

the issues pertaining to Solid Waste Management and drawal of sweet water in the beach area of Puri along with others.

With regard to the aspect pertaining to the sweet water in the beach area of Puri, we had directed the concerned authorities to take into consideration Regulation 3(11) of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 that required fulfilment of certain mandatory conditions. It was necessary for the Puri Municipality to file a comprehensive report in which this aspect would be incorporated. The issue pertaining to solid waste management in Puri as well as question relating to sweet water had been areas of concern for us and had accordingly directed the State Respondents as well as Puri Municipality to take appropriate actions. Although scattered adhoc decisions appear to have been taken on solid waste management as sporadic reactions to the directions issued by the Tribunal, we do not find any tangible action having been taken as a permanent solution.

Similarly , we had also raised the question on the fast depleting sweet water and had identified the indiscriminate and unregulated exploitation of this precious natural resource as the major cause of that . The State Respondents had, therefore, been directed to ensure supply of surface water in the area by establishing network of water supply lines in the city which would lighten the dependence on sweet water.

The Puri Municipality, the Deptt. of PHE, Govt. of Odisha and the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board, are, therefore, directed to expedite the process of establishing efficient solid waste treatment plant and to complete laying of the water supply pipelines in the city. We do notice that substantial works have been taken up by the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board on sewerage networking but it requires to be expedited.

In order to preserve the sweet water, one of the directions that we had issued was for making provision for rain water harvesting and to make it mandatory in

respect of govt. offices and structures in the first instance to be followed by its implementation against private buildings.

We take note of the fact that the State Respondents have decided to implement this in respect of new plots measuring 300 sq. mtrs and more by making provisions in the Puri Konark Development Authority (Planning and Building standard Regulations, 2016) but this requires earnest implementation which we hope and expect the State Respondents will do followed by making it mandatory also in respect of the existing houses and building in a phased manner.

Besides the above, the PHE Deptt. may also explore the possibility of establishing desalination plants at permissible distances from the sea beach as a source of water supply to the city of Puri. We are aware of the fact that this is being implemented in certain coastal cities of our country, Chennai being one of such cities. It would no doubt involve investment of public money but it will be one time exercise, rest being only its

maintenance. The value of the service it would render in protecting the sweet ground water and aquifers in the Puri area, however, would be immeasurable. We may also observe that desalination plants are considered to be environmental and eco friendly.

A report shall be filed by the Chief Secretary on this aspect on the next date.

Affidavit filed on behalf of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha, Respondent No.10 and the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Respondent No.14, by Mr. Deepak Kumar Pani, Ld. Govt. Counsel and Mr. P.K. Bhuyan, Ld. Advocate, respectively, are ordered to be taken on record.

From the affidavit filed by the Chief Secretary, we find that out of 7655 households, 3415 households have been connected to the sewerage network. In order to achieve 100% connection, various incentives have been introduced to the extent of paying Rs. 6667/-out of Swacha Bharat Mission to each household and for that purpose, a sum of Rs. 5.30 crores have

been provided to the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board. Besides this, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been approved and 21 motivators have been engaged to undertake door to door campaign.

As regards disposal and treatment of municipal wastes, we find that a stand alone composting plant with capacity of processing 100 MT per day is functioning since 1998. But it is processing only 50 MT waste and that steps are being taken to strengthen source segregation for utilization of full capacity of the plant. Solid Waste Management bye Laws notified by the Puri Municipality provides for penalty against non compliers besides the other provisions for collection of user charges from the waste generators.

In the affidavit filed by the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board, it is stated that the land for construction of pumping stations which had been identified earlier has been handed over to the Board by the Tehsildar. This fact has been acknowledged by Mr.

Deepak Kumar Pani, Ld. Govt. Advocate. It is further informed that work order has been issued to one M/s Eureka Traders Bureau on 23.08.2017 with the date of completion as 22.08.2018. It is further stated that detailed survey and soil testing of the pumping stations have been completed and its design and drawing is under process. As the construction materials have been collected at the site, the work is scheduled to start within two weeks from hence.

On the sewerage network, we find reiteration of the facts stated by the Chief Secretary in his affidavit additionally stating that 100% connectivity of the entire city will be achieved by February, 2020.

The PHE and Sewerage Board shall file reports regarding the progress made on this on the next date. However, we are of the view that the process should be expedited to achieve it earlier than it is presently envisaged.

We find that provision for solid waste

management is not up to the mark as it only caters to composting and, that also calls for better efforts to make it functional up to its optimum capacity which is 100 MT as the figure provided in the affidavit of the Chief Secretary demonstrates that it presently processes only 50 MT against 80-90 MT Municipal Solid generated per day. This being confined only to composting of biodegradable part of the waste, we do not find any provision having been made for treatment/disposal of the non-biodegradable solid waste. This requires urgent attention of the State Respondents and the Municipality.

Mr. Datta, informs us that consent to operate granted for operation of the composting plant had been withdrawn earlier and that it would be necessary to verify as to whether the plant is at all operational and also as to whether it has been granted consent to operate afresh.

The submission being reasonable, we direct the State PCB to inspect the composting unit at Puri and

verify as to whether it is functional or not and complies with all the requirements prescribed under the law.

Reports shall be filed by the State PCB on the next date. The Puri Municipality, Respondent No.6 shall also inform us on this aspect by way of an affidavit on the next date.

List on 21.12.2017.

Justice S.P.Wangdi, JM
2-11-2017

Prof. (Dr.) P. C. Mishra, EM
2-11-2017

