



SPEED POST

No A-14011/1/2017-MON

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Date: 22.09.2017

The Chairman,
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
Plamoodu Junction,
Pattam Palace P.O
Thiruvananthapuram-695 004.

SUBJECT: DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 18(1)(B) OF THE WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) ACT, 1974 IN THE MATTER OF POLLUTION IN RIVER PAMBA

WHEREAS, amongst others, under Section 16 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 one of the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) constituted under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to coordinate activities of the SPCBs/ PCCs and to provide technical assistance and guidance to SPCBs/ PCCs; and

WHEREAS, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 one of the functions of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) is to plan a comprehensive programme for the Prevention, Control and Abatement of Pollution of streams and wells in the state and to secure the execution thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Central Government has notified standards for discharge of environmental pollutants to any public sewer or inland surface water under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and rules framed there under, and

WHEREAS, Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) issued directions dated 21/04/2015 under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 to Kerala State Pollution Control Board to direct local/urban bodies of state of Kerala to set up STPs of adequate capacity and provide underground sewerage system to cover the entire local/urban areas and to bridge the treatment gap along with enforcement of consent management in line with standards for sewage treatment, and

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WHEREAS as per Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016, the Municipal Authority of Pathanamthitta is responsible for the implementation of the provisions of these rules and for development of any infrastructure for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes within the territorial area of the Municipality, and

WHEREAS, CPCB carried out monitoring of river Pamba and tributaries Njunangar, Kakki as a follow up action of the decisions taken by the Parliamentary Consultative committee in its meeting held on 4.8.2017 to ascertain the pollution status, and

WHEREAS, CPCB also conducted inspections on 23.8.2017 for Sewage Treatment Plants, Solid waste incinerator facilities located at Cheriyanavattoam, Pamba and at Sannidhanam (temple complex) and made following observations: -

Issues related to STP, Solid Waste and incineration at Pamba and Sannidhanam (Temple Complex)

- (i) STP at Cheriyanavattoam, Pamba provides only preliminary treatment. It has to be augmented adequately. A new STP should be constructed considering seasonal influx of the pilgrims. STP should be provided with roofing etc to prevent leaves falling from thick forest. Flexible piping (hose) to be used for pumping sewage from different tourist /admin blocks. Stabilisation of the STP should be done 15 days ahead of festival season. Proper arrangement should be made for disposal of sludge and final treated effluent.
- (ii) Waste generation increases gradually with increase of pilgrims and hence waste collection and its disposal needs to be regulated.
- (iii) For systematic waste collection and its disposal, additional facility such as exclusive road for tractor movement is required in the key areas.
- (iv) Incinerator operation should be increased to three shifts to accommodate all waste generated. Preheating facility with hot emissions from the incinerator should be considered to improve efficiency of incineration.
- (v) Skilled volunteers should be employed for handling solid waste in incineration.
- (vi) Scrubbing water from incinerator should be treated and reused for scrubbing.
- (vii) Additional biogas plant /bioreactors should be provided for disposal of food and other biodegradable waste. More number of waste bins should be provided along bathing ghats & in parking area from toll gate to Pamba.
- (viii) For safe disposal of biomedical waste generated by medical institutions, provisions as per relevant rules should be implemented.
- (ix) Additional biogas plants /bioreactors to be provided along the side of (Nadapathal, Marakottam Sabripeedam etc), the forest trail from Pamba to Sannidhanam.
- (x) Adequate numbers of bottle shredder and bailing machines are needed.

- (xi) Capacity of oil and grease trap system in the STP at Sannidhanam is inadequate for the sewage generated from prasadam plant.
- (xii) Water stagnation near Bailey Bridge needs to be stopped and all wastewater lines should be connected to STP. All the sewerage lines are not connected to the STPs at Sannidhanam, the Coliform count and BOD of Njunangar river was very high which affect the quality of river Pamba. Holding tank volume should be augmented to increase contact time for ozonation system for efficient disinfection. Alternatively, additional independent disinfection system needs to be explored. Adequate sludge drying bed may be provided and work should be completed before the start of next season.
- (xiii) Pipelines carrying sewage to the STP, Sannidhanam should be of cast iron.
- (xiv) Sound level of public address system should be maintained from 85 dBA to attain an average ambient noise of 45 dBA
- (xv) Adequate work force should be deployed for removal of left over clothes from the bathing ghats of Pamba river.
- (xvi) Regulating flow of river Pamba from upstream dam to fulfil optimum requirements of pilgrims.
- (xvii) STPs and incineration system at Pamba and Sannidhanam are being operated without valid consent to operate.

Now therefore, considering above observations for abatement of pollution & conservation of river Pamba and, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) is hereby directed to issue directions under Section 33 (A) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to following local bodies / authorities for implementation of following measures in a time bound manner :-

(i) Pathanamthitta municipality: -

- a) To Set up STPs of adequate capacity and provide sewerage system to cover the entire local/urban areas, enforcement of consent management in line with standards for sewage treatment, roofing on STP, pumping of sewage through hose pipe, arrangement for disposal of sludge and final treated effluent, increase in shifts of incinerator operation and reuse of scrubbing water.
- b) To develop infrastructure for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes for implementation of the provisions of Municipal Solid Waste Rules, left over clothes and also to set up biogas plant /bioreactors for disposal of food & other biodegradable waste.

(ii) Travancore Devasom Board: -

- a) To develop infrastructure for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes for implementation of the provisions of Municipal Solid Waste Rules.
- b) To develop exclusive way for movement of waste generated from the temple complex.
- c) To increase in shifts of incineration facility, reuse of scrubbing water.
- d) To provide additional biogas plant /bioreactors.
- e) To install adequate numbers of bottle shredder and bailing machine.
- f) To set up STPs of adequate capacity and provide sewerage system to cover entire local/urban areas enforcement of consent management in line with standards for sewage treatment, pumping of sewage to STP, adequate oil and grease trap system in the STP at Sannidhanam , Holding tank volume augmentation with additional independent disinfection system and adequate sludge drying bed.
- g) To maintain ambient sound level of 45 dBA by Kerala State Police.
- h) To augment flow of river by Irrigation department, Kerala to fulfil the requirement of Pilgrims.


The action taken report shall be forwarded to CPCB within 15 days from the date of issue of these directions. Kerala SPCB shall also acknowledge receipt of these directions to CPCB by return fax.

(S.P. Singh Parihar)
Chairman

Copy to: -

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(A. Sudhakar)
Member Secretary