

**TE-11015/1/2018-O/oED(TECH)/NMCG**  
**National Mission for Clean Ganga**  
**Ministry of Water Resources, River Development &**  
**Ganga Rejuvenation**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium  
India Gate, New Delhi-110002  
Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Principal Committee held on 24.04.2019 at 03:00 PM under the chairmanship of Secretary, MoWR, RD&GR.**

A copy of Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Principal Committee in the matter of O.A. No. 10 of 2015 held at Conference Room, MoWR, RD&GR on 24.04.2019 at 03.00 PM under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, RD&GR is forwarded herewith for information/ necessary action.



D. P. Mathuria 30.4.2019  
Executive Director (Technical) NMCG  
Member Convener, Principal Committee

Encl: As above.

To:

1. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor bagh Road, New Delhi – 110032
2. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subash Road, Uttarakhand Secretariat, Fourth Floor New Building, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248001
3. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032
4. Financial Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor bagh Road, New Delhi – 110032
5. Prof A. K. Gosain, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110 016
6. Dr. C.R. Babu, Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems, School of Environment Studies, University of Delhi-110007.
7. Dr. A. B. Akolkar, Flat No. H-503, Mayurdhwaj Apartment, IP Extension, Patparganj Delhi-110092
8. Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest, Uttarakhand Secretariat, 4 Subash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand -248001
9. Secretary (Medical, Health &FW) and Urban Development, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Room No. 301, Vishwakarma Building, Uttarakhand Secretariat 4 B, Subhash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand -248001
10. Secretary, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Secretariat, Forth Floor, New Building Dehradun, Pin code-248001

11. Secretary Environment and Forest, Uttarakhand Secretariat, 4 Subash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand -248001
12. Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board,29/20, Nemi Road, Dalanwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248001
13. Managing Director, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, 11- Mohini Road, Dalanwala Dehradun - 248001 Uttarakhand
14. Managing Director - Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Nehru Colony B- Block, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Dehradun - 248001

Copy for kind information:

1. PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, RD&GR Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, Sansad Marg Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
2. Chairman, Monitoring Committee (Uttarakhand)
3. Member, Monitoring Committee (Uttarakhand)
4. PS to DG, NMCG
5. PS to ED (Project/Finance/Admin), NMCG
6. Project Director, State Program Management Group, 117 Indira Nagar Dehradun 248001 Uttarakhand
7. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director (T-III), NMCG

**Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Principal Committee in the matter of O.A. No. 10 of 2015  
held at Conference Room, MoWR, RD&GR**

A meeting of the Principal Committee in the matter of O.A. No. 10 of 2015 – Indian Council for Enviro-legal Action Vs NGRBA and others as well as OA No. 200/2014 M.C.Mehta Vs Union of India and others, was held on 24.04.2019 at Conference Room, MoWR, RD&GR under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MoWR, RD&GR. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

Uttarakhand Government presented an affidavit submitted to Hon'ble NGT in compliance to the directions of NGT vide judgement dated 10.12.2015 and order dated 29.11.2018. Salient points discussed in the meeting are as follows:

1. Technical Advisor-SPMG Uttarakhand informed that 21 meetings of the District Ganga Committees (DGC), 3 meetings of Executive Committee (EC) and 2 meetings of Supervisory Committee have been held in pursuance to the order dated 19.07.2018.

Chairman-Principal Committee raised concern over the wide variation in number of District Ganga Committees (DGC) meetings convened by different districts, as in some districts 6 meetings have been held over a period of 6 months while in some only 1 meeting has been convened till February. Further, recommended that details of the DGC meetings (number and minutes) may be included in the compliance report and that the minutes of the DGC meetings may also be uploaded on web-portals such as NMCG and State Ministry website.

Uttarakhand official informed that the details includes only of the meetings convened after the hearing of Hon'ble NGT on 29.11.2018 up to the date of submission of the compliance report (05.03.2019). Further, meetings have been held before 29.11.2018 and after 05.03.2019.

Technical Advisor, SPMG Uttarakhand informed that previously DGCs were monitoring the progress with regard to compliance of the NGT judgement. Based on the recommendations of Principal Committee in the previous meeting held on 28.11.2018, a template mentioning the action points to be taken up in the DGC's meeting has been prepared and shared with all DGCs for monitoring the compliance and is to be submitted to the Executive/ Supervisory Committee regularly.

Chairman-Principal Committee highlighted that establishment of STPs only will not be sufficient to achieve the goals of Ganga Rejuvenation, therefore a holistic approach involving measures to revive water bodies, regulation of groundwater extraction, prevention of floodplain encroachment, groundwater recharge, spring rejuvenation, wetland conservation, rain water harvesting, fecal sludge management etc should also be addressed and prioritized by the State as well as the District administrations. It was also informed that solid waste floating in rivers and disposed on ghats, creates an impression of failure in Ganga cleaning by the Government and suggested that number of activities can be taken up at district level especially by installing trash arresting screens in the drains and regular collection/ disposal of solid waste deposited at the screens.

2. Nodal Officer Uttarakhand (APCCF) informed that in compliance to the NGT order dated 29.11.2018, a Monitoring Committee has been constituted for monitoring the compliance of the judgement. The Committee is Chaired by Hon'ble Justice U.C.Dhyani, former Judge of Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand with Dr. Anita Roy IPS, Prof.A.A.Kazmi and CPCB official as members of the Committee. It was also informed that Chairman-Monitoring Committee had made site visit to few locations in Uttarakhand such as Devprayag, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Kashipur etc. During the visit, it was observed that the 1.4 MLD STP at Devprayag is under-utilized.

Chairman-Principal Committee highlighted that due to non-connection of sewer lines with house-holds, the STPs at Devprayag, Tapovan and other locations are under-utilized. It is suggested that the utilization capacity of the plant at Tapovan can be improved by providing connection with hotels, ashrams and dharmshalas in the catchment area of the STP.

Nodal Officer Uttarakhand (APCCF) informed that the plan for connecting the hotels and dharmshalas to the STP in Tapovan is under-progress. Hotels and ashrams in Rishikesh have connected to the STP, the project for I&D of drains with STP in Rishikesh is under-progress.

Chairman-Principal Committee suggested that Monitoring Committee may be informed that establishment of STP; involving civil, electro-hydro-mechanical works; usually takes considerable time. Most of these works are being implemented by contractual arrangements with developers or EPC contractors with definite timelines.

After completion of these on-going sewerage projects in Uttarakhand (15 years O&M also included), there would be no major sewerage project required for the State of Uttarakhand, provided the septage management also is optimally utilized.

3. Prof.C.R.Babu informed that the compliance report submitted by the State do not clearly indicate issues of septage management in Uttarakhand.

Prof A.K.Gosain informed that quantification of the amount of work completed and the work remaining is not clear from the report and further suggested to include details of number of STPs operational along with utilization capacity and amount of water re-used in different sectors.

Nodal Officer Uttarakhand (APCCF) informed that the compliance report is in continuation to the submissions made in Hon'ble NGT previously which has provided detailed timelines for various projects.

4. Nodal Officer Uttarakhand (APCCF) informed that under-utilization of STPs is due to absence of sewer network in the catchment areas and requested Principal Committee to recommend laying of sewer lines in areas where STPs are existing/ operational.

Technical Advisor-SPMG Uttarakhand informed that loan has been approved for laying of sewer networks in Haridwar and Rishikesh.

Chairman-Principal Committee informed that STPs are lying under-utilized due to poor operation and maintenance therefore NMCG has sanctioned projects under Hybrid Annuity Model and One City One Operators basis with O&M for 15 years, to ensure optimum utilization of the plants, as the funds would be released to the operators based on the performance of the plant. It was further recommended that sewer lines to be laid for full utilization of STPs where STPs are completed or to be completed.

5. Technical Advisor-SPMG Uttarakhand informed that NGT was informed about the non-feasibility of the experimental bio-digester and the attainment of ODF status of the hamlets and non-requirement of further treatment, NGT vide its orders dated 29.11.2018 constituted a joint team of CPCB and UEPCCB, Pey Jal Nigam, SIDCUL to examine the issue of bio-digester. It was explained in the last meeting of Principal Committee that bio-digester is not required on account of attainment of ODF in the

State. Principal Committee reiterated its recommendation that bio-digesters are not required for same reasons.

6. Nodal Officer Uttarakhand (APCCF) informed that I&D with STP projects at Nandprayag, Karnprayag, Rudraprayag and Srinagar have been completed, and trial runs are being carried out for these.

ED (Technical) NMCG informed that Hon'ble NGT vide its order 29.11.2018, had recommended to pre-pone the commissioning of the 68 MLD STP at Hardiwar by June 2019 instead of February 2020.

Principal Committee recommended that Hon'ble NGT may be updated about the progress of the project such as the amount of work completed and amount of work for remaining projects along with completion timeline in the next compliance to be submitted.

7. Nodal Officer Uttarakhand (APCCF) informed that 135 drains have been identified to be meeting Ganga and its tributaries, of which 70 were already tapped. Status of tapping along with its completion timeline has been provided in the report. Further, it was informed that proposal for treatment of 13 drains using Bio-remediation has been submitted to NMCG.

ED (Technical) NMCG informed that out of 13 drains, 11 drains are expected to be tapped latest by December 2019 which includes approx. four monsoon months also. Since substantial progress has been attained in these drain interception and diversion projects, therefore insufficient time is available to implement bio-remediation project, if any. NMCG has already sanctioned a for balance 2 drains on 8.3.2019. Tendering process for the same will be undertaken after lifting of election Model Code of Conduct by Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam. The sanctioned project for treatment of Lakshar drain did not yield satisfactory result, therefore the project proponent has been asked to establish the efficacy of treatment as well as collect correct data about flow available in the drain. Proponent is insisting on acceptance of his results only and project may be discontinued pending resolution of the issue.

Prof. C.R.Babu suggested as the drains are natural water course, treatment by diverting the drains using natural gradients to marshy areas/ wetlands could be explored, if the same are available in the vicinity.

Considering the implementation of Model Code of Conduct till end of elections in late May 2019 and impending monsoon high flows during the July-September period, Principal Committee recommended that bio-remediation of the 11 drains may not be feasible and as the drains are expected to be tapped by December 2019, interim measure for treatment of these 11 drains may not be required.

8. ED (Technical) NMCG informed that Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 29.11.2018, had directed CPCB and UEPPCB to monitor functioning of the CETPs with respect to the prescribed standards and to resolve the issues with regard to ZLD.

Director, SIDCUL informed that there are 3 CETPs in Uttarakhand – Sitarganj, Pantnagar and Haridwar. All 75 units operational in Sitarganj are connected to the CETP and are complying with the MoEFF&CC norms. Out of 499 operational units in Pantnagar, 243 industries are connected to the CETP and are complying with the norms, one industry is having its own ETP, remaining 255 industries do not have conveyance system for taking the trade effluents to the CETP, DPR for laying of conveyance system has been prepared (Uttarakhand PeyJal Nigam) and is under consideration for approval. Out of 531 industries operational in Haridwar, 509 industries are connected to the CETP and are complying with the norms, 2 industries have their own ETP and remaining 20 industries have no conveyance system for taking the trade effluents to the CETP. DPR for laying of conveyor system for units in Haridwar has been approved and is under tendering.

Further, it was discussed that NGT did not direct installation of ZLD system in the existing CETPs in Uttarakhand. However, UEPPCB had imposed the condition of installing ZLD in industries through consent to operate (CTO) issued from the year 2005 to-date. As the industries in Uttarakhand have expressed unwillingness to adopt ZLD owing to high capital and O&M expenses which may significantly lead to increase in cost of products and may put them in disadvantageous position as compared to products from similar industrial units without ZLD, Director SIDCUL requested the Committee to recommend UEPPCB to remove the clause of installing ZLD from their CTO. Further, it was also informed that Hon'ble NGT vide its judgement dated 13.07.2017 in the matter M.C.Mehta v/s Union of India OA No. 200/2014 had directed that ZLD should not be made compulsory and should be adopted only on case to case basis and has recommended Polluters pay Principle.

Following recommendations were made by the Principal Committee:

- i. Remaining industries should be connected to the CETPs at the earliest to prevent any untreated effluent being discharged into the river. Meanwhile these industries must strive to have their own ETPs/ pollution abatement mechanism till the connections are implemented.
  - ii. The CETPs should be monitored regularly by the Pollution Control Board for functioning and compliance to the prescribed norms.
  - iii. The industrial units should be directed to adopt water conservation techniques as well as green technologies.
9. Prof. C.R.Babu informed that solid waste management is major concern which can be seen in streams and hinders with the ecological flow of the river.

Chairman-Principal Committee informed that Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (GoI) through engagement of Quality Council of India (QCI) had carried out a third party inspection of 97 towns along River Ganga on the basis of Solid Waste Management Framework. The report of the QCI was discussed on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019, wherein representatives from all the States were present, following actions were recommended to be taken up by the ULBs for compliance:

- i. No solid waste to be disposed into the drains or river banks
- ii. Regular cleaning of banks and ghats
- iii. Cleaning of solid waste dumps near the drains and rivers
- iv. Installation of screens/ filters on the drains to trap solid waste and regularly disposal of the trapped material at suitable landfill locations.
- v. Creation of solid waste processing facilities and effective utilization of the processing plants.
- vi. Placement of anti-litter messages and hoarding on the ghats
- vii. Adequate litter-bins to be placed at every 50 m on the Ghats.

Further, it was informed that as per the reports during the inspection in Uttarakhand, 24 drains were found to be discharging into the River Ganga from 10 towns, of which 14 drains had screen traps installed, while on 10 drains screen traps were not fixed. Further, of the 14 drains having screen traps, 6 drains were found to choked due to accumulation of solid waste. Of the 167 ghats in Uttarakhand, 18 Ghats had placed anti-litter messages for public awareness.



Principal Committee recommended that the State Government should ensure compliance to the QCI report especially and on priority for the major towns such as Haridwar where the maximum daily footfall is observed and should submit completion timelines for the said activities along with the details of town-wise solid waste generated, treated and no. of processing units installed/ proposed. It was further directed to improve the IEC activities in the State with wide coverage towards this end.

Program Director SMCG Uttarakhand informed for compliance with regard to solid waste management, an agency has been engaged and work order has been issued.

Chairman-Principal Committee recommended that hilly towns of Uttarakhand should treat and manage its solid waste generated in their own cities and towns and should establish decentralized solid waste processing units for efficient management.

Nodal Officer-Uttarakhand informed that Chief Secretary-Uttarakhand is regularly reviewing the issue of allotment of land for processing units on priority basis and the works has been initiated.

10. Chairman-Principal Committee informed that MoWR,RD&GR vide its notification dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 had notified the minimum e-flow to be maintained at locations downstream of structures or projects meant for diversion of river flows. As per the notifications, the existing hydel projects which are to make structural changes to the meet the norms were granted a period of 3 years to ensure compliance.
11. Nodal Officer-Uttarakhand requested the Committee for recommendations on removal of illegal encroachment from floodplain as often it has been observed that illegal establishment discharge waste directly into the drains.

Chairman-Principal Committee agreed that removal of encroachment, which is prevalent everywhere in floodplain as well as cities, is a difficult task. The Committee recommended that the State should ensure no further construction activity is being carried out in the floodplain either by the government or any other agency, as the floodplains are important for river rejuvenation and groundwater recharge.

Official from Irrigation Department-Uttarakhand informed that the department is regularly ensuring no further encroachment is being undertaken in the floodplains and

is identifying the illegally encroached establishments and further proposes to take necessary actions in this regard.

At the end, Chairman-Principal Committee directed that works in all projects be completed timely and compliance to all the directions be made in letter and spirit. In case of difficulty, if any, Principal Committee be approached to take further course of timely action.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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### Annex-I

#### **List of participants:**

1. Shri. U.P. Singh, Secretary, MoWR, RD&GR– *in Chair*-
2. Shri. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, NMCG
3. Dr. C. R. Babu, Expert Member, PC
4. Prof. A. K. Gosain, Expert Member, PC
5. Shri. Uday Raj Singh, Project Director, SPMG
6. Shri. D. P. Mathuria, Executive Director – Technical, NMCG
7. Shri. Bhajan Singh, Managing Director, Uttarakhand PeyJal Nigam
8. Shri S N Verma, Managing Director, UJVNL
9. Shri. Y.P. Singh, MoEF&CC
10. Shri. Manoj Srivastava, DS (IFD), MoEF&CC
11. Shri S. S. Pal, CEO, Uttarakhand Environment Protection & Pollution Control
12. Shri. C. B. Chorasias, Sci-E, CPCB
13. Mrs. Neelima Garg, GM, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan
14. Shri. Sanjeev Kr. Srivastava, SE, irrigation department, Uttarakhand
15. Dr. S. D. Singh, Nodal Officer, Green issues, Uttarakhand
16. Shri. Lokesh Sharma, Director (Planning) SIDCUL, Uttarakhand
17. Shri. Prabhat Raj, technical Advisor, SPMG, Uttarakhand
18. Shri. Akshay Kumar, Environment Specialist, SPMG, Uttarakhand
19. Shri. Mahender Singh, Monitoring Expert, NMCG
20. Shri. Kumar Ajitabh, Project Officer Legal, NMCG
21. Mrs. Ruby Raju, Project Engineer, NMCG