



Water Resources Department
Secretariat, Chennai-9

Letter No.24446/W1/2021-3 dated 8.6.2022

From
Thiru V. Irai Anbu, I.A.S.,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To
The Additional Chief Secretary,
Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary,
Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary,
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary,
School Education Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary,
Higher Education Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Agricultural Production Commissioner / Secretary to Government,
Agriculture Farmers Welfare Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

All the District Collectors.

p.t.o.

Sir,

Sub: Harnessing Youth – Concept Note on Hon'ble Chief Ministers scheme for Restoration and Conservation of Youth- Guidelines issued – Regarding.

Ref: From the Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, SG&SWRDC, Chennai letter No. EEPM/Announcement Harnessing of youth/2021, dated 2.12.2021.

I am directed to state that the announcement made in the Hon'ble Governor's address 2001-2022 regarding harnessing of energy and enthusiasm of youth to restore and conserve water bodies across Tamil Nadu.

In this connection, I am to state that the following guidelines should be followed to restore and conserve water bodies across Tamil Nadu by engaging the youth.

1. Already through Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2022 (Catch the Rain) for water security the following five focused interventions are taken up for water conservation activities

- a) Intensive rainwater harvesting and water conservation which include making of roof-top Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) on buildings and water harvesting pits in compounds; maintenance of existing RWHS & creation of new check dams/ ponds, renovation of traditional WWS; removal of encroachments of tanks/lakes and in their catchment channels, de-silting of tanks, reuse and recharge of borewells; watershed development; rejuvenation of small rivers and rivulets; revival of wetlands and protection of flood-banks, springshed development, protection of water catchment areas, etc;
- b) Enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it.
- c) Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in remaining districts
- d) Intensive afforestation and
- e) Awareness generation.

The above Water Conservation activities are to be taken up by involving the energy and enthusiasm of the youth to restore and conserve waterbodies across the Tamil Nadu.

2. Various Committees already functioning for Water Conservation Activities will have to involve the energy and enthusiasm of the youth to its fullest extent.

- a) Village Level Development Committee (RD&PR Department) has been formed vide G.O(Ms) No. 102, RD(C4) Department, dated 12.07.2005 and Guidelines

vide reference letter No.42918/2020DRD, dated 21.10.2020. This Committee may adequately be represented by the Youth volunteers who have special interest in conserving the water bodies.

- b) Committees have been formed through Jal Shakti Abhiyan (Nodal - Water Resources Department) (i) The District Level Committee (ii) State Level Committee formed as per Minutes of the Meeting conducted by the Chief Secretary to Government (Letter No. 25581/W1/2021-3, WRD, dated 24.03.2022).

The District Level Jal Shakti Kendra – Being the Chairman of the District Level Jal Shakti Kendra, the District Collectors are to play an active role to involve the youth for restoring and conservation of water bodies.

- c) The Committees have been constituted for eviction of encroachments in water bodies each at Divisional, District and State Level for effective reporting / monitoring of developments in identifying and eviction of encroachments in water bodies vide G.O. (Ms) No.64, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Land Disposal Wing, "LD.6(2)" Section, Dated 08.02.2022. The above committee have to effectively utilize the energy of the youth in identification of encroachments and in prevention of further encroachments in the water bodies.

3. The RD&PR shall launch the IEC activities on the Water Conservation activities through the committees represented by Youth volunteers, with the sum of Rs.5.00 Crore allotted for IEC activities.

4. The Role of Government Departments in the involvement of Youth

Water Resources Department, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department, Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department, Education Department and Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department are to harness the energy of the youth and to involve them in the community based water resources management for Restoration and Conservation of Water Bodies by following focussed activities:-

- The energy of Youth to be involved to identify the encroachments and eviction of encroachment in rivers, tanks, canals, ponds and other water bodies to enhance the availability of surface water sources. Also to stop further encroachments in the water bodies.
- Identifying and abating of pollution in water bodies. Identification of pollution sources and have a watch on them and being vigil in maintaining and protecting the existing water body.

- To identified Extinct / Buried / Lost water bodies and revive / **reclaim** / rejuvenate the existing water bodies including desilting and identify the defunct open wells and bore wells in order to recharge them.
- Reviving the water sources and **channels / drainage courses** to augment supply to the existing water bodies.
- Identify domestic and street level rainwater harvesting and implement through local government. To involve the Youth to educate the people for Massive Roof Top Water Harvesting in Public and Private Buildings.
- Identify water **recycling** opportunities and suggest the same to the relevant authorities.
- Youth to be involved to **sensitize the general public** on the need for protecting the water bodies and organise **Awareness programs/ Campaigns** through slogans / literature/ street drama/ songs/ short films/ painting/ positive memos through field performance/ media / social media.
- By encouraging young farmers resorting to rotation of crops and selection of less water consuming crops.
- By encouraging farmers to construct farm ponds and use micro irrigation systems.
- To Enhance the irrigation efficiency. The storage, conveyance and distribution efficiency are to be enhanced by involving the youth.
- Intensive afforestation activities to be taken up on the lands of waterbodies and other available Government Poramboke Lands

5. The existing schemes MGNREGS, Namakku Naame Thittam, CSR contribution from private companies, shramadhan, Micro Irrigation etc., shall be dovetailed with participation of youth led by the district administration to achieve purpose to restore and conserve the waterbodies.

Yours faithfully



for Chief Secretary to Government

copy to

The Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Engineer (General),
Water Resources Department, Chennai-5.