

## **CALLING ATTENTION.**

### **BONDVAL LAKE AT SANTA CURZ**

**Shri Rodolfo Fernandes , Hon MLA**

**“Fear and Anxiety in the minds of the people of Santa Cruz Constituency due to the act of draining the water from Bondvoll Lake by tampering the outflow valve. The steps the Government has taken in this regard.”**

**Reply by Shri Subhash A. Shirodkar, Hon’ble Minister for Water Resources**

#### **Background**

The minor Irrigation tank at Bondvol, Santa Cruz was constructed in the erstwhile Colonial regime somewhere in 1920s. Tank consists of an earthen dam about 12.14 meters in height and a length of 180 meters.

The storage of the tank is about 9.365 Ha-mts and the structure envisages irrigation of a command of about 89.596 Ha. For water control for release and storage from the lake by a Sluice valve System. When the tank is full excess water is released through a side channel spillway during the monsoons.

#### **Efforts of the department**

- The department in the year 2010, based on the demand from the then Hon. MLA, St.Cruz Constituency, Late Smt. Victoria Fernandes the work of Improvement and strengthening of the Bondvol lake , as there were issues of seepage of water through the earthen body of the embankment reducing the storage of the lake and endangering the life of the residents living in the vicinity.

- The Comunidade of Calapur gave the NOC and handed over the possession to Water Resources Department based on which the Work of improvement and modification was planned.
- The work was tendered and awarded to Shri. Paresh G. Kamat Contractor, Margao Goa, for an amount of Rs. 35954102.00 vide work order dated 29-jan-2010. The agency started the work.
- One Smt. Hirabai Kavlekar filed a case against the Department claiming to be a tenant of the land which was granted to her by the Mamlatdar.
- Department preferred an appeal in the High Court, which was remanded to Court of District Judge-I.
- After many hearings , the Hon court, was restrained the Department vide Order in Civil Suit No. 19/2010 by the Court of District Judge-I from interfering in any manner in the suit property surveyed under No. 144/1 of village Calapur, Tiswadi Taluka which holds till today.
- In the meanwhile, one Shri. Arturo Carlos D'Souza & Anr filed a PIL in Hon. High Court of Bombay at Panaji to declare the Bondvol Lake as wetland and 100mtrs around the full Tank level as NDZ.
- The Bondval lake is now notified as Wetland vide notification No.11-2/GSWA/2022-2023/Pub/901 by GSWA.
- The Hon. High Court appointed a Committee under Chief Engineer (WRD) with Reader, Goa University, Sr. Hydrogeologist, Executive Engineer of WRD and Dy. Collector (North) as members.
- The Committee has submitted a report to the Hon'ble High Court for protecting the water body. The recommendation of the committee were (Annexure A)
  1. To preserve the Bondvol Lake, to improve the water table and groundwater recharge.
  2. To promote the traditional agriculture and allied activities.
  3. To restore the damaged Sluice valve.

4. NDZ to be marked upto 200 mtrs.
  5. To be declared as wetland.
  6. Formation of Lake Management Committee.
  7. Protection of Slopes leading to the Lake.
- The matter is now Sub-Judice before the Hon'ble High Court.
  - The Bondval lake is now notified as Wetland vide notification No.11-2/GSWA/2022-2023/Pub/901 by GSWA. The lake management committee for Bondwal also constructed vide order No.1-4-81/CE-WR/Adm.II/814 dated 21/12/2023.
  - The department received a complaint from the communicate of calapur on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 , and from local news paper /social media that some one has opened the sluice valve of the lake and let out all the water from the lake.
  - Upon receiving the compliant, the department officials inspected the site and found that the lakes gates were opened and entire water from the lake was let out.
  - Department filed a police compliant on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 in Old Goa police station , and the matter is under investigation.

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