



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Environment (A) Department

Most Urgent

No.A2/164/2018/Envt

Thiruvananthapuram,
Dated: 23.12.2021

From

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

To

The Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department

The Additional Chief Secretary, Local Self Government Department

The Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Department

The Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department

The Additional Chief Secretary, Vigilance Department

The Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department

The Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department

The Principal Secretary, SC/ST Department

The Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department

The Principal Secretary, Industries Department

The Secretary, Public Works Department

The Secretary, Law Department

The Secretary, Cultural Affairs Department

The Secretary, Tourism Department

The Secretary, Power Department

All Government Departments(Through E. Office Notice Board)

The Director,
Directorate of Environment & Climate Change,
Thiruvananthapuram

The Director, Directorate of Urban Affairs,
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director,
Directorate of Industries & Commerce,
Thiruvananthapuram

The Director,
Directorate of Panchayat,
Thiruvananthapuram.

All District Collectors(Through the Land development Commissioner ,
Thiruvananthapuram

The Secretary
Municipal Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kannur ,Kollam,
Guruvayoor.

The Managing Director
Kerala Water Authority,Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram

The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation (through Chief Engineer)
Irrigation & Administration, Thiruvananthapuram

The Commissioner for Rural Development
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram

The City Police Commissioner, Ernakulam

The Commissioner
Land Revenue Commissionerate, Thiruvananthapuram

The Executive Director,
Suchithwa Mission, Thiruvananthapuram

The Mission Director,AMRUT, State Mission Management Unit,
Local Self Government Department,
4th Floor, Meenakshi Plaza, Artech Building,
Opposite Government Hospital, Thycadu,
Thiruvananthapuram- 695014

The Member Secretary
Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram

Sir,

Sub: Environment Department – Monthly review meeting of Chief
Secretary with RRC/Stakeholder departments/Authorities in the
matter of NGT Order in OA No.673/2018 -VC meeting held on
23-10-2021 -Minutes forwarding of- Reg.

Ref: 1) letter of even no. dated 3.12.2021.
2) Meeting held by Chief Secretary with RRC & Stakeholder
Departments, Authorities on 16.12.2021.

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I am to invite your attention to the reference cited and to forward herewith the minutes of the meeting held by Chief Secretary with RRC & Stakeholder Departments, Authorities on 16.12.2021 for urgent necessary action.

Yours faithfully,
GEETHA GOPINATH
Under Secretary
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Approved for issue,



Section Officer



Minutes of the monthly meeting held by the Chief Secretary on 16.12.2021 in the matter of O.A. No. 673/2018 and connected cases before the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench.

The State Level Monthly Meeting via VC commenced at 10:30 am with the Chief Secretary presiding. The Additional Chief Secretaries of Water Resources, Finance, Environment, Local Self Government and Secretaries of SC/ST & Agriculture Departments, Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, Director, Directorate of Urban Affairs, Commissioner, Land Revenue Commissionerate, Director, Directorate of Industries, Director, Directorate of Panchayats, District Collectors of Ernakulam, Kollam and Alappuzha districts, Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board and other officers concerned were present.

The Chief Secretary welcomed all participants to the meeting and asked to brief on the progress made in implementing the projects. Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department directed the Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board to present the details collated as part of the last RRC review meeting held on 29.11.2021 and the further updates made available. The projects taken up, its present status and bottlenecks in delaying the projects were discussed in detail.

After a round of detailed discussions the following **decisions were** taken:

1. STP / FSTP projects-

Progress of projects is to be reviewed periodically by the Secretaries of all the Departments concerned and RRC and minutes recorded. For the 5 projects for which DPRs are prepared by the KWA and Administrative Sanction pending with Suchitwa Mission, action shall be taken to clear the projects at the earliest. Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department pointed out that the

decentralized waste water management project at Kozhikode undertaken by the Corporation is not progressing. There are such projects where progress cannot be achieved due to various reasons. All urgent projects wherein hindrances in progress are noticed and which needs intervention at the highest level in government, shall be brought to the notice at the State level meetings and such important projects may be considered under the Priority Projects Review of the Chief Minister, after appropriate consultation.

Action: (Local Self Government Department , Water Resources Department, Environment Department, Kerala Water Authority , AMRUT, IMPACT, Suchitwa Mission).

2. Karamana Sewer Network, KWA-

MD, Kerala Water Authority informed that KWA is looking into the possibilities of de-centralized treatment plants to bring down the costs involved and to get the projects implemented in minimum time. Whether funding from AMRUT 2.0 can be utilized is to be looked into. Modified DPR and decentralized options as suggested by ACS, WRD are being worked out. Action will be speeded up to prepare DPRs, identify funds and to get required land.

Action: (Local Self Government Department, Water Resources Department, Kerala Water Authority, Finance Department).

3. STP at Yakkara, Palakkad -

Informed that the file regarding issues with land procurement for STP at Yakkara has been routed to the Chief Minister. It was observed that there may not be any necessity for filing appeals in cases relating to recommendation of the commission where statutory decisions need to be taken. ACS, WRD informed that the Office of most of the Commissions have representatives from Government Departments for legal and administrative matters. Secretaries of respective Departments to conduct meetings with the Legal officers and Administrative officers deputed from the

Secretariat to the Commissions to discuss matters taken up at the level of various Commissions wherein there has been interferences with the smooth execution of environment related projects etc. Secretary SC/ST Department shall undertake such a meeting immediately in the Yakkara issue.

Action: (All Departments concerned, SC/ST Department).

4. Edayar & Aroor CETPs-

Administrative Sanction from the Industries Department is awaited for the CETP at Edayar for which DPR is prepared by KWA. Director, Industries Department assured that the matter will be taken up in the next special working group meeting. Also informed that DPR for Aroor may be ready by January 1st week of 2022.

Action: (Industries Department, Kerala Water Authority)

5. Land policy of the State Government & identifying land for various local bodies for implementing sewer networks and STPs / FSTPs-

The State Government have vide Order GO(Rt)No. 2498/2021/LSGD dated 06/12/2021 constituted a 4 member Committee, as decided at the previous meeting, with Land Revenue Commissioner, Principal Director - LSGD, Managing Director - Kerala Water Authority and Executive Director - Suchitwa Mission as members and the first meeting of the Committee was held on 9.12.2021. The Chief Secretary asked the committee to take priority meetings to identify, prioritize and earmark lands for the projects related to waste management in every district / local body and that the exercise may be completed in 2 month's time. The Revenue department shall see that such identified land is reserved for the purpose identified. The file on draft land policy of the State now with the Revenue Department shall be processed expeditiously. Chief Secretary advised that the matter be followed up as the policy has to be framed in view of the dire land shortage for waste management activities.

Action: (Revenue Department, Local Self Government Department, Kerala Water Authority, Land Revenue Commissionerate)

6. Ranking of Local bodies.

As decided at the previous meeting held on 23/10/2021, the LSGD may rank the LSGIs based on their performances on waste management. As part of ensuring good governance, an objective performance assessment of all local bodies (Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations) have to be done which is the responsibility of the Administrative Department / Authority for which a meticulous indicative framework covering all thematic areas shall be prepared and circulated. The criteria for the evaluation may be published before hand to avoid objections at a later stage. This will help in improving the efficiency and transparency. The performance assessment list must be published in the website of the Department periodically. The reasons for the poor performance can be studied and this would help in improving the situation. Moreover as the implementation of SWMR in the State has received criticism from the National Green Tribunal (both the Principal and South zone benches), it needs serious review on the actions taken by LSGIs so far and those further proposed and the manner in which waste management projects are progressing. The compliance status on SWMR, 2016 and the progress in sewage / septage waste management (implementation of which are the responsibilities of LSGIs) is to be presented with facts and figures on 5.07.2022 by the State before the NGT(PZ).

Action: (Local Self Government Department).

7. Guruvayur FSTP-

Common STP is already commissioned at Guruvayur. There was a plan to set up an FSTP for which AMRUT has tendered the project. During the discussions ACS, Finance Department informed that 35 lakh rupees under RKI funding can be provided to install co-treatment facility in the existing STP of KWA if no other

sources are available. AMRUT and Municipality shall immediately look into the issue regarding cancellation of the standalone septage project and making available the funds available under AMRUT to KWA for co-treatment and if that is not possible, then to any other similar projects so that the funds allotted are not left unutilized / lapsed.

Action: (Local Self Government Department, AMRUT, Finance Department, Agriculture & Revenue Departments, District Administration)

8. Case Study by KILA-

Chief Secretary suggested that KILA may be entrusted to come up with case studies on successful and failed projects citing realistic on hand experiences. The project undertaken by the local body for Guruvayur FSTP can be included as a fit case for the study, which can be used for training sessions for local bodies and administrators, to prevent such instances occurring in future.

Action: (Local Self Government Department , KILA)

9. Muttathara Sewer Network-

MD, KWA requested some more time to clear and to finalize the DPR- by January 15, 2022.

Action: (Kerala Water Authority, Water Resources Department)

10. STP, Kureppuzha -

MD, KWA informed that 15 % work is over, by 31.03.2021 main components will be completed and that the STP can be completed fully by May 2022.

Action: (Kerala Water Authority, Water Resources Department).

11. List of Projects stayed by High Court and Tribunals-

ACS, Water Resources Department brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary that there are many river / waterbody desilting projects (Meenachil - Tribunal intervened), Pampa & Achankovil which are stayed by the Hon'ble High Court and also Tribunal and hence no progress could be made. ACS, WRD suggested that in such cases utilize MGNREGS projects for desilting by taking up small projects with the help of LSGIs may be thought of. Chief Secretary directed that all the departments shall list all the public project cases wherein stays are continuing for more than 6 months. These cases must be brought to the notice of the Advocate General and Secretary, Law Department for vacating such stays wherever possible.

Action: (All Departments, Law Department).

12. E-flow of rivers-

The E-flow study of the Rivers across Kerala is being conducted. Location of check dams, reservoirs being proposed as per e-flow studies may be located and then detailed DPRs have to be made. The points for location of check dams, reservoirs may be completed within a month and reported.

Action: (Water Resources Department).

13. Eviction of encroachments in water bodies-

Separate meetings with the District Collectors & Revenue Department need to be convened to chalk out an action plan to evict encroachment of the rivers. List of encroachments in rivers, especially river basin encroachments within flood plain zone, may be prepared and a meeting conducted at the earliest with all concerned, for which action may be initiated from the Irrigation Department.

Action: (Water Resources Department, Revenue Department, District Administration).

14. OA No. 606 of 2018 (PZ)- Personal Appearance of the Chief Secretary of the State-

Personal appearance of the Chief Secretary via VC before the Tribunal has been scheduled by the NGT(PZ) on 05/07/2022. Compliance/Status report regarding implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and liquid waste management is to be presented at the hearing. A report depicting all the projects taken up, present status, time limits set, progress in achieving targets etc. shall be prepared by LSGD after collating information from all the departments / agencies concerned. The first meeting to review the status shall be taken up in January 2022 and thereafter periodical follow-up review meetings shall be convened.

Action: (Local Self Government Department, Environment Department, Water Resources Department)

The meeting came to an end by 12:00 noon.

CHIEF SECRETARY