



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

Puducherry, dt; 04/08/2017

P R E S S R E L A S E

In the evening tamil newspaper "Malai Malar" a news item appeared under the title "Development of artificial beach is under threat – due to objections by Lt. Governor and Environmental Groups".

In this regard, the following clarification is given :-

Hon'ble Lt. Governor accorded administrative approval and expenditure sanction on 28th June, 2016 for the work of dredging the river mouth of Puducherry Fishing Harbour and for discharging the dredged sand between Pier and Gandhi Statue for beach nourishment at a cost of ₹. 14.9 crore. Port Department awarded the work on 24th November, 2016 to M/s Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) (A Govt. of India Undertaking) to carry out the dredging and to discharge sand at the beach. Environmental clearance was accorded for the project by the Department of Science, Technology and Environment.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor held a meeting on 20th March 2017 with the concerned officers of the department and directed that DCI should carry out the work of dredging and discharge the sand at the stipulated lead distance of 4 Km strictly following the conditions of environmental clearance and also to constitute an Over-site Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Ports) to monitor the progress of work regularly. Any problem that may arise in the dredging work should be resolved by the said committee consulting the stake-holders including fishing community. Public Works Department was directed that the urban sludge and waste water entering the river mouth through Uppar drain, Grand Canal drain, Palla vaikal canal and Murungapakkam supply canal should be sieved by erecting grids at the respective junction points to prevent entry of debris and other solid wastes to the lagoon leading to chocking of river mouth.

National Green Tribunal, Chennai has also directed by their order dated 24th March, 2017 that the work should be carried out in conformity with the permission accorded by Dept. of Science, Technology and Environment strictly as per the beach nourishment plan, i.e. the sand of 3 lakh cu.m. dredged by DCI should be discharged in the stipulated lead distance of 4 Km for nourishing the coastal line.

Complaints have been received that DCI did not deposit 3 lakh cubic metre of dredged sand and actually very less quantity (i.e., 0.65 lakh cubic meter) has been deposited for beach nourishment and that in violation of NGT orders contaminated sludge, silt, muck and solid waste were being discharged.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor has noted with concern that had the decisions taken in the meeting held in Raj Nivas on 20th March, 2017 were implemented, the beach nourishment project could have been completed satisfactorily. Hence, Hon'ble Lt. Governor has now again directed the officers of Port, Public Works and Environment Departments to ensure that beach nourishment work is carried out properly without violating the orders of NGT by taking measure to prevent inflow of sewage water from the town into Thengaithittu lagoon as decided in the meeting held on 20th March, 2017.

It is clarified that Hon'ble Lt. Governor has not only sanctioned the project to nourish the beach, but also is ensuring that the project is carried out properly so that people of Puducherry is blessed with a good beach without any contamination.

