

**Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) held on 05/11/2019 at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Kalpataru Point, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Sion, Mumbai – 400 022.**

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted as per the Maharashtra Government G.R. issued by the Environment Dept, GoM vide no. NGT 2018/PC-2/TC-3 dtd.13/12/2018 in compliance with Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide order dated 20/09/2018 w.r.t. the News Item published in "The Hindu" authored by Shri Jacob Koshy Titled "More River Stretches are now critically polluted : CPCB (Original Application No.673/2018)". During the meeting following officials were present.


- 1) Shri. E. Ravendiran, Member Secretary, MPCB
- 2) Shri. Narendra Toke, Director, Environment Dept, GoM, Mumbai
- 3) Shri. S.L. Rakshe, Environmental Engineer, MIDC HQ, Mumbai

The following issues were discussed and decided:

Point	Discussion	Outcome	Decision
1.	<p>Review of major points and its outcome of last 5 RRC Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Status of Action plans</li> <li>▪ Review of issues pertaining to local bodies like installation of sewage treatment &amp; MSW processing facilities in a time bound manner.</li> <li>▪ Funding of STPs</li> <li>▪ Timelines for completion of STPs</li> <li>▪ To maintain e-flow in the rivers.</li> <li>▪ Water availability in the rivers</li> <li>▪ Identify industrial pollution sources to the river if any along with action taken reports.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised action plans has been submitted to Hon'ble NGT. The MPCB as well as the Govt. has taken effective steps for installation of sewage treatment &amp; MSW processing facilities in a time bound manner.</p> <p>Instructions to be given to Regional Officers MPCB will to take following actions-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Issue prosecution notices to ULBs which have not proposed any STPs.</li> <li>2. Issue directions to ULBs which have already provided time lines for completion of STPs, to adhere strictly to the timelines.</li> <li>3. Take monthly review of compliance of the action plan along with ULBs &amp; submit the status to Head Office.</li> <li>4. Attend next RRC meeting along with representatives of non-complying ULBs.</li> </ol>	<p>MPCB to monitor the compliance &amp; brief in next RRC meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Discussion on time lines submitted by Local bodies for completion of STPs.</p>	<p>Letters issued to Urban Development Department with copy to Director Municipal Administration for similar line of action.</p>	<p>Regarding follow-up of letters with Water Resource Department and Urban Development</p>

			<p>Department dtd. 16/02/2019 addressed to Principal Secretary, UDD II and Principal Secretary, WRD, it was decided that Director Environment shall take necessary follow-up with these departments. The RRC shall communicate to Municipal Administration for similar line of action as previously sent to UDD-II.</p>
3.	<p>Communicate clarification regarding end use of water from the polluted river stretches after achieving the standards in comparison to present use.</p>	<p>The discussion held on this issue is that the end use of water from rivers in Maharashtra for Irrigation, domestic purpose and Industries.</p>	<p>The rivers in Maharashtra are not perennial. These are dependent on water released from the dams during non-monsoons.</p>
4.	<p>Investment details for the STPs in smaller towns contributing pollution to river.</p>	<p>MPCB has decided to issue Directions to such towns/villages which do not have technical and financial capability. MPCB will assist them technically &amp; financially.</p>	<p>Such projects related to waste management in smaller towns will be completed within next 3 years. The circular regarding the financial &amp; technical assistance to local bodies for setting up sewage management facility is issued on 25.10.2019.</p>
5.	<p>The Municipal Councils and Corporations has not yet confirmed time line for completion of sewerage system in the city. In such cases, actions to be initiated.</p>	<p>In addition to O. A. No. 673/2018, Hon'ble NGT issued an order on 28.08.2019 in the matter of OA No. 593/2017 Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti vs Union of India and directed to levy Environmental Compensation to the defaulters, e.g. to meet</p>	<p>MPCB to monitor the compliance.</p>

		with the disposal standards by STPs to the desired standards by 01.04.2020. In view of this, the Board has issued directions to 01 Mega city, 09 Million plus cities, 254 Class I cities/towns and 122 Nagar Panchayats as to why Environmental Compensation shall not be levied after the stipulated timeline.	
6.	Website inviting public participation from educational institutions, religious institutions and commercial establishments	A separate icon is provided on the MPCB website provided for Public Participation and all the action plans & other details regarding polluted river stretches are displayed on the website.	<a href="http://www.mpcb.gov.in/river_streches/River_streches.php">http://www.mpcb.gov.in/river_streches/River_streches.php</a>
7.	Maintenance of environmental flow	RRC has communicated to Water Resource Dept for maintaining environmental flow in the rivers of Maharashtra adopting good irrigation practices, protection and management of flood plain zones, rainwater harvesting, groundwater charging, maintaining minimum environmental flow of river and plantation on both sides of the rivers.	Letter issued on 16/02/2019.

  
**(E. Ravendiran, IAS)**  
 Member Secretary & Convenor of RRC

