AGENDA No. 17:

1. A nature cure hospital is operating located at D.No.3-185, Amaravathi Karakatta Road, Venkatapalem, Thullur Mandal, Guntur District in the name of M/s. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Charitable Trust (Nature Cure Hospital). The facility was established at Flood Bank of Krishna River during the year 2011-12 in an extent of about 18 Acres of Land. It was reported that the Venkatapalem Grama Panchayat and VUDA (now AP-CRDA) has given necessary approvals for establishment of Prakruthi Ashramam.

2. The Regional Vigilance & Enforcement Officer, Guntur informed to the Regional Office, APPCB, Guntur vide letter dated. 09.03.2016 that the encroachments were observed through the Krishna River Flood bank and remitting the excretes directly into River Krishna, which is major source of drinking water to the entire region, causing water pollution to the major extent, in the guise of Prakruthi Ashram in the name of M/s. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Charitable Trust established at Venkatapalem Village, Thullur Mandal, Guntur District. It was referred G.O. Ms.No. 111, dated. 08.03.1996 issued by the MA & UD dept., which prohibited development of industries, hotels, residential colonies and other establishment that pollution that in 10 Km from the full level mark a water body that was source of drinking water.

3. Further stated that Krishna River is the source of fresh water for Vijayawada, Guntur, Eluru, Gudiwada and thousands of villages draw water from the Krishna Canals to fill their tanks. Also informed that according to the CPCB data, there has been an increase in the conductivity, an index of dissolved salts, in the water of Krishna River after it crosses Vijayawada and informed to the Board to furnish certain information. The information sought has been furnished.

4. In response to the oral instructions from the officials of Regional Vigilance & Enforcement office, Guntur, additional information was furnished by the RO, Guntur stating that G.O. Ms.No. 111, was issued by H.M.W.S & S.B for protection of catchment areas of Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar lakes located near Hyderabad on 08.03.1996. Further, informed that the MoEF&CC has issued EIA Notification, 2006 on 14.09.2006. As per the notification at S.No. 8(a) “the construction projects with built-up area more than 20,000 Sq.mtrs required to obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC. Further, the APPCB issued circular memo No. 19/PCB/CFE/DG.Set/2008-123, Dated. 31.03.2008 to clarify the consent fee, area of construction (Built-up area less than 20,000 Sq.mtrs) etc., for construction projects. Also it was furnished that the APPCB issues CFE and CFO under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, to construction projects with an area above 20,000 Sq.mtrs after obtaining Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC, Gol under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 notified under E(P) Act, 1986.

5. The RO, Guntur has received a complaint from Sri G. Srinivasa Reddy, Anumullam Village, Gampalagudem Mandal, Krishna District on discharge of waste water into River Krishna by M/s.Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Charitable Trust located at Venkatapalem Village, Thullur Mandal, Guntur District. The copy of the complaint was forwarded to the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Guntur and to the Panchayat Secretary, Venkatapalem Grama Panchayat, Thullur Mandal, Guntur District vide to take necessary action in the matter.

6. It was instructed to inspect sewage generating Organizations / Establishments / Buildings in the upstream of River Krishna, which are discharging their sewage into River Krishna. In this regard, the Board officials inspected the Nature Cure Hospital operating in the name of M/s.Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Charitable Trust (Nature Cure Hospital) located at D.No.3-185, Amaravathi Karakatta Road, Venkatapalem, Thullur Mandal, Guntur District on 25.03.2019 to ascertain the illegal discharges into River Krishna and posing contamination of surface & sub-surface water bodies. During the inspection Sri Manthena Veera Venkatapathi Raju, Chief General Manager of the facility accompanied and the following were observed:

a) A Nature Cure Hospital is located at D.No.3-185, Amaravathi Karakatta Road, Venkatapalem, Thullur Mandal, Guntur District in the name of M/s. Manthena
Satyanarayana Raju Charitable Trust (Nature Cure Hospital). The facility was established at Flood Bank of Krishna River during the year 2011-12 in an extent of about 18 acres of land. It was reported that the Venkatapalem gram panchayat and VUDA (now AP-CRDA) has given necessary approvals for establishment of Prakruthi Ashramam.

b) The facility is surrounded by East – open drain followed by agriculture fields; West – agriculture fields, North – River Krishna and South – Amaravthi Karakatta (Flood Bank) followed by agriculture fields.

c) It was informed that about 600 No. of beds are available at the facility to cater nature cure treatment and the occupancy average was in the range of 70-75%. The facility is having 5 No. of high rise buildings with 5 No. of floors for each building, temporary structures like acupuncture treatment, mud treatment, swimming pool open to river front, meditation hall, reception hall, open auditorium, yoga centre etc.

d) The facility is operating without obtaining valid Consent order of the Board as required under section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under section 21/22 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

e) The representatives has informed that about 1,50,000 Ltrs. of waste water is generated from domestic activities and natural cure treatment at the facility per day at present, which is being treated in the Sewage Treatment Plant of 2,00,000 Ltrs capacity existing at the premises. The hydraulic load of waste water generation is peak during summer season and lowest during rainy season.

f) Further, informed that the treated domestic waste is being used for greenbelt development within own premises by way of drip irrigation/ gardening.

g) The solid waste generated from kitchen and other bio-degradable wastes are observed to be disposing at dump site of Venkatapalem Panchayat, existing at a distance of about 1.2 Km away from the facility.

h) Further, it was observed that large No. of pipelines were observed at East side of compound of the Nature Cure Hospital and they are connected to a drain leading from Venkatapalem Village to River Krishna.

i) The vacant land / land available for utilization of treated domestic waste water is not adequate to utilize the entire quantity of domestic waste water generated at the facility (considering 1.0 acre of land requirement for utilization of about 10 KL of treated waste water).

j) The pipelines leading to the Venkatapalem drain from facility premises are observed to be under regular usage and it was contemplated that these pipelines are being used for discharge of treated/untreated waste water generated from nature cure treatment/domestic sewage at the facility premises by using pipelines laid from eastern compound and connected to Venkatapalem drain which is finally joining into River Krishna, due to lack of adequate extent of land to utilize the entire quantity of waste water;

k) No flow meters / totalizers are existing to ascertain the actual water consumption, waste water generation, treatment provided and being disposed specifically for gardening or captive consumption within own premises.

l) During the inspection, waste water samples were collected from inlet & outlet of STP, bore well and treated waste water using for drip irrigation; and the samples were submitted at Zonal Lab, Vijayawada for analysis.

m) Further, it was observed that there was no facilities are existing to utilize the treated waste water from STP during rainy season within own premises and there was no measures in place to prevent contamination of run-off generated from the gardening area, where the waste water generated from domestic activity and nature cure treatment is said to be used partially for gardening.

n) Operating a D.G. Set of 25 KVA capacity for emergency lighting purpose.

o) The facility has obtained authorization under BMW Rules, 2016 on 11.09.2018 to operate a clinic in the name of M/s. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Arogyakendram to generate & dispose bio-medical waste. The bio-medical waste generated from OP is being disposed to CBMWT.

7. In view of the above, a notice was issued by RO, Guntur to the occupier of the facility to immediately stop indulging in illegal discharge of treated/untreated waste water generated from the above facility into River Krishna forthwith and shall immediately remove all the pipelines laid to Venkatapalem drain to prevent further discharges of treated / untreated waste water from the above facility. Further, it was informed to furnish the copies of
permissions obtained from competent Authorities for establishment of the facility at the above location, design details and performance evaluation report of STP /Consent of the A.P. Pollution Control Board, if any obtained by the unit for generation & mode of disposal of treated/untreated effluents under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to further examine the matter, without fail. Also, it was informed to the occupier to report their compliance to the above within 7 days from the date of the notice issued, along with plan of action to prevent such re-occurrence of any illegal discharges into River Krishna.

8. In response to the above, the Chief General Manager of the facility has furnished a reply vide letter dated 28.03.2019 stating that the pipelines were removed and there was no discharges from the facility into river Krishna and requested 15 days time to furnish detailed compliance report.

9. The EE, RO, Guntur recommended that the occupier of the unit may be called for hearing for detailed review before the EAC (TF) Committee and to issue necessary directions to stop further discharges of treated/untreated waste water from domestic/nature cure treatment activities either directly/indirectly into River Krishna under any circumstances and also further action to obtain consent of the Board under Air & Water Acts.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, the External Advisory Committee is requested to discuss the issue and recommend further course of action.