


L-25012(11)/2/2020/NMCG/699  
National Mission for Clean Ganga  
Department of Water Resources, River Development  
& Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti

1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium  
India Gate, New Delhi-110002  
Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Minutes of the First joint meeting of the Chief Secretaries of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal in the NGT matter O. A. No. 200 – M. C. Mehta Vs. Union of India &Ors. held on 07.10.2020 from 03:00 PM onwards**

Kindly recall the joint meeting in the NGT matter O. A. No. 200 – M. C. Mehta Vs. Union of India &Ors. held through video conferencing on 07.10.2020 from 03:00 PM onwards under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti. A copy of the said meeting is forwarded herewith for your kind information and necessary action.

  
(D. P. Mathuria) 12.10.2020

Executive Director -Technical  
National Mission for Clean Ganga  
[uyrb-mowr@nic.in](mailto:uyrb-mowr@nic.in)

Encl.: As above

**To,**

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Uttarakhand, Secretariat Dehradun – 248 001
2. Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Room No. 110, Lal bahadur Sastri Bhawan, Uttar Pradesh Secretariat, Lucknow – 226 001
3. Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, Main Secretariat, Patna – 800015
4. Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Project Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834 004
5. Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, Nabanna, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Mandirtala, Shibpur, Howrah – 711 102
6. Sh. Anurag Jain, Vice Chairman, DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi – 110 016
7. Ms. Keshani Anand Arora, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana
8. Ms. Shilaja Chandra, Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
9. Ms. Vini Mahajan, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab
10. Sh. Anup Chandra Pandey, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh

**Copy To:**

1. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, U.P., Room No. 601, Bapu Bhawan Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow – 226001.

2. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Van Vibhag Road, Nehru Nagar, Patliputra Colony, Patna – 800 013, Bihar
3. Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Secretariat, Fourth Floor, New Building Dehradun – 248 001
4. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pranisampada Bhawan, Block LB-II, Salt Lake, Sector III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata – 700 106
5. Additional Chief Secretary Forest, Environment & Climate Change Deptt., Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi – 834 002, Jharkhand
6. The Member Secretary, Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, Plot No. NS-B/2 Patliputra Industrial Area, Patliputra, Patna – 800 010, Bihar
7. The Member Secretary, Jharkhand Pollution Control Board, T.A Building, HEC, P.O. Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834 004
8. The Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Environmental Protection & Pollution Control Board, 29/20, Nemi Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248 001
9. The Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Building. No. TC-12V, Vibhuthikhand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow – 226 010
10. The Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Paribesh Bhavan, 10A, Block-L.A., Sector III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 106

**Copy for kind information:**

1. PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, Sansad Marg Area, New Delhi – 110 001
2. PS to Director General, NMCG-cum-Project Director, NRCD
3. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi – 110 032
4. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi –110 032
5. PS to ED (Project/ Finance), NMCG

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**Minutes of the First Joint Meeting of the Chief Secretaries of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal in NGT matter O. A. No. 200 – M. C. Mehta Vs. Union of India & Ors. held in the Conference Room, National Mission for Clean Ganga on 07.10.2020, 3 PM (through video conferencing)**

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**Present:**

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Sh. U. P. Singh         | Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)                  |
| 2. Sh. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra | D. G., NMCG   |
| 3. Sh. Om Prakash          | Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand                     |
| 4. Sh. Ashok Singh         | Executive Director (Projects), NMCG                       |
| 5. Sh. D. P. Mathuria      | Executive Director (Technical), NMCG                      |
| 6. Sh. Vivek Kumar         | Principal Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of W. B. |
| 7. Sh. Anurag Jain         | Vice Chairman, DDA  |
| 8. Sh. A.K. Vidyarathi     | Addl. Director, CPCB                                      |
| 9. Sh. Vinay Kr. Chaubey   | Secretary, State Urban Development authority, Jharkhand   |
| 10. Sh. Anurag Srivastava  | Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Dept., Govt. of U.P.      |
| 11. Sh. Ishwer Singh       | Consultant (Legal), NMCG                                  |
| 12. Sh. Kumar Ajitabh      | Project Officer (Legal), NMCG                             |

**Special Invitee**

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Smt. Shailaja Chandra    | Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi |
| 2. Dr. Anup Chandra Pandey  | Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of U.P.         |
| 3. Smt. Keshani Anand Arora | Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana      |

Following deliberations were made in the meeting:

1. DG, NMCG welcomed the participants and invited Chairperson, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, for his inaugural address.
2. Chairperson, while welcoming the dignitaries in his inaugural address informed that there are number of orders passed by the Hon'ble NGT related to River Ganga and other polluted River stretches in the country stressing upon various issues that should be collectively looked into by the States/ UTs administration and Central Govt. for successful implementation of different programs related to abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of rivers. The Hon'ble NGT in its recent order dated 13.08.2020 in O. A. No. 200/2014 has categorically mentioned that there should be a joint discussion between the Chief Secretaries of five Ganga States i.e. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal. The Chair remarked that in today's meeting only the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand is present. Except for the Chief Secretary of West Bengal who has been courteous enough to inform that he could not attend the meeting as he is on tour, there has been no communication from the Chief Secretaries of other Ganga States. It is unfortunate that none of them submitted their feedback for joint discussion in terms of NGT order. The Chair further remarked that since, the NGT orders are very specific, the chair is not inclined to hear and discuss with delegated Officers from the State Government, as such approach would negate the very purpose of calling such a meeting and render it futile. The Order of the Hon'ble NGT was for

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a joint meeting and not a review meeting by Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Due to absence of 4 out of 5 Chief Secretaries, it was not possible to have a meaningful discussion.

3. The Chair expressed that basic idea behind this meeting is that the issues related to implementation of projects for pollution abatement in River Ganga should have attention of the highest-level bureaucrats of the concerned State Governments. The emphasis is on establishing a common platform for dissemination of best practises that have been successfully adopted for containment of pollution and rejuvenation of rivers & water bodies. The obvious objective is to jointly deliberate upon how the Uttarakhand administration managed to achieve remarkable progress in rejuvenation of River Ganga and the reasons behind poor performance by other Ganga States so that there is no perpetual obliviousness amongst the riparian States. This is not a normal/routine review meeting akin to those convened at the National level by the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) constituted in O. A. No.673/2018, as there would be review of not only those projects which are funded under *Namami Gange Programme*, but also projects which are funded/sponsored under various schemes or programmes of Central and/ or State Govts.
4. Chairperson raised concern that despite the projects in the five Ganga States are being regularly monitored in monthly meetings of the CMC, followed by sending of minutes of the meetings with DO letters to the Chief Secretaries regarding compliances on specific issues and bringing those issues into the attention of Chief Secretaries, none of the States have exhaustive data on STP infrastructure providing details about existing STPs, commissioning date, installed capacity, capacity utilized, etc. Besides, there is lack of single body monitoring of STP functionality in almost every State. It is high time that State administrators have a handy data of sewerage infrastructure.
5. Executive Director (Technical), NMCG briefly presented directions passed by the Hon'ble NGT in order Dt. 13.08.2020. He also mentioned about pertinent observations of the Hon'ble NGT and salient points of discussion. He mentioned that Hon'ble Tribunal observed that vide its order dated 29.05.2019, it was directed that Ganga pollution be monitored directly by the Chief Secretaries of Uttarakhand, U.P., Jharkhand, Bihar and W.B, in view of such monitoring having already been directed in respect of 351 polluted river stretches in different States by the Chief Secretaries. Further road map, including identification of accountable persons and taking actions for the lapses was also to be prepared.
6. He further mentioned that Hon'ble NGT also observed that there should be periodic joint meetings of the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to consider vital issues like pooling of human resources and sharing best practices for rejuvenation of Ganga, particularly preventing discharge of sewage and other pollutants therein directly or in its tributaries or drains connected thereto. There is

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a need to take a holistic approach of treating river Ganga as a single entity and eco-system which requires pooling of fiscal resources by different stakeholders. For the said meeting Chief Secretaries would compile their feedback beforehand for an effective interaction and joint discussion. Further, such meetings may be held at least once in 03 months with specific targets.

7. He also mentioned that Hon'ble NGT directed for constitution of a Joint Committee of members from NMCG, MoJS and CPCB to look into the issue of river floodplains demarcation and protection in the State of Bihar. He informed that the CWC and CPCB have nominated officials for the said joint committee. The committee should decide the scope of work, line of action and time lines at the earliest.
8. Smt. Shailaja Chandra, former Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi thanked Chair & DG, NMCG for inviting to speak on issues pertaining to abatement of pollution in rivers & water bodies and share experience on best practises that have been successfully adopted for containment of pollution and rejuvenation of rivers & water bodies. She talked about some of the generic issues with respect to pollution of water bodies that have been dealt during the monitoring of pollution abatement projects for River Yamuna in Delhi. She opined that these can be broadly categorised into: (i) STPs and their functioning; (ii) Septage Management; and (iii) Softer issues like utilizations of treated waste-water, phytoremediation, bioremediation as interim majors, Ground water contamination and recharge related issues, biodiversity and wetland conservation. She further stated that the first category related to STPs and their functioning can be further categorised into four sub-categories viz. (a) setting of new STPs; (b) capacity utilization; (c) the conveyance system being placed in positions and its synchronisation with the STPs constructed; and (d) the treatment as per the standard norms, requirement of upgradation in view of new standards along with the issue of non-functional STPs for want of proper monitoring. She also cited the example of the Panipat STP where the STP has been rendered useless because of lack of proper conveyance system.
9. With respect to second issue related to septage management, she raised concern about the problem of large number of unauthorised colonies/slum bastis in Delhi which are devoid of sewerage systems. She suggested that if the Govt. is desirous of tackling these issues related to setting up of septic tanks, collection of septage and its disposal as per the norms, then the issues related to charges/finances also needs to be settled. For this she gave the example of arrangement made in Delhi by which probably DISCOMS/ Electricity Regulatory Authority will collect annual charges from dwellers of unauthorised colonies/slum bastis for facilitation of septage management that is as per the septage management policy of the Govt. of Delhi.

10. With respect to softer issues she was of the view that the softer issues are more related to conservation of river ecology and therefore, may be taken up as third priority.
11. She suggested that it is almost impossible to deliberate/grapple on all the three issues simultaneously in a single meeting and therefore, the glaring question are that of prioritizing the issues so that they can be dealt with effectively within the busy schedule of the State administrators.
12. Dr. Anup Chandra Pandey, former Chief Secretary, Govt. of U.P. highlighted that due to their keen attention bestowed by the Secretary, MoJS and DG, NMCG, the planning and implementation of various projects for pollution abatement and rejuvenation of rivers & water bodies in the State of U.P. have gained momentum. He expressed his confidence that this team would certainly cover the gaps and achieve goals. He felt there was a lot of work required to be done at the ground level in relation to creation of sewerage capacity, management of legacy wastes, re-use of treated waste-water, solid waste management facility, adoption of FSTPs and phytoremediation- bioremediation initiatives in the State of U.P.
13. He also drew attention towards non-functioning of the Pratapgarh STP even after a decade of its sanction. He suggested that the strike should be on rendering the existent sewerage capacity functional and making them compliant to standards. The issues related to operation and maintenance should be dealt thorough impact evaluation /audit of the 'One City-One Operator' arrangement that has been adopted since last year.
14. He spoke about the importance of community participation and involvement of local public for restoration and rejuvenation of rivers/water bodies. He suggested that the success story of the rejuvenation of Tamsa river in Ayodhya through *shram-daan* by local public under MANREGA scheme should be shared with all District Magistrates and they should be asked to identify and take up similar activities, with the involvement of local public, that may help in restoring the water bodies/rivers/ground water with minimum financial burden.
15. He also recommended that efforts be made in close coordination with technical bodies to tap excess run-off of rivers/canal during rainy season to recharge old water bodies and retain water in new ponds to be constructed specifically for the purpose. Such simple interventions have been taken up in Mathura district to increase groundwater level and rejuvenate water bodies. He suggested that the Mathura experiment be technically vetted by some technical body under the MoJS for replicating it in other places with deplorable groundwater levels.
16. Several other related examples of restoration of ponds/lakes/wetlands etc. were also cited by the Chair and it was suggested that District Magistrates should strive to rejuvenate every water body in the district by next monsoon.

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17. Chief Secretary, State of Uttarakhand apprised the committee that there were total 32 new STPs proposed to be constructed on the main stem of River Ganga with support of NMCG and out of which 29 STPs have been completed. Remaining 03 STPs will be completed by 31.03.2021. All the STPs are complying with the environmental norms, 12 STPs have been connected with OCMS. Periodical inspection is being conducted by Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board. There were 131 drains that were draining into River Ganga and all these drains have been intercepted by 46 STPs (14 existing, 32 new).
  18. He informed that State Govt. of Uttarakhand has constituted a committee to monitor steps for conservation of ground water and directed Forest Department to develop catchment area treatment plants and pooling/ dovetailing of financial resources for restoration of water bodies and ponds etc. from CAMPA and MANREGA funds.
  19. He spoke about the funding crunch for solid waste management programs but assured that Govt. of Uttarakhand is looking forward towards exploring CSR schemes of willing corporate houses for this purpose.
  20. Since, Chief Secretaries from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal were absent their view could not be taken up for discussion. The delegated officials from these States who were present in the meeting were suggested to convey accordingly.
  21. The chair approved for convening the next meeting in December 2020 at suitable date and time, provided the Chief Secretaries of States concerned get themselves acquainted with details /issues to be discussed and give their feedbacks in advance.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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