

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEMBER SECRETARY,
STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
(Present. Dr. USHA TITUS IAS)**

Sub :- SEIAA – Order dated 06.01.2021 in O.A.No.1/2021 (SZ), a Suo Motu case registered by NGT South Zone- Joint Inspection Committee constituted – orders issued.

STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, KERALA

Order No.84/A1/2021/SEIAA

Dated: 29.01.2021

- Read:-
1. Order dated 06.01.2021 of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A.No.1/2021 (SZ)
 2. Letter No.F.No.EP/12.7/NGT/68/KER/083 dated 13.01.2021 from Regional Officer, MoEF , Regional Office (Southern Zone)
 3. Letter No.PCB/HO/EE4/NGT/OA No.1/2021 dated 18.1.2021 from Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
 4. Order No. 561/2020/2121/482/M2/2021 dated 16.01.2021 from Director, Mining and geology department .
 5. Letter No. A3/12/2021/Envnt dated 20.01.2021 from Environment (A) Department.
 6. Order No.G.O(RT) 190/2021/RD dated 19.01.2021 from Revenue (P) Department .
 7. Letter No. FC2-38/2021 dated 25.01.2021 from Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force.
 8. Note No. 02/EMCell/CSO/2021 dated 13.01.2021 of the Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala .

ORDER

O.A.No.1/2021 was registered Suo Motu by the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) on basis of Newspaper report dated 03.10.2020 “30 lakh cubic metre of sand can be taken from Bharathapuzha”. As per order read 1st above the Hon'ble NGT has appointed a Joint Committee comprising of

- (1) A Senior Officer from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change MoEF & CC), Regional Office, Bangalore
- (2) The Principal Secretary or a nominee deputed by him, not below the rank of Joint Secretary of Department of Environment
- (3) The Principal Secretary or a nominee deputed by him, not below the rank of Joint Secretary of Department of Revenue and Disaster Management

(4) The Principal Secretary or a nominee deputed by him of Department of Irrigation & Water Resources Department (WRD)

(5) The Director, Directorate of Mining and Geology, Thiruvananthapuram

(6) A Senior Officer from the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) as designated by its Chairman

(7) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force (HoFF) or his nominee, not below the rank of Chief Conservator of Forest, State of Kerala and

(8) A Senior Officer from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Kerala.

2) In the above circumstances and as per papers read 2nd to 7th above the order is hereby issued constituting the Joint Committee comprising of the following members.

1. Dr. Prabhu, Scientist 'C'
Ministry of Environment, Forest
& Climate Change integrated
Regional office, Kendriya Sadan,
17th Main Road, Koramangala,
Bangalore- 560034
Mob: 9894214714
2. (a) Smt. Sheeba B, Joint Secretary,
Environment Department, Government of Kerala
(b) Dr. Kalaiarasan,
Environmental Engineer,
Directorate of Environment and Climate Change
Thiruvananthapuram
3. Dr. A. Kowsigan IAS,
Joint Commissioner (LR)
Land Revenue Commissionerate, Public Office,
Museum Junction, Vikas Bhavan-695033
4. Smt. Beena P S
Deputy Secretary,
Water Resources Department, Government of Kerala
5. Dr. S. Sajikumar
Geologist
Mob: 9447755529

6. Sri.Alexander George
Senior Environmental Engineer
KSPCB, Head Office
Ph: 9447975724
e-mail:kspcbtech@gmail.com
7. Sri.Pramod P P, IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests (Eastern circle)
Palakkad & custodian of vested forests
8. Dr. Jayachandran K , Member, SEIAA

3) NGT in its order dated 6.1.2021, has directed that the following shall be the duties and responsibilities of the committee.

a) To ascertain the manner in which the river bed sand mining is being done in the State of Kerala and whether they are complying with the Sand Mining Policy of the Central Government and also complying with all the environmental laws including obtaining of Environmental Clearance (EC) as required under EIA Notification 2006, as amended in 2016, in view of the directions issued by Hon'ble Apex Court in Deepak Kumar's case.

b) Whether the District survey reports are being prepared before conducting the mining and before according sanction for mining.

c) Whether any regulation or monitoring is provided regarding the quantum of sand to be mined and the manner in which it has to be done etc., including transport and disposal of the same.

d) Whether all necessary permission under the environmental laws have been obtained from them and necessary mining plan have been provided and approved by the concerned Departments etc.

e) Report in the light of existing Rules and Guidelines whether sand mining in riverbed passing through the forest areas and eco-sensitive zones like National Park and Sanctuary etc., is going on and the status of such cases in the state of Kerala.

f) Whether permission is being granted in those areas/buffer areas, whether the person to whom the permission is granted is obtaining necessary permission and sanction under the concerned forest and environmental laws for this purpose.

g) Whether any action has been taken by the authorities for conducting illegal mining in these areas, including excess mining than the permitted quantity.

h) The safeguards provided for preventing such illegal activities being done in the river bed where mining is permitted by the Departments.

4) The committee is permitted by NGT to co-opt the District Collector of each District, whenever they are inspecting that particular area for the purpose of ascertaining these aspects and getting inputs from them regarding the manner in which such operation is being done in the respective Districts, so as to understand as to whether they are following a uniform method and whether they are complying with the directions issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) in maintaining the Sustainable Sand Mining Policy in the State.

5) As per note read 8th above the Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala has directed the Revenue & Disaster Management Department to issue directions to all District Collectors to provide all necessary assistance to the Committee for carrying out their work as directed by the Tribunal.

6) The Kerala State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) is the nodal agency for co-ordination and also for providing necessary logistics for this purpose.

7) The committee is directed to submit the report to Tribunal on or before 16.03.2021 by e-filing in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF along with necessary hardcopies to be produced as per rules.

Sd/-

Dr. USHA TITUS IAS
Member Secretary, SEIAA

To

1. Dr.Prabhu, Scientist 'C'
Ministry of Environment, Forest
& Climate Change integrated
Regional office ,
Kendriya Sadan, 17th Main Road
Koramangala, Bangalore
560034
Mob: 9894214714

2. (a) Smt.Sheeba B, Joint Secretary,
Environment Department , Government of Kerala
(b) Dr.Kalaiaarasan,
Environmental Engineer,
Directorate of Environment and Climate Change
Thiruvananthapuram
3. Dr.A.Kowsigan IAS,
Joint Commissioner (LR)
Land Revenue Commissionerate
4. Smt. Beena PS
Deputy Secretary,
Water Resources Department
5. Dr.S.Sajikumar
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Mob: 9447755529
6. Sri.Alexander George
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7. Sri.Pramod P P, IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests (Eastern circle)
Palakkad & custodian of vested forests
8. Dr.Jayachandran K, Member, SEIAA

Forwarded/By Order



Section Officer

Copy to,

Special Secretary to Chief Secretary
PA to Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources)
PA to Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Wild life Department)
PA to Principal Secretary (Environment Department)
PA to Principal Secretary (Revenue & Disaster Management)
Principal Chief Conservator of forest & Head of Forest force, Thiruvananthapuram
Director, Mining and Geology
Chairman, Kerala state pollution control Board (KSPCB)
Chairman, SEIAA
All District Collectors (District Collectors are requested to nominate a Nodal Officer
for co-ordination of activities in their respective Districts.
Name and contact details of the Nodal Officer may be
communicated to SEIAA at the earliest).
Stock file/Office copy

Enclo: Copy of Order read as 1st paper above.

