



**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

**Abstract**

Local Self Government- Decentralised Waste Management in Kerala- White Paper- Published - Orders Issued

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**LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT (W.M.)DEPARTMENT**

G.O.(Ms)No.6/2022/LSGD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 17/01/2022

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Read Review meetings convened by Additional Chief Secretary, Local Self Government Department from April 19<sup>th</sup> to April 24<sup>th</sup> ,2021.

**ORDER**

Solid Waste management is a crucial and integral component of rural and urban socio-technical systems, necessary for the protection of public health and environment. As cities grow and villages urbanize, the waste generated inevitably increases. Thus, to cater to the needs of the growing population, effective waste management is increasingly being looked at as an essential public service for the sustainable development of spaces, communities and resources. This is also captured within several global policy frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with waste management prominently featuring in the targets and indicators of both SDG 11 and 12. Both the goals notably include commitments to prevent, reduce, recycle and reuse - as well as to properly collect and discharge solid waste by 2030.

2. The provisions under Article 243 (G) and 243(W) as per the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments empower the local self governments viz. Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies to undertake the task of waste management. In addition, The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 of the Government of India state that it is the responsibility of the Local Self Governments (LSGs) to provide waste management services in their jurisdiction and collect user fees from individual households and institutions for such services. The Rules also mandate the segregation of waste at source. Furthermore, there are the guidelines laid down by the National Green

Tribunal (NGT) pertaining to the management of waste as per which the LSGs are supposed to keep track of the waste generated as well as the quantities of waste handled and segregated to provide information to the NGT as and when needed. Keeping in mind the constitutional and legal framework governing waste management in India, as well as the contextual realities of the state, the Government of Kerala has adopted a policy for solid waste management that primarily focuses on decentralised waste management with arrangements for centralised waste management solutions where necessary.

3. With an aim to incentivise and fast track the scientific treatment of waste in local self-government institutions in the State, Suchitwa Padavi Padanam was carried out by the Local Self Government Department in collaboration with Haritha Kerala Mission and Suchitwa Mission in 2020 and further in 2021.

4. In August 2020, a state wide evaluation exercise was undertaken of all LSGs, both rural and urban, to assess the extent to which interventions in line with the SWM Rules 2016 and the State's own framework of decentralised Governance had been carried out. LSGs were graded according to the quality of intervention and impact and those who had managed a fair level of intervention were accorded "suchitwa padavi", a status of cleanliness. After the evaluation, of the 1034 LSGs in the state, 793 were accorded "Suchitwa Padhavi".

5. Further in April 2021, immediately after the State Assembly elections, the LSGD undertook a third party field evaluation of the work done by all LSGs in the area of solid waste management. Block level teams were formed to assess gram panchayat interventions. Block level officers and performance auditors were pressed into service in this regard. District level teams comprising of officers of the suchitwa mission, haritha kerala mission, LSGD engineering wing and PCB assessed the ULBs in the district including city corporations. For the purpose of assessment of the LSGs, various criteria touching on

- Haritha Karma Sena formation, services offered
- User fee for households and institutions
- Status of Material Collection Facilities (MCF), Mini-MCF, Resource Recovery Facilities (RRF) and linkages with Clean Kerala Company ltd (CKCL)
- Status of source treatment of biodegradable waste
- Construction of toilets which are accessible to women, children and the elderly

- Status of water bodies and public spaces
- Status of interventions to comply with “green protocols”
- Regulatory activities undertaken
- Protocol followed for monitoring waste management
- handling of legacy waste and engagement of agencies like Clean Kerala company

were adopted on the basis of which assessment and grading was done. The best and worst performers in each district were identified, innovations and good systemic interventions were noted.

5.The focus of the field assessment was to look at the existing mechanism of waste collection and management in each of the LSGIs, examine the gaps and challenges in the chain, and suggest ways for improved planning and effective implementation. It was also used as an opportunity to look into the pre-monsoon preparedness of each of the LSGIs to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases. The findings were to be used to enable LSGs to develop their Solid waste management plans for complying with the Solid waste management rules, with clear time bound deliverables.

7. A detailed review of the performance of each LSG was conducted by the Additional Chief Secretary, Local Self Government Department through district wise review sessions that lasted from 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 to 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, where in the district coordinators of Haritha Kerala Mission and Suchitwa Mission presented the findings of the field assessment. The review was also attended by district officials, heads of various departments, secretaries of local self-government institutions etc. The overall situation of waste management and sanitation of each district was analysed. As result of these reviews, a realistic baseline which could form the basis for the development of the solid waste management action plans of the LSGs for compliance with the SWM Rules could be determined. The findings of the assessments and the reviews were shared with all LSGs. Some LSGs took the findings to heart and have been able to improve their performance significantly since the April 2021 review. Others have still to show significant positive change.

8. The decision to publish a white paper on decentralised Waste Management, which is an objective assessment of strengths and weaknesses of LSGs in the sector, particularly around issues of waste generation, collection, storage and forward linkages was taken so as to create a good

reference point to determine the quality of further interventions by concerned LSGs to address SWM issues, and to ensure that these problems are properly addressed by LSGs in an outcome based and goal oriented manner.

9.The Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to publish the White paper on Decentralised Solid Waste Management of the State, April 2021 (attached as annexure). The status of waste management by LSGs will be periodically assessed and updated once in 6 months so as enable citizens and local communities to understand where they stand in the matter of waste management, and to enable LSGs to take up targeted interventions that will ensure maximum result and cost effective cleanliness and hygiene.

(By order of the Governor)  
Sarada Muraleedharan I A S  
Additional Chief Secretary

To:

All District Collectors  
The Principal Director LSGD,  
The Director (Rural), Local Self Government Department  
The Director (Urban), Local Self Government Department  
The Executive Director Suchitwa Mission  
The Executive Director, KudumbhaShree  
The Executive Vice Chairperson, Haritha Kerala Mission  
The Managing Director, Clean Kerala Company, Pvt Ltd  
The Executive Director, Information Kerala Mission  
The Commissioner for Rural Development  
The Chief Town planner, Department of Town and Country Planning  
The Director General, KILA  
The Principal Accountant General (A& E) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram  
The Accountant General (G&SSA/E&RSA) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram  
The Information Officer, I&PRD (Web & New Media)

Forwarded /By order

  
Section Officer

Copy To,

The Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of LSGD  
P.A to Additional Chief Secretary, LSGD  
P.A to Special Secretary, LSGD  
Deputy Secretary, LSGD