



**Minutes of the meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary on 09/02/2023 with RRC/Stake holder Departments/Authorities concerned to review the progress made in the projects taken up as per the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 673/2018 (PZ) and connected matters.**

The meeting commenced at 10:30 AM with the Chief Secretary in Chair. Principal Secretary, LSGD, Secretaries of Water Resources and Agriculture Departments, Director, Urban Affairs, Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, Land Revenue Commissioner, Additional Director, Industries Department, District Collectors & DDCs, Chairman & Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Director (Liquid Waste Management), Suchitwa Mission, Secretaries of local bodies & other officers concerned were present .

At the outset, the Chief Secretary congratulated the LSGD for conducting a Global Expo in Feb 2023 in Ernakulam on the subject of waste management & innovative technologies. Chief Secretary stressed on the urgent need to bridge the gap in liquid waste management in the State and conveyed dissatisfaction over the inordinate delay caused in execution and completion of Sewage/Septage treatment plants. Proper liquid waste management and river management are vital in conserving the native flora and fauna and the complex ecosystem. He enquired about the possibilities of underground treatment plants which could be constructed in areas with land constraints. Principal Secretary, LSGD conveyed that waste treatment plants like “Jokhasou” model may be thought of after proper studies. Principal Secretary, LSGD further informed that the State is committed to complete 10 numbers of FSTPs by 31st May, 2023. **The Chief Secretary instructed District Collectors to take more proactive role in waste management issues.** Chief Secretary observed that the performance evaluation system, project implementation and administrative capacity of LSGIs were very poor and that radical changes are urgently required to put in satisfactory performance in waste management sectors and for avoiding lapse of funds allotted

for projects.

The AMRUT fund to the tune of Rs. 600 - 700 Cr. said to be left unutilized for the current year stands testimony to the low profile of functioning of LSGIs as far as waste management is concerned. Proper awareness shall be imparted by the LSGIs to the public and projects shall be implemented timely & operated scientifically so that such projects serve as eye-openers to the protesters opposing setting up of treatment plants near their premises. KWA to speed up execution of projects. KWA also need to identify the hurdles like, failure in getting good bidders through tendering and take up new policies if needed to address the issues and shall bring the solution for approval of higher authorities, as required, for necessary remedial action. There is urgent need for the LSGIs and WRD to work as a team to resolve the issues in liquid waste management.

Following decisions/suggestions were made after detailed discussions and deliberations:

**1. Campaign for general awareness among public in the matter of Waste Treatment projects.** Considering public protest against waste treatment projects , it was decided to initiate awareness campaign about the benefit of all types ongoing waste treatment projects in the state . A campaign at school/ College level may be initiated , to bring to the mind of young generation regarding reasons about environmental and other pollution ,necessity of treating of solid /liquid and other hazardous wastes around us, air and sound pollution . The Local Self Government institution shall discuss such types of projects while holding Grama sabhas/ Ward Sabhas.The service of Health inspectors may be sought by the Panchayati Raj institutions in this regard.( **Action- Local Self Government/ Health Departments** ).

**2. STP/FSTP projects:**

(A) Thrissur Corporation- Decentralized Sewerage Treatment Scheme:ADC, Thrissur informed that the application form for conversion of land has been received and the same will be considered in the next LLMC meeting to be conducted within a week. The 32nd SHPSC held on 23.01.2023 approved Ulb's request to cancel the project from AMRUT 1.0 and to take up the same under AMRUT 2.0. Action to be expedited.

**(Action: Agriculture,LSGD, Revenue, Director, Urban Affairs , DC TSR, TSR Corporation).**

**(B) Guruvayur Municipality- 100 KLD plant at Chakkamkandam :**

MD, KWA informed that the works for dilution tank at Chakkamkandam, Guruvayoor has been started and that it is expected to be completed by the end of May 2023. Progress noted.(**Action: M.D, KWA, Secretary, Thrissur Corporation** )

**(C) STP at Yakkara, Palakkad:** The Director Urban Affairs informed that ulb had approached IRTC for preparation of DPR, but the response given by IRTC was not satisfactory for the ulb. Hence, the Core Committee of ulb held on 06.01.2023 decided to approach CDD for preparation of DPR. In this regard discussions are being held by the ulb with CDD. Principal Secretary, LSGD directed the ulb to expedite the activities and to complete the DPR by 10th of March 2023. Action need to be expedited.(**Action: LSGD, Director, Urban Affairs,** )

**(D) STP/FSTP in Railways land at Shoranur:**

It is decided that Director, Urban Affairs and District Collector, Palakkad to follow up the matter with Divisional Railway Manager immediately. MD KWA had already done initial discussion with the Railway authority. 65 cent of land is available with railway at Shoranur. (**Action: Director, Urban Affairs, M.D , KWA, DC PLKD**)

**(E) Kozhikode Corporation: Zone A-Package A & Zone A-Package B:**

The Mayor, Kozhikkode Corporation conveyed the difficulties encountered in implementing the projects due to continued public protests. Though the Corporation has tried its best with the help of Police force, nothing much could be done .

(i) **Zone A- Package A :**Additional Secretary, Kozhikkode Corporation informed that the Munsiff Court has issued interim judgment in OS No. 459/2022 in favor of the protestors. Additional Secretary, Kozhikkode Corporation informed that an appeal has been filed by the ulb against the Court's decision in OS No. 459/2022, restraining the ulb from doing works at the proposed location. Hearing of the case is to be held. The corrections suggested by the Govt. Engg. College, Thrissur in the revised design are to be made by the Consultant.

(ii) **Zone A- Package B:** Additional Secretary, Kozhikkode Corporation conveyed that the Munsiff Court disposed OS No. 450/2022 in favour of ulb. WA No. 1981/2022 filed against Judgment dated 14/11/2022 in WPC 8986/2022 of the Hon'ble High Court was also disposed by directing the petitioners to approach NGT. Kozhikkode Corporation had filed caveat in the NGT and filed appeal in the district Court. Further informed that the hearing is in progress in the other two cases i.e WPC No. 40164/2022 & O.S No. 217/2022. It was decided to terminate the standing counsel of Kozhikkode Corporation with immediate effect.The

Secretary shall arrange an awareness campaign for the counsellors including site visit of sewage /septage /waste water treatment plants effectively implemented by neighbouring local bodies. Chief Secretary directed that if the chances of setting up of STPs in the above proposed locations are minimal, the fund may be diverted to other viable liquid waste management projects so that the fund utilization is complete and no amount is lapsed. **( Action (a) & (b)- Local self Government Department, Director, Urban Affairs, Secretary, Kozhikkode Corporation, District Collector Kozhikkode, Suchithwa Mission)**

**(F) Karamana Sewer Network:**

MD, KWA informed that DPR of cluster 1 was forwarded to the Ministry of Jal Sakthi for NRCP funding, on 24.11.2022. DPR of Cluster 3- Zone 1, sewerage network for Puthenpally ward was completed and submitted to Corporation for getting AS under AMRUT. Total estimate amount for this project is about Rs 51.28 Cr. MD, KWA further conveyed that the NRCD has the authority to approve the projects which cost upto 100 Cr. Chief Secretary directed KWA to resubmit it to NRCD as per the requirement.

Water quality of the drains in the catchment area of Karamana River was presented. Faecal coliform content in the drains are found to be high. Secretary, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation conveyed that the reason for the high faecal coliform content in the Amayizhanjan Thodu is due to discharge from the households at the Rajaji Nagar. They are not even responding to the notices issued by the Corporation. There is no land availability for putting up decentralized treatment plant. Rajaji Nagar Colony is at a lower level than the sewer line. Establishing a lift station is one solution to address the issue. Director, Urban Affairs directed the Secretary, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation to submit a detailed proposal to remedy the situation at the earliest. **(Action: LSGD, WRD, KWA, Director- Urban Affairs, Secretary TVPM Corporation)**

**(G) Sarovaram STP Project:**

KWA reported that DPR based on the modification suggested by the Corporation and excluding centage charge is being prepared. Additional network worth 50 Cr. will also be added to the DPR. The DPR preparation is expected to be completed by 28.02.2023. KWA's land is to be utilized for the project. Chief Secretary directed to complete the DPR within stipulated time period and get AS approval by the end of March, 2023. Actions to be expedited. **(Acton: LSGD, KWA, LSGI concerned)**

**3. Eviction of encroachments :**

CE, Irrigation Department informed that 1 complaint has been received so far via online portal. Further conveyed that the Department is also attending to petitions

received through Chief Ministers Public Grievance Redressal Cell. Progress noted.(Action: WRD, CE,Irrigation).

#### **4. E-flow of the rivers:**

CE, Irrigation Department informed that e-flow assessment of 40 rivers have been completed. There is no gauge data available to assess the e-flow of 4 rivers. Chief Secretary directed the CE, Irrigation Department to notify the e-flow of rivers at the earliest. And also directed to expedite the preparation of pending DPRs. (Action: WRD , C.E-Irrigation)

#### **5. Land policy for identifying land for waste management project:**

The draft land policy was resubmitted to the Hon'ble Minister. (Action: Revenue, Land Revenue Commissioner)

#### **6. STP Kureppuzha & Elamkulam:**

a) **Kureppuzha:**MD, KWA informed that meeting with the contractor is scheduled on 13.02.2023 to speed up the works and to get it completed by 31st May, 2023.(Action: WRD, LSGD,M.DKWA, DC KLM,Secretary, KLM Corporation)

#### **b) Elamkulam:**

MD, KWA reported that the Elamkulam STP plant (5 MLD) has been technically commissioned and 3.25 MLD is now utilised. Permissive sanction for ₹ 63.91 Crores received under RKI for the full utilization of the plant. TS is to be issued. During the visit of Hon'ble Minister, LSGD it was suggested to build a dilution tank to facilitate septage treatment. DPR for the new 5 MLD plant under AMRUT 2.0 is submitted to the Government. AS has to be issued. Chief Secretary directed the LSGD to accord AS at the earliest.(Action: LSGD, Director, Urban Affairs, M.DKWA)

#### **7. CETP- Edayar & Aroor:**

a) **CETP- Edayar:**Chairman, KSPCB informed that KSPCB is conducting random surprise inspections and samples are being collected to monitor the quality of treated effluents. Most of the units are having functional STPs. The Chief Secretary directed the KSPCB to strengthen the enforcement. The CETP project may be dropped and all the units may be advised to have their own facilities for treatment of effluent. The fund allotted for the project may be utilized for any other liquid waste treatment project.(Action: KSPCB,M.D KWA, Director,Industries)

**b) CETP- Aroor:** Additional Director, Industries Directorate conveyed that the stay in the WPC is still continuing. The case is posted on 13.02.2023. Chief Secretary directed the Industries Directorate to expedite the activities required to get that stay vacated. **(Action: Industries Dept & Directorate of Industries&Commerce)**

**8. AS & TS sanctioning:** MS, KSPCB presented the list of STP/FSTP projects under AMRUT 1.0 & AMRUT 2.0 schemes, which are in different stages. DPRs prepared by KWA for sewage management were also presented. AS & TS are to be accorded for many projects. Chief Secretary directed LSGD & DUA to accord AS/TS at the earliest. The SHPSC may also be scheduled at the earliest for clearing the projects. **(Action: LSGD, WRD, Director- Urban Affairs, M.D-KWA)**

**9. Biomining:** The progress made in the biomining at various major dumpsites were presented. Biomining process have been completed at Kollam and Kozhikkode Corporations. The WtE projects can be started at Kollam and Kozhikode. Biomining process is ongoing at Kannur and Thrissur Corporations. Kochi Corporation has completed only 25% of the biomining and Council has yet to approve the concessionaire agreement. Secretary, Kochi Corporation conveyed that additional machineries were brought to Brahmapuram dumpyard to speed up the biomining. Progress noted. Biomining is to be expedited. **(Action: LSGD, Director, Urban Affairs, LSGIs)**

#### **10. General Instructions;**

**a) Unnecessary protests and litigations:** Chief Secretary directed the District Collectors to take pro-active role in resolving the protests and litigations against waste management projects. Legal action against the perpetrators and anti-social elements hampering the projects shall be strengthened through bond under section 107 of CrPC. The issues in implementing waste management projects between Departments/Authorities shall be amicably solved, for which DCs shall play active roles. Periodic monitoring of waste management projects shall also be done. **(Action: District Collectors)**

#### **b) Johkasou model of STPs:**

*Chief Secretary directed the KWA to look into the possibilities of Johkasou/underground models of STPs. The Secretary, Water Resources Department informed that he shall visit the Johkasou plants implemented in Delhi. The feasibility of establishing such models in the State is also to be explored by KWA urgently.* **(Action: WRD, M.D-KWA)**

#### **c) Fund utilization:**

It was noted during the meeting that there is a huge gap in fund availability under various schemes and its utilization. Huge amount of funds available for waste management projects are getting lapsed as projects are unable to be implemented due to various protests/litigations and inordinate delay in execution of the projects. Chief Secretary directed the Principal Secretary, LSGD, Director, Urban Affairs to reallocate the allotted funds of the projects facing serious hindrances/troubles to other waste management projects where additional funds are required or to fresh projects. Director, Urban Affairs informed that they can reallocate the funds if there is no progress in the projects after a fixed term (say 6 months), after fund allotment has been made. **(Action: Director-Urban Affairs, LSGD)**

**Meeting came to a close by 11:45 AM.**

**DR V P JOY  
CHIEF SECRETARY  
O/O CHIEF SECRETARY**