

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY



PROJECT DIVISION, ADOOR

Water Supply Scheme to Nilakkal – Justification for locating the project in the forest land.

Nilakkal is being converted to become the major base camp of Sabarimala pilgrims due to damages occurred at Pampa during the flash flood occurred in August 2018. Facilities of modern base camp are being implemented in Nilakkal considering the future inflow of Pilgrims. Acute water scarcity of water being faced in the area and ground water is not available as per the latest records to cater the demand of the pilgrims. Hence piped water supply scheme with perennial source is the only remedial solution. Prior to 2018, every year, during pilgrim season drinking water is conveyed in Tanker Lorries from Pampa to Nilakkal which is not advisable as well as cost effective in the long run. It is done as a temporary measure. In 2018 and 2019 pilgrim seasons, water is conveyed from Seethathode by facilitating temporary intake and treatment arrangements.

Merits of implementing a comprehensive water supply scheme are

- Adequate quantity of drinking water can be made available to the Nilakkal base camp as and when required with due provision for future increase in demand for about 30 years.
- Pollution of all kinds ie; air, sound and other environmental hazards can be avoided in the Periyar Tiger reserve making it more eco-friendly.
- By avoiding plying of tankers/trucks, traffic blocks and causes of accidents are also minimized.
- All tribal colonies enroute the alignment can be provided with adequate safe drinking water throughout the year.

The nearest and only reliable source of the scheme is Kakkad river with intake at Seethathod. Treatment Plant is already constructed at Seethathod. Treated water from this treatment Plant

is to be conveyed to Nilakkal by laying pumping main and installing pumpsets. There is no other alternate route available, other than through Angamoozhi-Nilakkal forest road. The level difference of two locations is 333m, and single stage pumping is not at all technically feasible. Hence 3 numbers of intermediate collecting sump cum pumping stations have been proposed. No land other than forest land is available for the construction of the above pumping stations. Hence this proposal for diversion of forest land of area 0.06,0.06 and 0.08 hectatres.



Executive Engineer