



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS

URGENT

Memo No. NPSSFW/Conv. 08/22

January 28, 2022

The District Collector.
East Godavari District,
Andhra Pradesh.

Sub: Severe pollution by ONGC endangers livelihood of fisher people

Respected Sir,

Greetings from the National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW).

This is to bring to your kind notice that the livelihood of thousands of coastal fisher people residing in the villages of Gogulmattam, Razole, Katrenikona, Antarvedi and Mamidikuduru mandal in East Godavari District has been severely affected by release of sludge and effluents from ONGC plants at Toorpupalem and Katrenipadu. The sludge and effluents are directly released into the waters of Godavari estuary through pipelines. The resulting severe pollution of estuarine waters is causing massive depletion of fish stock and fish kills., Thousands of fishers fishing in the estuarine waters of Godavari suddenly find that there is no fish. The fisher people are getting skin and eye irritations while fishing. The rural women are complaining about itching and skin rashes on using the river water for washing.

It may be mentioned here that a similar problem was caused by the ONGC plant at Odalarevu about two and half years back.

This may further be mentioned that release of untreated waste water, effluent or sludge in the estuarine and marine waters has been prohibited by the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification issued under the Environment Protection Act of 1986.

The National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW) and the Democratic Traditional Fishers Workers Forum (DTFWF) of Andhra Pradesh ardently request you to take immediate and effective action against ONGC for polluting the estuarine waters and destroying the livelihood of small and traditional fishing communities. ONGC must stop pollution of estuarine waters of Godavari river and compensate the fishing communities for their livelihood loss and health problems.

Yours Sincerely,

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