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CLOSURE NOTICES TO COMMERCIAL UNITS POLLUTING MITHI RIVER

'Closure' orders to 57 business and commercial establishments have been given by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, which are polluting Mithi river. This has been done as part of Order given by the Hon'ble High Court on the Writ Petition of Dr. Kirit Somaiya on Mithi Nadi.

The Court on 31st Aug. directed MPCB to identify the industrial and commercial units polluting Mithi river. MPCB identified 146 such units, issued them legal notices before 10th Sept. The hearing process has started. Till today, 57 units have been asked to close down. These units are on the Mithi bank. These include small industrial units, bhangarwalas, oil mixing units, licensed and unlicensed units. They were asked to give explanation and also to stop polluting Mithi river. Due to inaction from these units, MPCB has issued legal order on 16th Sept.

The Order issued by Dr. D.B. Boralkar, Member Secretary, MPCB, states that "Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred upon me by the Board, I, D.B. Boralkar, lthe Member Secretary of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board hereby direct you to close down your activity forthwith. The appropriate competent authorities are directed to disconnect electricity/water supply to your unit, which may please be noted."

The Order also states – "AND WHEREAS, after considering the record of your case, the reports of officers of the Board and after making necessary enquiry, I have come to conclusion that inspite of sufficient opportunity is given to you to explain your case, you have not given reply to the proposed directions and thereby continue to cause pollution of Mithi river. Since, you have been given opportunity and you have already caused grave and sudden injury to the environment, it is not expedient and proper to give you further opportunity."

Dr. Kirit Somaiya has informed that the Court had given 3 weeks time to MPCB and BMC to complete the action. They have been directed to submit the action taken report to the Court before 26th Sept.

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