 in the matter of Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs Union of India & Ors. The progress made by Maharashtra State Govt. is presently being reviewed by Central Monitoring Committee constituted by Hon'ble NGT under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Maharashtra State Government yet to designate the nodal department for taking action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies in the Maharashtra State.
22. That with respect to averments made in Para 64(A) which pertains to collection of samples by the Applicant and their analysis results indicating organic pollution. This Answering Respondent submits that CPCB is not monitoring Powai Lake located in Mumbai under NWMP and hence no water quality data is available with CPCB.
23. That the averments made in Para 64 (B) & (C), pertains to Order and directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court and Bombay High Court for prohibition under Rule 4 of The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to all wetlands covered in the National Wetlands Atlas. This is a matter of court records and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
24. That the averments made in Para 64 (D) to (H) pertains to violation of environmental laws and construction of the cycling track inside Powai Lake, and hence attracts no comments from this Answering Respondent.
25. That the averments made in Para 64 (I) pertains to restoration of lake as recommended by the Central Government, to which this Answering Respondent submits that CPCB

prepared Indicative Guidelines for Restoration of Water Bodies including both stagnant water bodies & rivers and circulated to all States/ UTs including Maharashtra State so that it can be used as a reference for preparation of action plans for restoration of water bodies in respective States/UTs in compliance to Hon'ble NGT orders in O. A. No 325/2015 in the matter of Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs UOI & Ors.

Maharashtra State Government organizations are required to take action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies including Powai Lake in compliance to Hon'ble NGT orders passed in OA No. 325 of 2015 in the matter of Lt.Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs Union of India & Ors.

26. That the averments made in Para 64 (J) pertains to "Advisory on Conservation and Restoration of Water Bodies in Urban Areas" by the Ministry of Urban Development and its effects of reclamation, urbanization and industrialization of lakes and its catchment areas and hence no comments from this Answering Respondent.
27. That the averments made in Para 65-66 pertains to legal right of Applicant to the present application and hence requires no comments from this Answering Respondent.
28. That the averments made in Paras 67 - 68 pertains to limitation and entitlement to file the present O.A under Section 14 of NGT Act, 2010, requires no comments from this Answering Respondent.
29. That the averments made in Para 69 pertains to Prayers and this Answering Respondent submits that Powai Lake is an artificial lake, situated in Mumbai, in the Powai valley, where a Powai village with a cluster of huts existed. The city suburb called Powai shares its name with the lake. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay is located to the east of the lake. National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), is also located close to the lake. Housing complexes and plush hotels are developed all around the lake periphery. Population around the lake has thus substantially increased over the years. Powai Lake is located downstream of the Vihar Lake on the Mithi River. When it was built, the lake had an area of about 2.1 square kilometres (520

acres) and the depth varied from about 3 metres (9.8 ft) (at the periphery) to 12 metres (39 ft) at its deepest. The Powai Lake has gone through many stages of water quality degradation in view of the human interventions. The lake water which used to supply drinking water for Mumbai earlier has now been declared unfit to drink.

The Maharashtra State is required to take action for restoration of polluted stagnant water bodies including Powai Lake in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC)/ Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) in the Central Government or Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and in compliance to various order passed by the Hon'ble Courts including Hon'ble NGT orders passed in OA No. 325 of 2015 in the matter of Lt.Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs Union of India & Ors.

That in light of the above submissions, it is respectfully prayed that this Answering Respondent No.8 i.e. CPCB, shall abide by any Order or directions passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal



DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, Shri. Bharat Kumar Sharma, working as Scientist 'F' & Regional Director, Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, Pune, the Respondent no. 8 herein, do hereby declare that, the contents of this Reply Affidavit which is based on official record and information available in the office are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Verified at Pune on this the 11th day of January, 2022.

Noted & Registered
At.Sr.No. 37/2022

Deponent- Respondent No.8

BEFORE ME

MANISHA SAMEER CHITNIS
NOTARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

11 JAN 2022 13



A REPORT ON VISIT TO POWAI LAKE MUMBAI

1. Introduction:

Dr. Kirit Somaiya, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (MP) had a meeting with Chairman CPCB on 09.08.2016 and raised issues mentioned below. The Chairman CPCB had directed that Zonal officer, along with a senior colleague of Zonal office, Vadodara to visit the areas and also interact with the Hon'ble Member of Parliament (MP). Accordingly, Regional Director Shri. B. R. Naidu and Shri. Shashikant Lokhande, Scientist 'D' from RD (West) visited Powai Lake on 11.08.2016 along with representatives of Member of Parliament, officials of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and officials of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and interacted. The brief visit report was submitted to CPCB, Delhi on 24/08/2016. In continuation to that visit as requested by Head Office vide letter no. 23583 dated 23/02/2017 a monitoring team of officials of CPCB, MPCB and MCGM was formed and monitoring was scheduled on 18/04/2017. As per the schedule of monitoring Shri. Shashikant Lokhande, Scientist 'D' and Shr. Sushil Kumar Agrahari, JRF from Regional Directorate, West Zone office of CPCB visited Powai Lake on 18/04/2017 along with officials of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and officials of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). Hon'ble Member of Parliament Dr. Kirit Somaiyaji had also joined the monitoring team at about 12.15 PM while collecting sample at gate no. 13 & 14 and interacted with MCGM officials. He asked about the source of sewage / wastewater coming through this gate in to the Powai Lake and highlighted that **"Sewage is being disposed into the Powai Lake it is causing water pollution"**.

2. Background:

Powai Lake named after Faramji Kavasji Powai Estate, is an artificial lake Powai Lake was constructed over Mithi River between two hillocks in 1891. These hillocks were part of forested hill tracts which continued northwards. Nestling within these tracts are two other major, larger Lakes, Tuli and Vihar, which are drinking water sources for the city of Mumbai. It is located downstream of the Vihar lake on the Mithi river. The lake is situated in the Powai valley, where Powai village with clusters of huts existed. The city suburb called Powai shares its name with the lake. It is situated in the north eastern part of Mumbai city, in the Powai valley at 19° 8' N and 72° 54' E. The Lake is located midway between the eastern and western coastlines of Mumbai. On the eastern part of lake Indian Institute of



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Technology (IIT), Mumbai, is located whereas another famous Institution i.e. National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) is also located close to the lake. There is huge residential development with big housing complexes around the lake periphery so the population around the lake has substantially increased. At the time of built, the lake had an area about 2.1 square kilometres (525 acres) and depth varied from 3 meters (at periphery) to 12 meters at its deepest.

3. Monitoring:

CPCB had requested to form a monitoring team to MPCB, accordingly MPCB formed a monitoring team which included MPCB, CPCB (Regional Directorate) and MCGM officials. The MPCB scheduled monitoring on 18/04/2017 and informed to all the committee members. Accordingly, monitoring was carried out by committee on 18/04/2017 and the following officials were present;

1. Shri. Shashikant Lokhande (Sci-D) CPCB Regional Directorate (West), Vadodara
2. Shri. Mahesh Thakur, DCE, MCGM, Mumbai
3. Shri. Nitin Shinde, Sub Regional officer, MPCB, Mumbai
4. Shri. Sunil Sonkamble, Field officer, MPCB, Mumbai
5. Shri. Ekabe, Field officer, MPCB, Mumbai
6. Shri. Moreshwar Gavade, AEE, MCGM, Mumbai
7. Sushil Kumar Agrahari (JRF), CPCB Regional Directorate (West), Vadodara

The monitoring committee members seen the surroundings of the Powai Lake and its periphery and collected samples from nine locations as shown in **Annexure IV**. From which four samples were collected in middle of Lake at different locations to evaluate quality of lake water various parameters were analysed. The sampling locations are as given below:

1. Powai lake near outfall point
2. Powai lake near back side of Renaissance Hotel
3. Powai lake near IIT Hostel Area
4. Powai lake near Pawar wadi Gate no.13/14
5. Powai lake at gate No.1
6. Incoming waste water from gate no.10
7. Incoming waste water from gate no.13/14
8. Powai lake at Gate no.15/16
9. Drain coming from nearby Slum area near Renaissance Hotel

The following immediate parameters pH, BOD (biochemical oxygen demand), COD (chemical oxygen demand), Conductivity, DO (dissolved oxygen), Suspended solids, TDS (Total dissolved solids), TFS (Total fixed solids), Total-Coliform, Faecal-Coliform were analysed by MPCB Lab and The rest of parameters were analysed in CPCB Regional directorate (west), Vadodara Lab.



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4. Observations:

A. Based on the Field visit:

- a) During the visit to Powai Lake, concerned officials from MCGM Shri Mahesh Thakur, DCE, Shri. Vibhute, DCE, Shri. Moreshwar Gawade, AEE, & others, officials from MPCB Shri. Nitin Shinde, Sub Regional Officer (SRO) & others participated. The Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Dr. Kirit Somaiyaji & others were also subsequently joined during the visit.
- b) The lake was completely covered with micro flora and some places with water hyacinth and water was stagnant (**Photograph No. 1 & 2**).
- c) There are 22 nos. of drains connected to the Powai lake which are having manually operated check gates. These drains are mainly storm water drains and gates are used to control storm water flow of the surrounding catchment area in to the lake. There were two more drains carrying wastewater to the lake. The drain coming from back side wall of Hotel Renaissance having very negligible flow where as another drain coming from slums opposite to backside of hotel Renaissance, which was carrying comparatively more wastewater to lake and flow of the same drain could not be measured due to unapproachable stream (**Photograph No. 3**).
- d) As informed by the MCGM officials, all the sewage is collected at various pumping stations and sent to sewage treatment plant and normally no sewage discharge in to these drains. However, entry of wastewater was observed in drains at gate number 10, 13 & 14 and 15 & 16. The presence of algae and water hyacinth in the lake indicates that there is a possibility of regular sewage entry into the lake (**Photograph No. 1 and 2**).
- e) CPCB had sent letter vide no. 3845 dated 23/02/2017 regarding this complaint to the Member Secretary, MPCB and same matter was referred to Municipal Commissioner, Mumbai and in response to that Municipal Commissioner Mumbai has given a letter dated 15/04/2017 (**Annexure – V**) mentioning that there is ingress of sewage into the Powai Lake causing a pollution of Lake Water. MCGM has appointed a consultant to work out the solution for stopping the sewage ingress into the Powai Lake and expressed that the work will start from September 2017 and it is scheduled to be completed by December 2018. This indicates that MCGM has agreed upon that there is a sewage inflow into the Lake.
- f) At the time of monitoring, there was a small wastewater flow coming from gate no.10 observed and



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the wastewater was colourless and odourless. At the time of sample collection wastewater flow started at 12.30 pm and as informed by MCGM official it remains up to 5:30 pm, due to break in water supply pipeline (**Photograph No. 4**). However wastewater entering into lake through gate no. 13 & 14 as well as from gate no. 15 & 16 was having colour with turbidity and stringent odour like sewage. We tried to measure the inlet flow of these drains but could not able to measure the flow of these drains due to flat and wide base of drains (**Photograph No. 5**). The runoff water drain joining to gate no. 13/14 was full of plastic and inert material with wastewater (**Photograph No. 7**).

- g) At most places of Lake Periphery water hyacinth, plastic and other waste were found (**Photograph No. 6**).
- h) As informed by the officials of MPCB, MCGM, the lake water is not used for drinking purpose. It is used for Ganesh Idols Immersion, recreational activities like boating, fishing etc. especially by the Anglers club members.

B. Based on the Analysis Results:

a) Water quality of Lake:

- a. The Physico- chemical and microbiological characteristics of water samples of lake shows that the measured pH value was ranging from 8.2 to 8.7 and the conductivity was ranging from 320.5 to 344.2 $\mu\text{S/cm}$, which indicate the presence of normal range of dissolved solids in ionized form.
- b. The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) were ranging from 0.0 mg/l to 5.4 mg/l, TDS was ranging from 308 mg/l to 328 mg/l, COD were ranging from 96 mg/l to 496 mg/l and the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) were ranging from 7 mg/l to 150 mg/l. The results are indicating that there is organic contamination in the lake.
- c. Other parameters measured were Total hardness, Chlorides, Sulfates, Alkalinity, Ammonia; Fluoride etc. are also presented in the **Annexure I - III**. The values were higher and water quality was poor. The reasons for the poor quality of water may be attributed huge discharge of sewage from surrounding population, immersion of Idols during festivals and other anthropogenic activities.
- d. The water of the Lake is not being used for any purpose other than recreation. If compared with standard limit of use category. The water of the lake is fit for only irrigation.
- e. The microbiological characteristics of water samples of lake reveals that the measured Total-Coliform values were ranging from 11 MPN/100ml to >1600 MPN/100ml and the Faecal-Coliform values were ranging from <1.8 MPN/100ml to >1600 MPN/100ml, which indicate the presence of Total and Faecal Coliform may be due to the wastewater coming from drains.



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b) Water quality of drain:

- a. The Physico- chemical characteristics of drain water samples reveals that the measured pH values are lower which indicate the presence of domestic wastewater. The conductivity values are also on higher side.
- b. The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) values are 0.0 mg/l of incoming drain at gate no. 13/14 and Nala coming from slum area near backside of hotel Renaissance. BOD and COD both values are also in the higher range. The results are indicating that these drains are carrying organic load into the Lake.
- c. Other parameters measured were Total hardness, Chlorides, Sulfates, Alkalinity, Ammonia; Fluoride etc. are also presented in the **Annexure I-III**. The values were higher and water quality was poor. The reasons for the poor quality of water may be attributed huge discharge of sewage from surrounding population, immersion of Idols during festivals and other anthropogenic activities.
- d. The water of the Lake is not being used for any purpose other than recreation. If compared with standard limit of use category the water of the lake is only fit for recreational and irrigation purpose.
- e. The measured values of Total-Coliform and faecal-Coliform are in higher range, which indicates that drain water is carrying domestic wastewater to Lake.
- f. The analysis of heavy metals and pesticide of Lake Water reveals that there is no contamination of heavy metals and pesticide (**Annexure – III**).

Recommendations:

- a. MPCB may ensure that MCGM take adequate measures, immediately to control incoming wastewater through runoff water drains into the lake. MPCB may also obtain time bound action plan from MCGM for close monitor of the work progress.
- b. The monitoring/vigilance system needs to be further strengthened by MPCB in order to prevent any release of treated / untreated wastewater entry directly or indirectly into the lake.
- c. The waste water from the slums should be collected and connected to Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) lines for further treatment so that it will not reach to the lake.
- d. The first monsoon flow through runoff drains may be diverted to STP for treatment.
- e. MPCB may regularly monitor water quality of the lake with special reference to Dissolved Oxygen (DO), nutrients, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Faecal coliforms.

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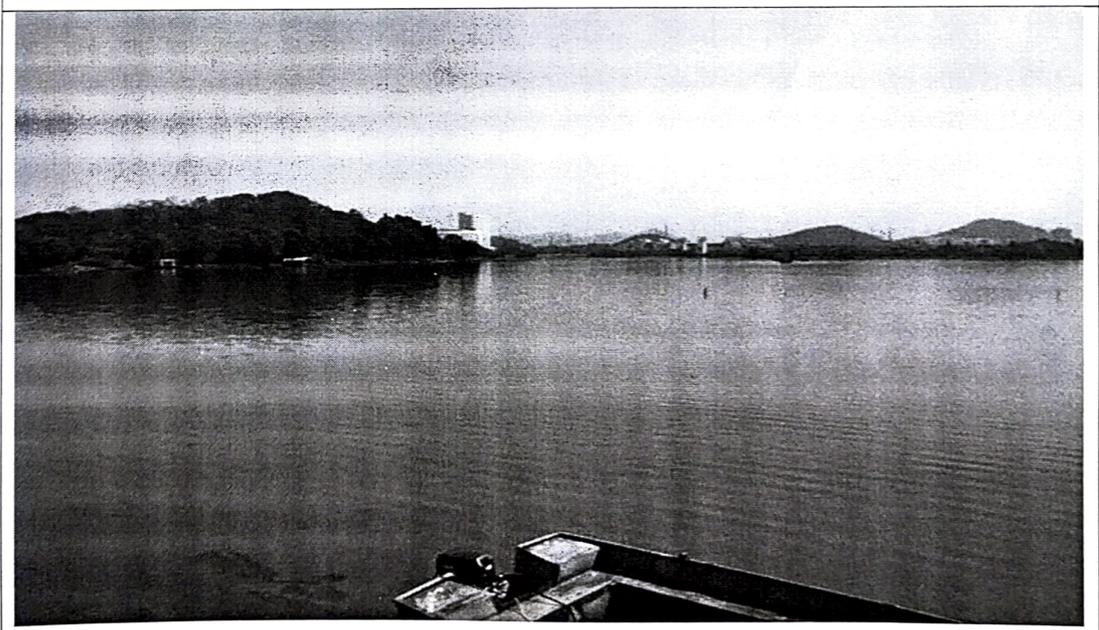
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Photographs:



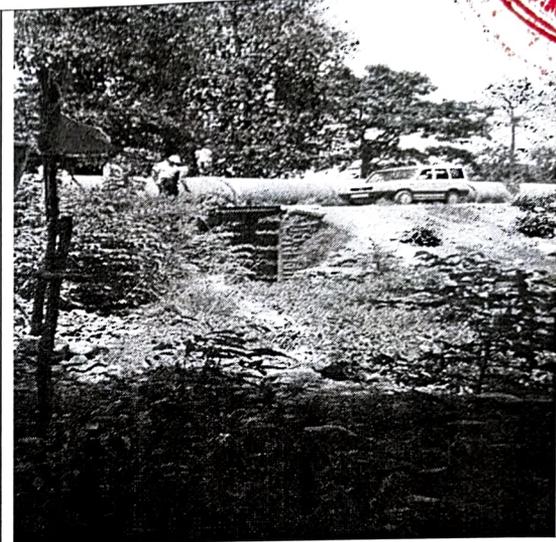
Photograph No. 1 : Lake water hyacinth covered with



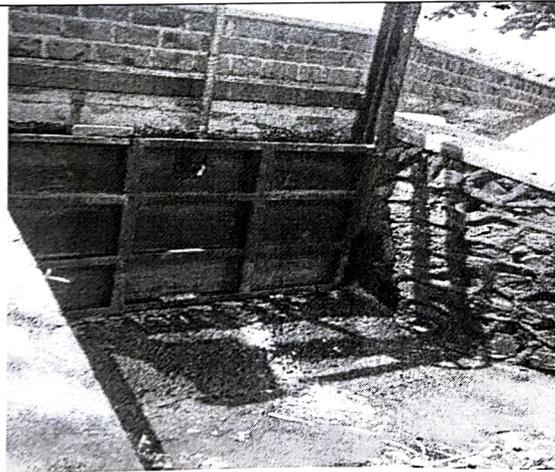
Photograph No. 2 : Shows that lake is completely full of algae i.e. eutrophicated.



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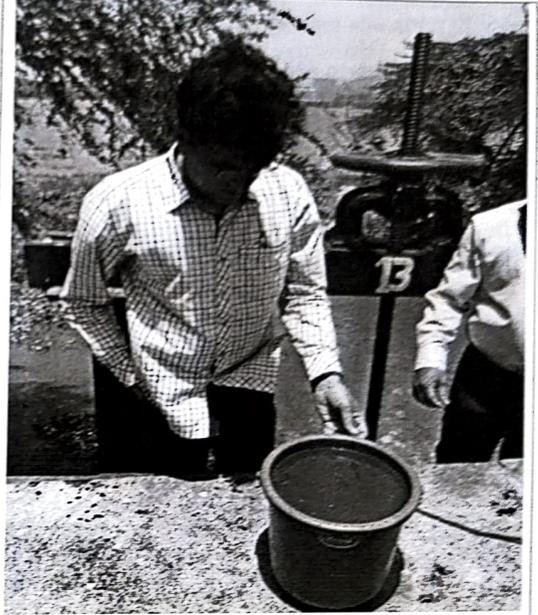
Photograph No. 3 : Shows that the drain coming from back side of Hotel Renaissance where as an another drain coming from slums opposite to backside of hotel Renaissance



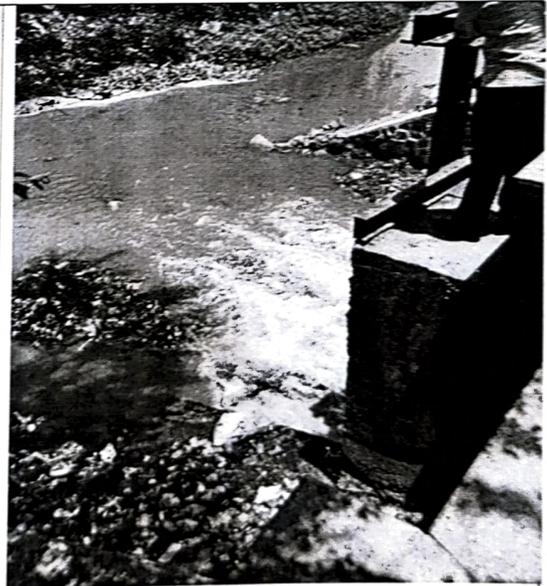
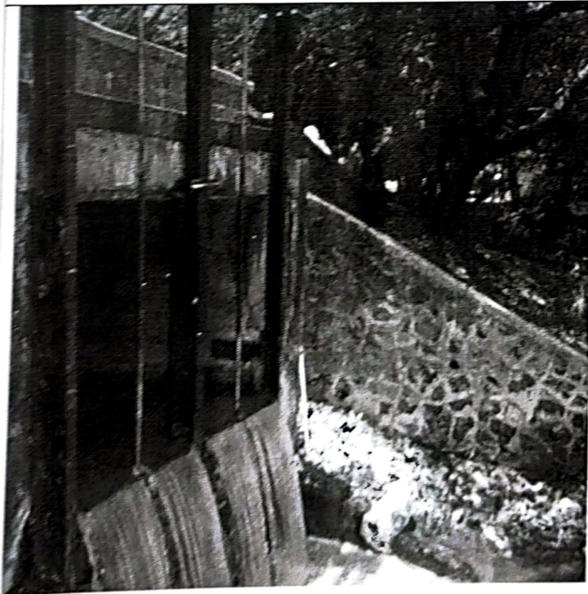
Photograph No. 4 : Shows wastewater flow from gate no.10 (colourless and odourless)



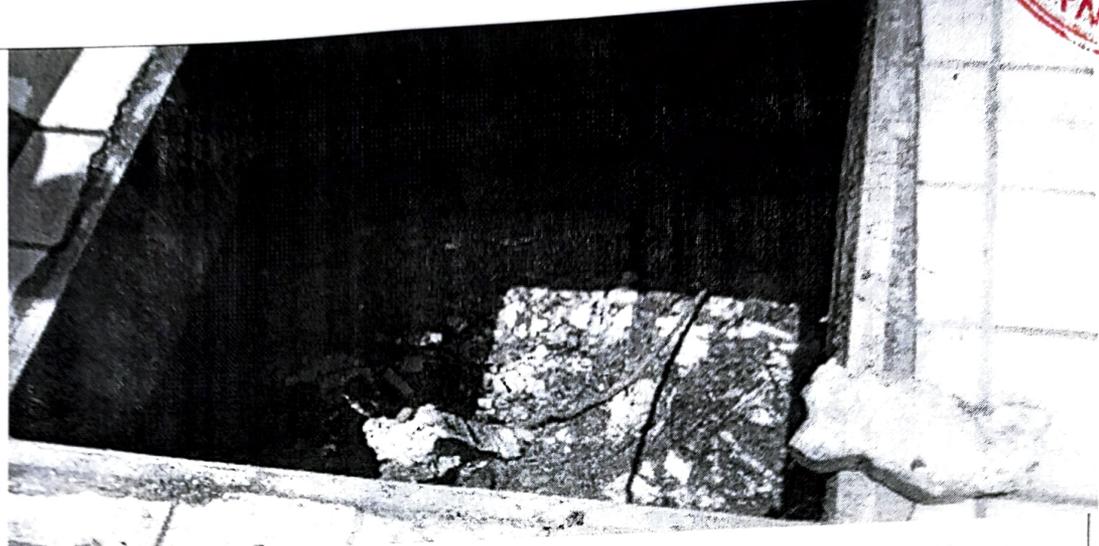
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Photograph No. 5 : Above photographs of drain of gate no. 13 & 14 showing turbid wastewater incoming flow observed with stinging odour like sewage. Wastewater sample collected in presence of Dr. Kirir Somaiya,



Photograph No. 6: Shows that Lake Periphery water hyacinth, plastic and other waste.



Photograph No. 7 : Runoff drain joining to gate no. 13 & 14 showing full of plastic and inert material with wastewater



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**Water Analysis Report – By CPCB, RD (W).
Sample Collection - Grab**

Annexure - I

Location	Parameters																		
	Turb.	NH ₃ -N	TKN	NO ₂ -N	NO ₃ -N	F-	T.Hard	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	P.Aik	T.Aik	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻	PO ₄ -P	Bor on	Na ⁺	K ⁺	SAR	%Na
Powai lake near outfall point	39.2	0.925	5.32	0.0198	0.397	0.35	91.7	25.88	6.58	13.3	108.3	33.16	22.82	0.147	0.083	27.5	3.2	1.249	38.46
Powai lake near back side of Renaissance Hotel	34.9	0.839	7.71	0.0098	BDL	0.38	93.8	26.72	6.58	15.2	120.0	33.65	19.64	0.128	0.021	27.4	3.5	1.232	37.78
Powai lake near IIT Hostel Area	35.3	0.941	5.32	0.020	0.168	0.31	93.8	24.21	8.09	14.25	107.4	33.16	21.09	0.143	0.057	31.2	4.0	1.402	40.73
Powai lake near Powar wadi Gate no.13/14	49.7	0.989	6.65	0.033	BDL	0.30	89.6	26.71	5.56	14.25	111.1	35.63	22.05	0.133	0.041	37.1	6.6	1.706	45.18
Powai lake at gate No.1	98.9	3.64	25.0	0.015	0.167	0.33	100	30.06	6.07	BDL	142.5	31.67	23.78	0.054	0.083	31.1	4.6	1.353	38.99 9
Incoming waste water from gate no10	0.30	0.534	0.798	0.004	BDL	0.57	52.0	13.36	4.55	BDL	70.3	9.90	10.41	BDL	0.004	4.8	0.7	0.289	16.48
Incoming waste water from gate no.13/14	38.9	25.99	32.32	BDL	0.168	0.08	118.7	29.22	11.31	BDL	220.4	44.50	26.95	1.59	0.097	39.6	10.3	1.577	39.38 5
Powai lake at Gate no.15/16	72.2	0.587	4.79	0.253	0.044	0.26	102	31.72	5.56	9.5	115.9	36.62	25.80	0.199	0.044	32.1	4.5	1.383	39.32 7
Nala coming from nearby Slum area near Renaissance Hotel(NE side)	25.2	17.41	25.4	0.013	0.150	0.57	104	29.22	7.59	BDL	180.5	41.57	23.01	1.67	0.133	35.1	7.6	1.497	40.15 0

All parameters are measured in mg/l, except %Na, SAR and turbidity in µS/cm.

Water Analysis Report – By CPCB, RD (W).
Sample Collection - Grab



Annexure-II

Location	Parameters													
	Heavy Metals						Pesticide							
	Cu	Cd	Pb	Zn	Ni	Fe	A-BHC	B-BHC	γ-BHC	Aldrine	Deildrin	A-Endosulphan	B-Endosulphan	2,4 DDT
Powai lake near outfall point	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	0.272	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Powai lake near back side of Renaissance Hotel	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	0.409	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Powai lake near IIT Hostel Area	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	0.414	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Powai lake near Powar wadi Gate no.13/14	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	1.036	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

All heavy metals parameters measured in mg/l and pesticides are in µg/l.



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**Water Analysis Report – By MPCB
Sample Collection - Grab**

Annexure-III

Location	Parameters										
	pH	Conductivity (µs)	Suspended Solids (mg/lit)	TDS (mg/lit)	TFS (mg/lit)	DO (mg/lit)	BOD (mg/lit)	COD (mg/lit)	Total Coliform (MPN/100ml)	Faecal Coliform (MPN/100ml)	
Powai lake near outfall point	8.8	321.0	28.0	312.0	288.0	4.7	13.0	136.0	220	39	
Powai lake near back side of Renaissance Hotel	8.5	320.5	36.0	309.0	287.0	5.4	7.0	96.0	11	<1.8	
Powai lake near IIT Hostel Area	8.4	327.2	28.0	311.0	290.0	4.8	12.0	112.0	>1600	>1600	
Powai lake near Powar wadi Gate no.13/14	8.5	326.0	28.0	308.0	280.0	4.4	14.0	136.0	170	22	
Powai lake at gate No.1	8.2	323.8	68.0	314.0	286.0	0.0	150.0	496.0	>1600	>1600	
Powai lake at Gate no.15/16	8.7	344.2	16.0	328.0	293.0	4.0	12.0	124.0	350	130	
Incoming waste water from gate no10	7.8	122.3	10.0	116.0	102.0	7.2	3.6	36.0	<1.8	<1.8	
Incoming waste water from gate no. 13/14	6.7	522.0	28.0	497.0	434.0	0.0	120.0	268.0	>1600	>1600	
Nala coming from nearby Slum area near Renaissance Hotel(NE side)	6.8	458.0	20.0	417.0	384.0	0.0	70.0	156.0	>1600	>1600	

LOCATION OF SAMPLING POINTS





MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Phone: 4010437 / 4014701 / 4020781
 Fax : 4024068 / 4023516
 Website : <http://mpcb.mah.nic.in>
 E-Mail : ast@mpcb.gov.in



KALPATARU POINT, 3rd Floor,
 Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8,
 Opp. Sion Circle, Sion (East),
 Mumbai - 400 022.

Date : 24/04/2017.

No. MPCB/AS(T)/TB/B-1654

To,
 Shri R.M. Bhardwaj,
 Scientist 'E', I/C PAMS Division,
 Central Pollution Control Board,
 Parivesh Bhavan, East Arjun Nagar,
 Delhi - 110 032.

Sub.:- VIP reference of Dr. Kirit Somaiya, Hon'ble M.P. regarding pollution of Powai Lake, Mumbai.

Ref.:- 1)Dr. Kirit Somaiya, M.P.'s letter No. KS/DEL/MAH-POWAI/2016 dtd. 24/05/2016.
 2)Your letter No. A-14011/1/2016-MON/3845 dtd. 13/06/2016 &
 letter No. A-19014/51/2012/Mon/23582 dtd. 23/02/2017.
 3)Municipal Commissioner, MCGM's letter No. MGC/G/3660 dtd. 15/04/2017.

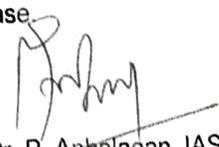
This has reference with your above referred letters at Ref. No. (2) regarding written complaint of Dr. Kirit Somaiya, M.P. dtd. 24/05/2016 about pollution of Powai lake water due to discharge of untreated sewage in the Powai lake.

Board has requested Municipal Commissioner, MCGM via e-mail on 30/06/2016 & 20/03/2017 to provide information about action taken by MCGM towards prevention and control of pollution of Powai lake.

Municipal Commissioner, MCGM vide letter dtd. 15/04/2017 (copy attached) has communicated that increase in urbanization and slums in the catchment area of the Powai lake has resulted into ingress of sewage into the lake which is causing pollution of Powai lake water. Further, he has informed that under the plan of rejuvenation of Powai lake, MCGM has appointed consultant to work out the solution for stopping sewage ingress into the Powai lake. Consultant has submitted the feasibility report and it is proposed to divert the sewage entering from Southern part (Adi Shankaracharya Marg) of lake to the existing sewer line by way of construction of interceptor and hydro brake arrangement. Similarly, ingress of sewage from unsewered area of North-West (Peru Baug) of lake will be arrested by way of construction of new sewer line and pumping station.

According to MCGM, the above work will start from Sept. 2017 and it is scheduled to be completed by December 2018.

This is forwarded for your information and further necessary action please


 (Dr. P. Anbalagan, IAS)
 Member Secretary

Copy to:
 1.Asst. Secretary(Tech.)/ Regional Officer (Mumbai), M.P.C. Board, Mumbai.
 -They are instructed to follow-up with MCGM in the above matter.

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AJOY MEHTA

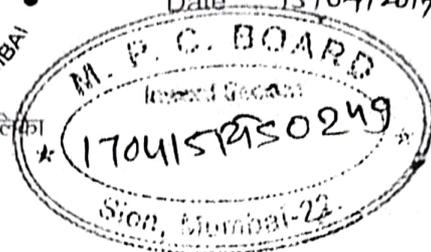
I. A. S.
Municipal Commissioner



बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका

No. : MGCLG/13660

Date : 15/04/2017



Sub- VIP Complaint of Shri Kirit Somaiya, M.P. regarding pollution of Powai Lake water.
Ref- E-mail dated 20/03/2017 from MPCB, Mumbai

Dear Dr.P.Anbalagan

With reference to the above, it is to be stated here that over a period of time, due to increase in urbanisation and slums in the catchment area of Powai lake resulted into ingress of sewage into the lake which is causing pollution of lake water.

A (1)
for necessary action

Under the plan of rejuvenation of Powai lake, MCGM has appointed consultant to work out the solution for stopping sewage ingress in to the Powai Lake.

Consultant have submitted the feasibility report and it is proposed to divert the sewage entering from southern part (Adi Shankaraycharya Marg) of lake to the existing sewer line by way of construction of Interceptor and hydro brake arrangement. Similarly ingress of sewage from unsewered area of north- west (Peru Baug) of lake will be arrested by way of construction of new sewer line and pumping station.

15/4/17

The above work will start from September 2017 and is scheduled to be completed by December 2018.

For (S)
Pl put up
15/4/17

Yours Sincerely,

Ajoy Mehta
(Ajoy Mehta)

Dr.P.Anbalagan
Member Secretary,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kaipataru Point, 3 rd and 4th floor,
Opp. Cine Planet, Sion Circle,
Mumbai- 400 022

