

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Kochi administration to launch 'Operation Pure Water'

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KOCHI: The administration has launched a drive to ensure that the drinking water supplied in the district is clean. 'Operation Pure Water', has been launched based on a suggestion by the Kerala Legislative Assembly Committee on Petitions.

The responsibility of providing adequate supply of drinking water to cater to the needs of the district should be borne by the Kerala Water Authority (KWA). Tanker trucks engaged in the supply of drinking water should draw water from hydrants of the KWA. Tanker trucks, which are not registered with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, should not be allowed to engage in water supply. Such tanker trucks should also register with the district administration.

A team of officials from the KWA, food safety department and motor vehicles department should monitor the distribution of drinking water in the district. For facilitating adequate supply of water, the KWA should set up more hydrant points. The KWA officials should give sealed bills to the tanker trucks after filling the tanks. Consumers should be given opportunity to inspect the bills.

District collector S Suhas has been entrusted with monitoring the overall activities of the team of officials. They would conduct regular checking and also advise on corrective measures to be taken. The collector should take care of enforcement of regulations to streamline water supply. The water supplied should be subjected to quality tests at

government recognised laboratories at regular intervals. The officials should submit a monthly report to the district collector.

On Wednesday, the collector had banned the supply of drinking water sourced from abandoned quarries. For facilitating proper checking by police and local body authorities, an order issued by district administration said that a directive that exempted trucks engaged in water supply from inspection by the civic body and cops without approval from the district collector, should be repealed.

Besides, legal metrology department should ensure that the suppliers are not tinkering with the quantity of water supplied through tanker trucks. The department should also look at whether the suppliers who procure water from KWA at lower rates are selling it to the consumers at exorbitant rates. Action should be taken against those charging excessive rates from the consumers.

Stipulated colours should be given to the tanker trucks which are transporting drinking water, waste water and sewage. The colour of the tanker trucks engaged in the supply of drinking water should be blue while it should be brown for the trucks which transport waste water. The colour of trucks that transport sewage should be yellow.

The high court has given clear-cut instructions regarding the colours of the trucks engaged in the three services. Inner portion of the tank should be EPI coated. Drinking water should not be used for building purpose as well. Authorities should keep a watch to prevent excessive exploitation of water sources for construction sector.

The Kerala Legislative Assembly Committee on Petitions, headed by K B Ganesh Kumar, held a sitting at Ernakulam collectorate to collect evidence of supplying contaminated water on Thursday.

Legislators P Ubaidulla, V P Sajeendran, O Rajagopal, C Mammooty and R Ramachandran, district collector S Suhas, sub collector Snehil Kumar Singh, Inspector General of Police Vijay Sakhare, deputy city police commissioner G Poonkuzhali, additional district magistrate K Chandrasekharan Nair, deputy collector S Shajahan and other department heads attended the meeting.