

Need to take necessary steps to prevent displacement from villages surrounding Kolleru Lake-Laid

SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR (ELURU): Around three lakh residents live in 122 villages in the surroundings of Kolleru Lake. These individuals, primarily farmers and villagers, depend on this land. The Supreme Court order dated 16.01.2025 has severely impacted their livelihoods. The directives to the Andhra Pradesh Government, while aiming to protect Kolleru Lake's ecology, have inadvertently created a humanitarian crisis. The subsequent contempt petition and submissions have increased the community's distress and legitimate claims, crucially omitting the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)'s relief directing the deletion of 14,861 acres of private land and 7,102 acres of assigned land from the Kolleru Sanctuary area, recommending boundary redefinition. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister to: (1) give directions to the concerned to file a revised submission before the Supreme Court, incorporating the relief granted by the NBWL and ensuring proper demarcation of boundaries as per the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. (2) direct concerned to stop the demolition process till this month end to file a revised submission before the Supreme Court to consider the factual status of the lands and the rightful claims of the affected people. (3) Ensure that the State Government's policy decision is effectively implemented, preventing the displacement of over three lakh people.