

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Goa: 'Help locate illegal borewells in Cuncolim industrial estate'

TNN | Apr 12, 2021, 10:49 AM IST



PANAJI: After the South Goa police failed to conduct an investigation, the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has written to the inspector general of police (IGP) to direct his officers to locate borewells illegally dug by companies involved in the production of fish meal at the Cuncolim industrial estate. Earlier in February, GSPCB had written to SP, South Goa, to help locate the illegal borewells which were discharging untreated effluents and to submit its report within seven days.

GSPCB environmental engineer Sanjeev Joglekar wrote a letter to the IGP stating, "I am directed to inform you that the board had issued a letter to the SP to investigate and find out exact location of the borewells illegally dug within the premises of fish meal/fish

processing plants. However no reply has been received by the board till date. You (IGP), are requested to direct the concerned to investigate and inquire regarding the illegal borewells dug within the premises of fishmeal and fish processing units at Cuncolim industrial estate." Joglekar said that there are many such firms that have dug bore wells in the industrial estate and that the pollution board had received complaints from other firms as well as private individuals.

One complaint stated that an environment audit was carried out at one such fishmeal plant and illegally dug borewells were found where raw fish water and other effluents were being discharged into the ground water.

“Now, in order to find precise location of these borewells, I hereby submit the details of the person/company responsible for digging the borewells, mostly in the Cuncolim industrial estate. I call upon you to lodge a police complaint against the suspected company and persons who dug the borewells without authorisation so that the police can help in your inquiry to find the exact location of several borewells illegally dug within the premises of fishmeal plants,” the complaint read.

Another complainant said that there was an urgent need to apply various sections of the Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act 1974 which prohibits use of a stream or a well for disposal of polluting matter, etc. TOI had reported that GSPCB had conducted inspections to locate the illegal borewells. While it identified over 20 such borewells, several others could not be located. On November 5 and 6, GSPCB conducted a ground penetration radar (GPR) survey of four fish meal and fish processing units – United Marine Products, Quality Foods, Sagar Feeds and Food Processing Industries and Indotech Ice and Cold Storage. GSPCB sent a notice to the four units stating that the survey found that chambers/pits/pipes were located underground within their premises.