

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the 24th January, 2019.

No.ENV.5/2018/44: In pursuance of NGT/ Principal Bench Order Dt. 20th Sept., 2018, in Original Application No. 673/2018, News item published in 'The Hindu' Authored by Shri. Jacob Koshi titled " more river stretches are now critically polluted", the Government of Meghalaya is pleased to constitute a River Rejuvenation Committee for preparing an action plan within two months for bringing all the polluted river stretches to be fit at least for bathing purposes (i.e BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 ml) within six months from the date of finalisation of the action plans, consisting of the following members:

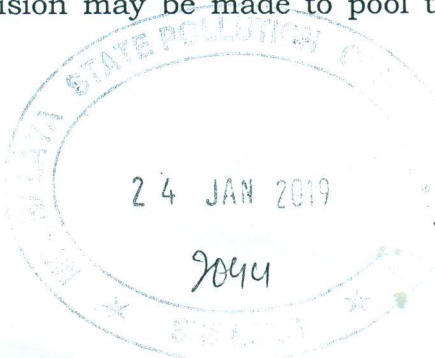
1. **River Rejuvenation Committee** (A four-member Committee for preparing the Action Plan)
 - i. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HoFF -----Chairperson
 - ii. Director, Urban Development.-----Member Convener
 - iii. Director, Industries,-----Member
 - iv. Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board.----Member

This Committee will also be the Monitoring Committee for execution of the action plan. The Committee may be called "River Rejuvenation Committee" (RRC). The RRC will function under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment, Government of Meghalaya.

Term of Reference:

- (i) The action plan will include components like identification of polluting sources.
- (ii) Functioning/ status of STPs/ETPs/CETP and solid waste management and processing facilities.
- (iii) Quantification and characterisation of solid waste, trade and sewage generated in the catchment area of polluted river stretch.
- (iv) The action plan will address issues relating to; ground water extraction, adopting good irrigation practices, protection and management of Flood Plain Zones (FPZ), rain water harvesting, ground water charging, maintaining minimum environmental flow of river and plantation on both sides of the river.
- (v) Setting up of biodiversity parks on flood plains by removing encroachment shall also be considered as an important component for river rejuvenation.
- (vi) The action plan should focus on proper interception and diversion of sewage carrying drains to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and emphasis should be on utilization of treated sewage so as to minimize extraction of ground or surface water.
- (vii) The action plan should have speedy, definite or specific timelines for execution of steps. Provision may be made to pool the resources, utilizing

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funds from State budgets, local bodies, State Pollution Control Board/Committee and out of Central Schemes.

- (viii) The RRC will have a website inviting public participation from educational institutions, religious institutions and commercial establishments. Achievement and failure may also be published on such website. The Committee may consider suitably rewarding those contributing significantly to the success of the project.
- (ix) The RRCs will have the authority to recover the cost of rejuvenation in Polluter Pays Principle from those who may be responsible for the pollution, to the extent found necessary. In this regard, principle laid down by this Tribunal in order dated 13.07.2017 in *O.A No. 200 of 2014, M.C Mehta Vs. U.O.I* will apply. Voluntary donations, CSR contribution, voluntary services and private participation may be considered in consultation with the RRC.

The Action Plans may be subjected to a random scrutiny by a task team of the CPCB. A copy of Action Plan is required to be sent to CPCB especially w.r.t Priority I & Priority II (**ANNEXURE I**) stretches for approval

Sd/-
(P.W. Ingty, IAS)
Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. Of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department
Shillong