Hyderabad
13th October, 2015

PRESS NOTE

River Musi originates in Ananthagiri hills near Vikarabad, travels about 90 Km. before touching Hyderabad near Rajendranagar. It bifurcates Hyderabad into South and North city (old city and new city). Then it travels 28 Km. in the city and flows about 150 Km. before joining river Krishna at Wazeerabad, Nalgonda district. After heavy floods in Musi river in 1908, Osman Sagar reservoir on Musi and Himayatsagar reservoir in Easa were constructed in 1920 and 1927 respectively. The water supply scheme for Hyderabad locally called 'Gandipet' water was commissioned in the year 1923.

With increase in population and expansion of the city, water supply was increased subsequently to meet the demand. At present water board is receiving water from various sources like Manjira, Singur, Krishna and Godavari.

The sewerage system for Hyderabad and Secunderabad cities was constructed at Amberpet in the year 1931 with 12 MGD capacity to serve a population of about 5 lakhs. In the year 1985 remodeling of sewerage system was taken up by MCH and five major sewage lines were added to the system.

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The existing sewerage system is over loaded due to increase in population and growth of the city with the result excess flows were diverted into natural nalas which joins river Musi on either side, this resulted in heavy pollution. In the year 2001 a project for "Abatement of pollution of river Musi" was prepared and submitted to National River Conservation Directorate (N.R.C.D.) Government of India. The project envisages

i) Interception and Diversion (I.D) of dry weather flows in 18 Nalas flowing into river Musi on either side of the river stretch in twin cities.
ii) Conveyance to nearest treatment plants proposed at 5 places.
iii) Construction of sewage treatment plants (STP) and disposal into river Musi after treatment.

The 5 S.T.P.s with a capacity of 592 MGD are located at Amberpet, Nagole, Nallacheruvu, Ziaguda, Attapur. The estimated cost of the project was Rs.344 crores and to be shared by central and state government at the ratio of 70:30. The state government vide G.O. 561 accorded administrative sanction in November 2001. The project was expected to be completed by 2007. The I.D. works constructed were defective leading to sewage directly entering into the river. Added to it the 5 S.T.P.s constructed were not able to take the load, they never worked to full capacity. These all resulted in failure of the scheme.

R.T.I. Query revealed that as against the sanctioned amount of Rs.344 crores an amount of Rs.405.31 crores were spent in the first phase without much result. With the failure of first phase, Government of Indian in the year 2009 directed the state government to prepare a holistic and implementable project involving water Board, GHMC and HMDA and send it to Government of India for consideration. Accordingly consultants were appointed by state government to prepare a holistic D.P.R. for Abatement of pollution of river Musi - Phase II.

The consultants took up detailed survey. The total length of Musi River is divided into 3 zones. Zone one from origin of river point to Osman Sagar, zone two from Osman Sagar to GHMC outer boundary near Peerjadiguda, zone three from GHMC boundary to confluence point of Musi into river Krishna at Wazirabad while water board was engaged in preparation of plans for 2nd phase. GHMC took up constructions of a Rubber Dam on the river near High court with an estimated cost of about 50 crores. The rubber dam constructed with big fan fare did not yield the desired result and became a source for mosquito breeding. It was subsequently dismantled thus wasting about 50 crores.

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The Phase I of Abatement of pollution of River Musi did not give desired results due to various reasons. Chief among them being inadequate sewerage net work within city limits. Sewage flows were directly discharged into storm water drains which ultimately joins river Musi. Hence the water quality of river Musi is deteriorated due to continuous discharge of raw sewage. Further there are 12 industrial development areas within 30 Km. of Hyderabad which include Synthetic organic chemicals (bulk drugs and intermediates) electroplating, oil mills, lead extraction /battery units, leather, distilleries, textile, diary and soap industries. The Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPS) constructed are not able to treat the industrial effluents adequately and are discharging its effluents into nearby waterways joining Musi. It is a clear failure of pollution control board (PCB) in not preventing these effluents joining Musi. Added to it there are about 6000 people living on the river bed of Musi. Any Musi development project has to first address this problem. The occupants have to be rehabilitated elsewhere and river is made free from encroachments.

Musi Phase II project was prepared in the year 2011 with an estimated cost of Rs. 750 crores. It aims to construct 610 MGD capacity S.T.P.s, laying conveying mains to a length of 75 Km., construction of 8 interception and diversion (I.D) works. After preparation of the Phase II plan there was considerable delay in submission to Government of India. When it finally reached, the Government of India informed that it will not be possible to consider the project under N.R.C.P. due to paucity of funds. Since then no action is being taken to clean the Musi. The polluted water flowing in the river Musi is used for raising vegetables etc. near peerzadiguda. These vegetables contain lot of chemicals and are being sold in Hyderabad.

We have many successful projects like Sabarmathi river front in Ahmedabad and Gomati river front project in Lucknow. For Sabarmathi project Gujarat government have constituted a special purpose vehicle called Sabarmathi river front development corporation ltd. The S.P.V. model was being used to avoid delays, easy in raising resources and to give implementation efforts a definitive thrust and focus. Rehabilitation of slum dweller, Dhobighats, event area, urban forestry, flower gardens, and water recreations are the main components of Sbarmathi project. Unlike I.D. works and sewage treatment plants in Musi project which never succeeds.

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Forum for Good Governance feels that a Sabarmathi river front like corporation should be constituted for development of Musi. The objective should be socializing a river and inclusive development. Mere constructing few S.T.P.s will not serve any purpose. We should take advantage of a river in the middle of Hyderabad and develop it into a tourist spot of excellence. Without cleaning Musi, Hyderabad will not qualify to be called as clean and beautiful city.

Yours Sincerely

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Secretary,
Forum for Good Governance