

BEFORE THE GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
PANAJI – GOA

Proceeding No.251/2018

SuoMotu

V/s

- 1) The Secretary,
Village PanchayatMorlem,
Sattari-Goa.
- 2) The Secretary.
Village Panchayat Keri,
Sattari-Goa.
- 3) The Secretary,
Village PanchayatPoriem,
Sattari-Goa.
- 4) The Director of Panchayats,
Panaji-Goa.
- 5) The Director,
Directorate of Health Services,
Campal, Panaji-Goa.
- 6) The Chief Engineer,
Water Resources Department,
Porvorim, Bardez-Goa.
- 7) The Member Secretary,
Goa State Pollution Control Board,
Panaji-Goa

... Respondents

INQUIRY REPORT/ORDER
(7th January, 2021)

The Proceedings started by the Order of this Commission dated 23/11/2018, taking SuoMotu cognizance of the Newspaper report which appeared in the daily 'Lokmat', dated 23/11/2018, under the caption "AtikramanamuleValvantichisthithibikat" (Encroachment in 'Valvanti' River leaves it in pathetic condition).

2. The Commission called for detailed report from the Respondents by 14/12/2018.

...2/-

3. The Respondent No.1 Village Panchayat Morlem, filed their reply dated 12/12/2018, along with the Annexures. They undertook to further take every measure that will be suggested by any authority or directions given by this Commission. The Respondent No.3 filed reply dated 03/07/2019, with the Annexures. So also the Respondent No.4 also filed their report dated 03/07/2019, along with the annexures. The Respondent No.5 filed their reply dated 12/12/2018 that no new construction or any physical encroachment was noticed along the Banks of the Valvanti or its tributaries.

4. The Respondent No.7 filed their Reply on 14/12/2018, along with their Inspection Report of the site inspection carried out on 15/10/2018, starting from Anjuna Dam upto Vithal Mandir, Sanquelim.

5. The Commission heard Shri Sanjeet Gaonkar, LDC of the Respondent No.1, Ld. Advocate Ms. K. Govekar for the Respondents No.2 & 3 and Ld. Advocate Shri J. Godinho for the Respondent No.7. They submitted that the Respondents have taken steps after receiving notice from the Commission.

6. Taking into consideration the replies of the Respondents, the Commission finds that the Respondent No.7 had given directions to the Village Panchayats of Kerim, Poriem and Morlem, for collection and disposal of waste in their jurisdiction.

7. The report dated 11/02/2019 of the Village Panchayat, Morlem indicates that the Village Panchayat has been making efforts in the Village regarding curtailing pollution of the Valvanti river.

8. From the Reply of the Respondent No.2 along with the photographs annexed, it is seen that they have displayed the sign board near the Valvanti river prohibiting washing of vehicles in the river and informing about imposition of fine by the Panchayat.

9. So also the Reply of the Respondent No.4 dated 02/07/2019, indicates that the reports were received from the Village Panchayats of Poriem, Kerim and Morlem, who had done site inspection and not found any plastic waste or dry waste near the river bank.

10. There is a letter of the Sarpanch of Village Panchayat, Morlem addressed to the Block Development Officer, Sattari-Goa dated 26/02/2019 stating that, after the Newspaper reports, the site inspection was carried out by the Panchayat and notices were published on all public places, not to dispose any garbage waste/sewage waste in Valvanti river/Nallah. They have also stated that they have appointed labourers for collecting door to door garbage and are having awareness camps in the Village Panchayat and they also erected Public Notice Board on the river bank.

11. The Commission finds that, after the Newspaper Report dated 23/11/2018 and the notices of the Commission dated 23/11/2018, the Respondents had taken steps for controlling the dumping of garbage in the Valvant river/Nallah.

12. The Commission recommends as under :

The Village Panchayat of Morlem, Keri and Poriem shall inspect every six months, the site of the River Valvanti and see that the garbage dumped or accumulated is removed/collected from time to time and shall take all the measures to curtail pollution of the River Valvanti and its tributaries, springs and nallahs, and to prevent any encroachments therein.

Accordingly, the Proceedings stand disposed of.

Date : 07/01/2021

Place : Panaji-Goa

Sd/- (Justice U.V. Bakre) Chairperson Goa Human Rights Commission	Sd/- (Desmond D'Costa) Member Goa Human Rights Commission	Sd/- (Pramod V.Kamat) Member Goa Human Rights Commission
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