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KSPCB issues closure orders to six units near Bellandur Lake

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BENGALURU: The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on Wednesday issued closure orders to six industrial units in the Bellandur Lake catchment area. The board has identified 97 water-based units releasing effluents to the highly polluted waterbody.

Of the 288 industrial units identified in Bellandur Lake's catchment to be responsible for contamination of the water body, 97 units have been redmarked for releasing high level of effluents. On the agency's plan to issue closure orders to 11 more units in a day or two, KSPCB chairman Lakshman said, "We have intensified the drive around Bellandur Lake after NGT's order last week."

He said the 97 water-based units have licence from the KSPCB but don't comply with the norms such as setting up of effluent treatment plant. Most of them are medium and small scale industries such as dyeing, washing, laundry and automobile service station.

The pollution control board has also issued closure notices to 21 unauthorized industrial units and had issued closure notices to three dyeing units on Tuesday. The in dustrial units identified by the board are located in areas falling in the Bellandur Lake's catchment area such as Bomanahalli, Hosur Road, Bannerghatta Road, Hongasandra, and as f ar flung as Rajarajeswarai Nagar.

"We will inspect the units and more are likely to be added to the list of 288," said KSPCB member secretary S Shanthappa. 500 families at risk Owners of the dyeing units facing closure urged Lakshman to allow them to continue business. The units are located in Vinayakanagar, Shanthinagar constituency .

"More than 500 families will be affected as they depend on these dyeing units.We have been here for the past 40 years and asking us to shut shops all of a sudden is unfair," M Swamy, president of Veerbhadreswara Saree Dyeing Process Association, pointed out.

IISC BLUEPRINT FOR REVIVAL

A team led by Prof T V Ramachandra and another from IISc's Centre for Ecological Sciences has come up with a blueprint for rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lakes. The report calls for revival of both the lakes together and not Bellandur alone as their problems are similar and interlinked. The report suggests release of only treated sewage into the lake, sewage treatment through integrated constructed wetlands, removal of all encroachments, desilting to enhance storage capacity and remove contaminated sediments, implementation of `polluter pays' principle, ban on use of phosphates in detergents to minimize frothing, planting native species of macrophytes in the buffer zone and no construction in the valley zones. The report calls for a single custodian of natural resources.

NOTICES TO SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The KSPCB on Tuesday issued closure notices to 12 slaughterhouses in Belgaum.KSPCB chairman Lakshman said they were



operating illegally. Closure notices have also been issued to 35 denim washing industrial units in Ballari.