

HIGH COURT WANTS ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Relevant for: Environment & Disaster Management | Topic: Disaster and disaster management

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Monday suggested that the government evolved a clear plan to deal with the environmental issues arising during the implementation of relief and rehabilitation measures.

The Bench of Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice A.K. Jayasankaran Nambiar observed that the plan could include waste disposal at relief camps, removal of sludge from roads and canals, and also clearing of debris, etc. The court said such an environment plan should be implemented simultaneously with relief and rehabilitation measures.

The court made the suggestions when a public interest litigation seeking a directive to the Central government to declare the flood situation as a national calamity came up for hearing. It suggested that the State government could consider mapping the areas in each of the district based on the extent of inundation during the floods. There could be a classification of zones based on the extent of inundation, granted on a scale of say 1 to 10 (with 1 as areas of minimum inundation and 10 as areas of complete inundation). Such zoning would assist the State government in proper disbursement of compensation. The Bench said zoning would assist flood-affected people to establish their claims before insurance authorities, in the event of their staking a claim for any sum assured. They would not require to establish the extent of loss/damage thorough independent survey reports.

The court posted the petition to August 29.

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