

- References: (i) Letter bearing No. COP/Sal/2018/2315 dated 05-09-2019
(ii) Letter bearing No. COP/Sal/2018/2315 dated 05-09-2019
(iii) Letter bearing No. COP/Sal/2018/2616 dated 27-09-2019
(iv) Letter bearing No. COP/Sal/2018/2617 dated 27-09-2019

With reference to the above, a meeting including a Power Point Presentation was held on **Monday, the 30th September, 2019** at 11.00 Hrs, in the Conference Room of the Ministerial Block, Porvorim, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Goa.

The Attendance list of the participants during the above meeting and the Power Point Presentation is attached herewith as Annexure-I. May, please be seen.

At the outset, the Captain of Ports appraised the participants of the successful execution of the Desilting works of the 6.0 Km. Stretch of the river Sal from the Khareband Bridge upto the new Taulim-Varca Bridge undertaken by the Captain of Ports Department in the year 2015-2016 and the proposed Desilting of river Sal from Taulim-Varca new bridge downstream upto the mouth of river Sal for an area of approximate 18.0 Km in length, 12.0 M in width and 3.0 M depth so as to facilitate free movement of various type of vessels at all tides.

The Captain of Ports informed that an amount of **40.0 Crores** approximate is estimated for the above proposed Desilting works and the same will be available from the Inland Waterways Authority of India or under Sagarmala, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, if not then State Government funds for dredging works spread over 2-3 financial years.

He further elaborated that on receipt of the No Objection Certificates from the concerned Government Authorities i.e Goa State Pollution Control Board and Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority, the work of desilting will be initiated and the same will be executed in a period of two to three financial years subject to the weather condition, location of disposal of dredged materials, etc. The work of the proposed desilting will be undertaken in nine phases of 2.0 Km stretch each and the same will be commenced from the mouth of the river.

The Captain of Ports emphasised that at present the river Sal is highly polluted due to the discharge of raw sewage from the houses, restaurants, hotels etc constructed on the banks of the river Sal and also due to siltation, the tidal flow is restricted. As such, desilting is required so as to improve the tidal flow of the river which will improve water aeration in the river.

The Captain of Ports informed that at present the dredging at the mouth of the river Sal has been undertaken by the Water Resource Department for the safe navigation of the fishing trawlers. Further, the Director of Fisheries was requested to comment on the proposed training wall at the mouth of the river Sal. The Director of Fisheries informed that the said matter is in the National Green Tribunal Court at Pune.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated there is no requirement of NOC (s) from the Village Panchayats, however, the presentation is for information and feed back if any.

The Hon'ble Minister (Ports) enquired about the number of sewage outlets along the river and if any survey has been done. The Captain of Ports informed that the Department attended the River Rejuvenation Committee meeting chaired by the Secretary (Environment) and the State Level Committee meeting concerned with the order pronounced by the NGT, Delhi in the matter of application no. 606 of 2018 chaired by the Chief Secretary, regularly along with the Public Works Department, Water Resources Department, Directorate of Fisheries, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Director of Environment, Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of Panchayat and other concerned departments. The said departments have prepared the list of the discharge of sewage along the river bank of Sal and they have submitted the action plan to the Goa State Pollution Control Board to take the measures to stop the direct discharge and pollution level in the river.

The Captain of Ports also informed that pollution is also due to the raw sewage discharge from the residential colonies, guest houses, hotels and restaurants.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister further said that after identification, the structures will have to have their own soak pits and tanks within one month and if they fail to adhere then the water and electricity of the structures to be disconnected and has to be co-ordinated with Directorate of Health Services.

The Captain of Ports informed that the concerned Departments will be issued letters informing of the above said directions for compliance.

Some of the Village Panchayat Sarpanch enquired regarding the need for the Desilting works and the impact it will have on the marine life and erosion of the river banks. Also some were apprehensive that the Desilting works were undertaken so as to allow big vessels into the river Sal.

The Captain of Ports assured the Sarpanch of the Village Panchayat that the Desilting works will be undertaken to rejuvenate the river and to facilitate the free movement of various type of vessels at all tides. He also clarified that a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the river has been done by the NIO and requested the NIO Scientists to clarify the doubts of the Sarpanch.