

# Firm blamed for Godavari pipe leak

TNN | Apr 4, 2016, 10.40 AM IST



**H**YDERABAD: A four-member committee, constituted by the Telangana government, blamed the construction company which laid the Godavari water pipeline for a leak that developed on March 15. The leak had left denizens in the city in a lurch with water supply severely hit.

Alleging "negligence" on the part of the Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC) for the leak in the pipeline at Potiyal village of Karimnagar district, the committee also recommended serving showcause notices on the agency, seeking clarification on the issue. The leak caused an interruption in regular water supply and took a toll on the supply of tankers to the city and to GHMC peripheral circles.

Speaking about the issue, HMWS&SB managing director, B Janardhan Reddy told TOI, "The committee report clearly shows negligence of agency, Ms Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC). The agency after laying a 3000mm dia pipeline, proper checks were not done during trial run of water supply (sic). As per the agreement between NCC and HMWS&SB, the agency has to maintain it for two years. The agency concerned was supposed to bear the expenditure and rectify the leakage." He further said, "There is no fault of HMWS&SB, because the onus was on the agency to maintain the pipeline for two years from the date of Godavari Drinking Water Supply project phase-I commissioning."

The government had constituted a four-member committee with representatives from the HMWS&SB and experts from

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) to probe the leak. The committee completed its probe after taking into account various issues like reasons for leak, tampered signs, bad workmanship, and duration of leak as well as other aspects. The committee, consisting of two professors M V Ramana Rao and P Srinivasa Rao from civil engineering wing, JNTU, a retired director-technical, HMWS&SB, S Prabhakar Sharma and director-revenue & UFW (unaccounted for water) P S Surya Narayana, visited the spot to make enquiries apart from quizzing officials.

As per the committee's recommendation, in a day or two, notices will be issued to the Ms NCC Limited, Hyderabad, and they would have a week's time to reply to the notices. "In case, the agency does not respond to the notices, penalties will be imposed and if they not respond the agency can be blacklisted," Reddy said. NCC has been in the construction business for over four decades.

Meanwhile, a cautious HMWS&SB, has decided to constitute 'water pipeline parirakshana committees' involving local villagers and revenue officials of mandals enroute the Godavari drinking water pipeline to safeguard water supply. The Water Board also approached the Karimnagar, Medak and Ranga Reddy districts collectors and superintendents of police to keep a stricter vigil along the pipeline, said Reddy.

At present, the Water Board has been supplying 86 out of 172 million gallons per day (MGD) of Godavari water to the city and GHMC peripheral circles. The water board plans to release another 28 MGD of Godavari water by the end of this month.