

Official laxity delaying Kanpur's water supply project

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Despite the region receiving 'over normal' rainfall this monsoon, the industrial town of Kanpur is reeling under severe water crisis thanks to lax implementation of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) project.

Jal Sansthan, the apex body responsible for maintaining water supply in the city, has blamed Jal Nigam for the crisis.

"The JNNURM project promises to solve the city's water problem. But due to laxity of Jal Nigam officials, the project has been delayed and people are forced to bear the brunt," said R Lal, General manager Jal Sansthan.

The worst affected area of the city is south Kanpur, inhabited by people of low income group. The hand pumps installed here are not working while the Jal Sansthan's water supply is erratic. This has left the residents with no option but to cover long distances to fetch water on hand-carts.

The worst affected areas are Juhi, Bara Devi, Nauryya Khera, Govind Nagar and Jaurali Phase I.

Officials say the water supply has been disrupted due to the ongoing work at Lower Ganga Canal. The canal sufficiently supplies around 50-60 MLD of water to different parts of the city.

The city requires 520 MLD of water but is getting only 410 MLD. Thus, there is a daily deficit of 110 MLD of water.

Around 10 MLD of water is supplied by Gujaini plant, 200 MLD by Bhaironghat plant, 60 MLD by lower Ganga canal plant, 30 MLD by Ganga Barrage and 120 MLD by handpumps and other sources.

"After completion of the JNNURM project, the Ganga Barrage plant, which is presently supplying 30 MLD water, will provide 190 MLD water. But due to delay in water projects the citizens are facing problems," Lal said.

The water supply projects sanctioned under JNNURM account up to Rs 650 crore. The project has been divided into two phases. Under phase I for old area of city, a 200 MLD water treatment plant, 38 clean water reservoirs and pumping

heads, 14 overhead tanks are to be constructed and 700 km pipelines are to be laid. For the supply in remaining parts of the city under phase II, 200 and 28.5 MLD water treatment plants, 38 clear water reservoirs, 32 overhead tanks are to be constructed and 1,046 km pipelines are to be laid.

The phase I project should be completed by December, 2010 and the phase II project by 2012. However, a senior officials in Jal Nigam CS Chaudhry said: "Phase I project cannot be completed by 2010 due to insufficient funds. Though both the projects have commenced, due shortage of funds it is impossible to predict when the water problem will be solved."

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