

**BEFORE THE KERALA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**Present: Mr.Justice N.Dhinakar,
Hon'ble Chairperson**

Dated this the 2nd January, 2009.

H.R.M.P.No.465 A/2008

Petitioner : Suo-motu action initiated on the basis of
newspaper report.

Respondent :

ORDER

The above HRMP was registered suo-motu on seeing a news report in the Mathrubhoomi daily dated 28-1-2008 along with a photograph under the caption "Vrithiyakkal Padhathiyil Mathram; Ganagyarthodu Kadukayari Nashikkunnu". The news report states that Gangayar thodu is completely polluted on account of waste materials and weed and Vizhinjam Grama Panchayat is not taking any steps for its cleaning and hence people are suffering.

In the report submitted by the Secretary, Vizhinjam Grama Panchayat it is stated that the Panchayat, by joining with the Tourism Department, has submitted a proposal for Rs.13 lakhs for cleaning of Gangayar thodu and the Panchayat has constructed drainage in the fishing center by spending Rs.1.5 lakhs and that during the last rainy season the thodu was cleaned under the aegis of Block Panchayat and Tahsildar, Neyyattinkara. According to the report, a sum of Rs.5 lakhs was sanctioned from the M.P. Fund.

The Secretary has further stated in the report that last year the Panchayat has done the cleaning work of the thodu and no licence was issued for selling fish in the peeling shed and that unauthorized sellers were prevented. According to the report, the cleaning of thodu is going on by using the sanctioned M.P. Fund. The Secretary, in the report, assures that follow up actions will be taken on the project submitted jointly with the Tourism Department as and when the approval is received and also assures that all steps will be taken to clean the thodu by the Panchayat.

From the report it can be seen that the Panchayat has submitted a proposal joining with the Tourism Department for the cleaning of the Gangayar thodu and it assures that all actions will be taken to clean the thodu as and when approval is obtained on the proposal. I record the said assurance. Though the report shows that the Panchayat has already carried out the cleaning works they seem to be only interim measures. In the above circumstances, I feel that a permanent solution is required for maintaining the thode unpolluted. Hence I direct the Secretary, Vizhinjam Grama Panchayat to follow up on the proposal submitted by it and the Government will consider the proposal for giving approval to the project without any delay so that the Panchayat can carry out the cleaning work of Gangayar thodu.

With the above direction the petition is closed.

Send a copy of the order to the Secretary, Vizhinjam Grama Panchayat.

**Justice N. Dhinakar,
Chairperson.**