

Name of Project :- Construction of Check Dam across Kuppam river at Lower Cheekkad in Udayagiri Grama Panchayath in Kannur district.

REPORT

Kuppam river is one of the major rivers in Kerala State flowing from Karnataka State to Arabian Sea through Kannur District. Due to change in weather and rainfall pattern the river is being dried up especially in high land and in mid land. The Virgin River bed is being seen exposed in summer season in high land area for the past few years with no water for irrigation as well as for drinking purposes.

In order to overcome the above situation Irrigation Department had proposed a Check dam across Kuppam river at Lower Cheekkad area in Udayagiri grama panchayath as per the request of panchayath authorities. The proposed location is situated at 12°12.417 N & 75°31.898 E and is coming at the tail end of forest area. Only the right bank of river is seen situated in forest are at the particular location of Check Dam and this is a narrow strip of land too having hardly 2m.to 3m width. Kerala Govt. had accorded Administrative Sanction as per Order No. GO (Rt): 416/2014/WRD, dated, TVM 25/04/2014 for the construction of above mentioned Check Dam and Irrigation Department being taken action for the implementation of the project. This project will control the draught situation to a large extend. The primary objective of this project is to check the flow of river water to a certain level and form a small reservoir behind the check dam during summer season and thereby promotes ground water recharging and raising the water table in the locality. The immediate beneficiary of this project is tribal people residing nearby the river bank. Panchayath authorities had reported that one Acre of land each had been allotted for 143 families in Cheeked area among them around 27 families are being resided at present. More over the proposed location of the check dam is being used for the ritual functions of Sree Mahadevi temple situated nearby for every year.

The project comprises the construction of concrete Check Dam to a height of 1.50m across river with 6 Nos. of vent ways of size 1.00 X 1.50m. Average width of river at the proposed location is 35m. On the ends of body wall of Check Dam the river banks are protected with abutment of height 3.50m on either bank of river and immediately on the upstream and downstream of abutment CC/DR retaining walls are proposed for a height of 2.00m so as to protect the banks and streamline the river course thereby. The vent ways afore mentioned are provided with wooden shutters. In summer season the shutters are fixed in the vents for collecting water in the Check dam upto 1.50m height and in monsoon season the shutters are removed

for facilitating the free flow of water. Thus the natural flow of water will not be affected during rainy season. While closing the shutters in summer season water can be stored for an average length of 80m. on the upstream side of Check Dam. Since sufficient numbers of vents are provided in the check dam the natural flow of water will not be obstructed/distributed. Since the banks of rivers are about 4 to 5m height and the maximum height of water stored in summer season is only 1.50m there is no chance of getting submergence of land and/or meandering of natural course of river. Moreover, the project does not have any negative impact of the environment as its objective is to store water in river which will become otherwise waste.

While implementing this project the proposed construction of retaining wall on the right bank of river is only coming under the forest land which requires forest area of hardly 0.60m.X 108m. land on the bank. If full of the river course is also coming under the jurisdiction of forest a total extend of about 0.480 Hectors of land has to be affected by this project. The project is now at the implementation stage. Hence necessary sanction may be accorded to accomplish the project as early as possible.

Water is a most precious gift of nature and inevitable for the survival of lives. If the river water is not checked in the appropriate places water is ultimately reached in to the sea and become good for nothing. This phenomenon in turn results high degree of draught on the earth. Our state will face heavy draught in the near future. Kerala Govt. has already planned for protect various water sources by cleaning ponds and other water bodies. constructing Check Dams across various rivers and streams etc. At this juncture, Irrigation Department is hereby requesting the Forest Department to give permission/clearance to construct the Check Dam afore mentioned considering it as a Kerala Government project.

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