



**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

No.LGS/2017

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PRESS RELEASE

At the Open House, Hon'ble Lt. Governor received a complaint containing allegation of indiscriminate earth excavation from lake bed of Suthukeny for the utilisation at the construction site of Suthukeny – Kaikalpet Road Bridge. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Dr. Kiran Bedi earmarked the Weekend visit for onsite inspection to attend to the complaint. Accordingly, the 96th Weekend Morning Round visit was made to Suthukeny – Kaikalpet Road Bridge site.

At the site, Hon'ble Lt. Governor was received by the Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Shri TPR Selvam and the village people. Present at the site were the Shri Ragunathan, Chief Engineer, PWD, Shri Udaykumar, Dy. Collector (South), Shri Seetharaman, Commissioner, Mannadipet Commune Panchayat and other Officers.

The Chief Engineer, PWD appraised Hon'ble Lt. Governor of the progress made in the construction work of the Road Bridge and stated that the bridge has neared completion stage and by September 2017 the link road to Suthukeny village will be established, after which the bridge will be ready public use. It was appraised to Hon'ble Lt. Governor that unlike what has been given in complaint; excavation of earth was done under permit on payment basis to Commune Panchayat and PWD. The excavation is carried out in the presence of squad of Commune Panchayat and PWD and log entries have been recorded.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor suggested that improvements may be made to the existing Standard Operating Procedure to ensure accountability and transparency. Improved measures such as videograph of excavation could be made part of the SOP. Also rotation of field / inspecting officers need to be made to introduce surprise element in checks and also break monopoly. Persons recording the log books to affix signatures with name to ensure accountability.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor then visited the excavation site at the lake near suthukeny village. Walking through the slushy clayey soil for nearly 200 meters, the site was visited in the presence of the complainant and the Officers of PWD / Revenue / Commune Panchayat. The Chief Engineer, PWD explained to the Complainant about the excavation and his concern was addressed on the spot for excavation at depth as the top soil is not fit for embankment works. The complainant expressed his satisfaction.

Enroute from Suthkeny, Hon'ble Lt. Governor visited Ousteri Lake and had a review of the shramdhaan works carried out during the last weekend rounds.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, was accompanied by Team Raj Nivas comprising of Shri R. Sridharan, PCS, Private Secretary to Lt. Governor and Shri Karthikeyan, Addl. ADC.

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