

HYDERABAD URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

No.3195/PR/H/2000

Dated: 4-5-2000

NOTIFICATION ON PROTECTION OF MAJOR LAKES IN HUDA AREA

1. Protection of lakes and water bodies has assumed great importance in recent years for the following reasons:

- o Recharging of ground water
- o Recycling as valuable sources of water for various urban uses
- o Development of the fore-shore areas as recreational and picnic spots
- o Serving as essential lung spaces for the large urban population
- o For maintaining ecological balance as a long term objective

Accordingly lake and water conservation is one of the most important goals of the 12th Phase of the Janmabhoomi Programme.

2. Hyderabad and it's surrounding areas have many large and important lakes. The Hyderabad Urban Development Authority has compiled a list of 169 lakes which are 10 Hectares (25 acres) and above in extent. Ownership of all the lakes does not vest with the Government. While 62 lakes are fully Government owned, 25 are in private hands and 82 are owned partly by Government Departments and partly by private individuals. However, even private ownership of land does not entitle the owners to reclaim or destroy the lakes or use them for housing and other urban uses. This has also been clearly spelt out in Section 48 of the Telangana Area Irrigation Act, 1357 Fasli.

3. In the interest of planned development and for the protection of environment for the population at large, the Government hereby notify the list of 169 large lakes for public information. The total extent of the lake and the name of village are stated in the lists. The entire areas falling within the Full Tank Level (FTL) of the lakes as per the Survey of India maps, must be kept free from any type of constructions irrespective of ownership or any land use of Master plan/Zonal Development Plans that may have been previously notified. In addition, a buffer belt of 30 metre width on all sides of each lake must be kept free from any type of construction in the interest of prevention of pollution to the lakes and to allow free flow of water to the lakes.

4. All local bodies: Municipalities and Gram Panchayats, in whose jurisdiction these lakes fall, are hereby directed to take steps to exercise utmost vigilance to prevent any type of encroachments, reclamation, pollution or damage of any type to the lakes listed in this Notification. They are also directed not to grant any permission for buildings or structures of any type within the Full Tank Level (FTL) and within the 30 metre buffer belt around the lakes under any circumstances.

5. Members of the public are advised not to purchase any plots for residential or any other developmental uses in and around the above mentioned lakes, since all such constructions are likely to be removed in due course and the violators prosecuted against under the provisions of laws and regulations in force including the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

6. HUDA has taken up in a phased manner the development of selected lakes by way of fencing, bund formation, de-silting, fore-shore plantation and construction of treatment plants even in respect of lakes which are not fully Government owned.

7. Members of the public are requested to bring to the notice of local Municipalities, Gram Panchayats, the police, Irrigation and Revenue Departments in case any damage is being caused by someone to these lakes so that suitable action can be taken

by the enforcement authorities. Since these lakes and water bodies are spread over a large area of about 2000 sq. km round the clock policing is not practicable and therefore close monitoring by local residents is vital.

8. This Notification is issued in the public interest for ensuring a healthy environment for the twin cities and also to protect the interest of gullible citizens who may invest their life's savings in a plot in lake-beds and face hardship. Plots in lake-beds are also unhygienic beside posing danger to life and property of the inhabitants in the event of excess rainfall.

9. If properly protected, many of the lakes have the potential of providing precious water for drinking and other purposes besides helping in replenishing ground water.