



सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

F.No NCST/DEV-3598/AP/3/2024-ESDW (RU-III)

Dated:- 09.4.2025

To,

The Collector & District Magistrate
Bapatla
District - Bapatla-522101 (Andhra Pradesh)

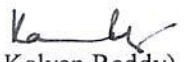
Sub:- Lack of Potable Drinking water in Pullaripalem Panchayat, Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh – Representation dated 25.10.2024 received from Smt. Indla Swathi and Others

महोदय/महोदया,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of the sitting held on 26.3.2025 under the Chairmanship of Shri J. Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) at NCST HQ, New Delhi on the above mentioned subject.

It is requested that the action taken/ to be taken in the matter may be submitted to NCST within stipulated time from receipt of the letter, for taking appropriate action.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. P. Kalyan Reddy)
Director
Tel No. - 24641640

Copy for information to:-

1. Smt. Indla Swathi,
Salnagar, Pullaripalem Panchayat, Pandillapalli Post,
Bapatla (Andhra Pradesh) - 523184
Mobile No:9701727977
2. PS to Hon'ble Member (JH), NCST
- ✓ 3. NIC, NCST for uploading on the website of the Commission.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES
F. NO. NCST/DEV-3598/AP/3/2024-ESDW

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi in the case of Smt. Indla Swathi, Pullaripalem Panchayat, Vetapalem Mandal, Chirala Constituency, Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh regarding lack of drinking water due to sand mining.

Date of the Sitting: 26/03/2025, 04:40PM
Participants in the Sitting: As per Annexure

Smt. Indla Swathi and others from Pullaripalem Panchayat, Vetapalem Mandal, Chirala Constituency, Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh vide her petition dated 25.10.2024 has stated that facing a severe drinking water crisis due to the contamination of groundwater caused by nearby shrimp farming and illegal sand mining. She highlights that previously, they had access to fresh water through open wells and hand pumps, but now the groundwater has turned saline, rendering traditional water sources unusable. Panchayat water supply is irregular, forcing residents to buy water brought from distant sources. The petitioner alleges that shrimp farming and sand mining, primarily conducted by upper-caste individuals, have led to severe health issues such as typhoid, diarrhea, and chronic skin infections among her community members. She emphasizes that harmful chemicals used in aquaculture further contaminate the water, and illegal sand mining has disrupted the natural water retention capacity of the land. Due to these issues, nearly 800 to 1000 people are directly affected, and they face social discrimination and neglect from political representatives. She requests urgent intervention to stop shrimp farming and illegal sand mining in the specified survey numbers, protect their groundwater, and safeguard their community's health and livelihood.

2. NCST vide notice dated 16.12.2024 sought facts and comments from the District Collector-Bapatla. No reply was received from the authority, hence, NCST decided to discuss the issue with the authority and the petitioner on 26.03.2025. Accordingly, a Sitting Notice was sent on 12.03.2025.

3. In the sitting, the Addl. District Collector and other officer of District Administration of Bapatla were present and the petitioner joined through video conference. The officers of Bapatla District provided the copy of letter dated 24.3.2025 of District Mines and Geology office, Bapatla and letter dated 24.3.2025 of District Collector- Bapatla along with affidavit filed by District Collector and Magistrate, Bapatla in respect of the case. The District Collector and Magistrate, Bapatla in the affidavit has stated that the potable water will be supplied to Sai Nagar ST colony daily after completion of erection of FHTC's and pipe lines from Central Filtration Plant under Jal-Jeevan Mission (JJM) revamped project, i.e. Amrutha Dhara Project which is submitted to Govt. for approval. This item is regularly reviewed with the concerned officers and Engineers to ensure Potable Drinking Water supplied to all ST & SC people in the District.

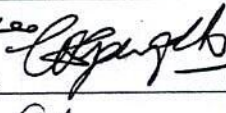

4. After discussion with the officers of District Administration of Bapatla and Petitioner (Joined through video conference), the following recommendations were made and action taken report thereon may be submitted within 30 days from the receipt of the minutes.

- a. Illegal sandmining if any in the premises of the village may be stopped by the authorities.
- b. The ground water quality may be examined and steps may be taken to control pollution induced by the shrimp farming which is affecting the local STs.
- c. Necessary medical support may be provided to the local communities which are already affected.
- d. Supply of safe drinking water may be ensured at the earliest.

(Jatothu Hussain)

जाटोतु हुसैन / Jatothu Hussain
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

List of participants of the sitting held on 26.3.2025 at 4:40 PM under the chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
I	<u>National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</u>		
1.	Dr. P.K Reddy Director		
2.	NCST Officials		
II	<u>Collector & District Magistrate, District - Bapatla</u>		
Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
1	G. Gangadhera zond	District Revenue Officer Asst. Dist Magistrate	
2	M. Anantha Raju	Dist RWS Engrg Officer SE RWS, Bapatla	 9100121403
III	<u>Petitioner</u>		
	Through	VC	