

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA),

FIFTH REPORT



(Presented to Lok Sabha on 14 December, 2000)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2000/Agrahayana, 1922 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

Shri Basudeb Acharia—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri A. Narendra
3. Shri Ramakant Angle
4. Shri S. Bangarappa
5. Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhri
6. Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan
7. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete
8. Shri C. Kuppusami
9. Shri P.R. Kyndiah
10. Shri K. Malaisamy
11. Shri Sis Ram Ola
12. Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil
13. Shrimati Renu Kumari
14. Dr. Nitish Sengupta
15. Shri Kirit Somaiya

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Shri S.C. Rastogi | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri P.K. Grover | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 3. Shri C.S. Joon | <i>Under Secretary</i> |
| 4. Smt. Neera Singh | <i>Assistant Director</i> |

**FIFTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

INTRODUCTION

1. the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Fifth Report of the Committee to the House on the petition regarding protecting Powai Lake, Mumbai from encroachment and maintaining the environmental balance in the area.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Report at their sitting held on 11th December, 2000.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above petition have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
12 December, 2000

21 Agrahayana, 1922 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

**PETITION REGARDING PROTECTING POWAI LAKE, MUMBAI
FROM ENCROACHMENT AND MAINTAINING THE
ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE IN THE AREA**

On 5 May, 2000, Shri Kirit Somaiya, M.P. presented to Lok Sabha a petition signed by Sardar Tara Singh, MLA, Mulund, Mumbai and others regarding protecting Powai Lake, Mumbai from encroachment and to maintain the environmental balance in the area. (Appendix I).

2. The main points raised in the petition were as under:—

- (i) The Powai Lake was one of the most beautiful spots of Mumbai which was built in 1890. The adjoining lush green powai garden added to its beauty and tranquillity. However, the Powai lake which was the oldest lake in Mumbai was dying. More than 40% area of the lake had disappeared. The gradually deteriorating condition of the lake was posing a great threat to the environment. It was not only a national heritage but most important from the environment and forest angle to balance the geographical and environmental atmosphere of Mumbai.
- (ii) The lake which had 370 acres expanse was clogged with the waste materials which were being dumped by builders, encroachers etc. The lake water was further polluted by toxic waste of industries and sewerage or dirty water of the slum dwellers. The drainage water from the nearby areas was also coming straight into the lake.
- (iii) This lake was declared as of national importance from environment and forest angle. The programme of National Conservation covers the restoration and maintenance of this lake.

3. The petitioners, therefore, requested to safeguard the Powai Lake, the forest, and the environmental balance in the said area.

4. The Ministry of Environment & Forests were requested on 8 May, 2000 to furnish their factual comments on the points raised in the petition. On 14 June, 2000 the following comments were received from the Ministry of Environment & Forests:

“Powai lake in Maharashtra is subjected to various anthropogenic pressures mainly due to pollution from human settlements around the lake, siltation, weed infestation etc.

Under the scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP), 10 urban lakes including Powai lake were identified for conservation at a total cost of Rs. 637 crore. The Government of Maharashtra who had been asked to send a pre-feasibility report (PFR) sent a proposal