

**The New Indian Express** □□□□□□□□□□ **02.09.2013**

## **Maradu water project gets a major boost**

The Maradu water treatment plant project is all set to get a fresh lease of life as the final roadblock in completing the project is likely to be cleared by this month.

The Rs 201-crore water treatment plant project was mooted as a solution to the severe potable water crisis of Kochi and the suburbs.

However, uncertainty was looming large over the project owing to the delay in getting sanction from the the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for cutting the National Highway-47 for laying pipeline. But, it is learnt that NHAI had finally given its nod for road cutting.

“The official sanction from NHAI Delhi office had already been dispatched to the Chennai office, from where the final nod will be given. We are expecting the order within 15 days and the NHAI had already communicated with us in this regard. Once the order is received, we will be able to carry out the road

cutting at the nearly 5-km stretch between Aroor to the Nettoor area, where the plant is situated. The restoration works will also be carried out once the pipe laying is completed,” said an official with Kerala Water Authority, which is implementing the project.

As per the project, proposed under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), water will be drawn from Pazhoorkkadavu in Muvattupuzha river and will be brought to the Maradu Water Treatment Plant. It has a capacity to recycle 100 million litres of water a day (mld) and the recycled water will be supplied mainly to West Kochi area, which is reeling under acute water shortage.

The project which was initiated in 2007 came to a standstill for nearly one-and-a-half year following the stiff opposition raised by local bodies in Piravom against cutting the Nadakkavu-Koothattukulam Road for laying the pipes.

Though the issue was sorted out last year and KWA completed 75 per cent of the pipe laying work between Pazhoor and Aarakkunam Road, it again came to a standstill owing to the norms set by NHAI that the tarred road cannot be dug or cut unless an exemption is obtained from the Centre.

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Written by Administrator

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