

### **Sri. N. Lakshman Rau Committee:**

In order to examine all aspects of the problems relating to preservation, restoration or otherwise of the existing tanks with a view to maintaining desirable environment, Government constituted an Expert Committee in Order No. PWD 82 IMB 85, dated 26.07.1985 with Sri. N. Lakshman Rau, IAS (Retd), Chairman, Local Finance Commission, as the Chairman.

### **Mandates of the Expert Committee:**

- The Expert Committee shall examine all the aspects of the preservation restoration or otherwise of the existing tanks in the Metropolitan Area, with a view to maintain the nice environment in the Metropolitan Limits of the City of Bangalore.
- The Committee shall furnish its report to Government within a period of 3 months.
- The Expert Committee may consult any Officers of the State Government and Quasi Government Authorities for any required information and invite them for their deliberations.

The Committee concluded with that the existence of water sheets or water bodies are important asset to the environment of Bangalore, and have a beneficial effect on the Micro-climate of the city. With this view the Committee made the following important recommendations:

- The existing water bodies act as recharging resources to ground water on the downstream which will help to draft water through dug wells/bore wells meant for domestic or industrial purposes. These existing tanks should not be breached but retained as water bodies.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that these tanks are not polluted by discharge of effluent and industrial waste.
- Further, to prevent silting up of these lakes, off-shore development is to be taken up by large scale tree planting and also removal of encroachments
- The tanks which have already been breached should not be utilized for formation of sites but taken up to create tree parks.
- Existing tanks should be de-weeded and aquatic life must be developed

- The tank areas where there is no atchcut (command area) are to be handed over to Forest department for tree planting and formation of regional parks.
- The BDA / BMP / Minor Irrigation departments must immediately remove encroachments on the tank areas.
- Government should set up an implementation agency and review the implementation of the recommendations periodically. For this purpose the Forest Department, BDA, BMP, Minor Irrigation Department, BWSSB and Town Planning Department may be involved.
- Mosquito control measures are to be entrusted to Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or any other suitable agency.
- The responsibility for the maintenance of water bodies in clean and safe condition should be by Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board . By proper maintenance of water bodies, it is possible to improve the ground water table, so that there will be scope for tapping ground water through bore-wells.
- The possibility of construction of more tanks along the natural valleys which now have a run-off water should be examined and implementation taken up.