

New system to give continuous water supply

CONTROL Malaysian experts advised on ways to minimise distribution losses

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JAIPUR: The city is set to experiment with a new water supply system that will ensure 24x7 water. The new scheme will be in place by October end.

The government had signed an MoU with a Malaysian firm last year to manage the supply of water.

"Consultants from the company visited Jaipur in January to guide us on how to minimise non revenue water (transmission & distribution losses) and provide 24x7 water supply," said Ram Lubhaya, Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department.

The new system will be tried in three blocks of Malviya Nagar and Mansarovar areas of Jaipur.

"The selected areas have been isolated and new lines and new meters installed. These will

be connected to overhead tanks. People will be asked not to use boosters so that all areas can get water with equal pressure," said J P Lokwani, chief engineer, Public Health Engineering Department.

He said the department would review how the new system impacted line losses, consumption and demand patterns and what was the cost to the exchequer. If all goes well, the system will be replicated across the state.

The new system notwithstanding, the high T&D losses of over 40 per cent, are a matter of concern.

"The government has no data on the total demand of water supplied, the transmission and distribution (T&D) losses are as high as 40 per cent and 90 per cent of domestic meters are out of order," according to a senior official of the Water Resources Department.

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There is no database of the total demand of water being supplied to the city or in different parts of the state. The daily requirement of water in Jaipur is between 280 mld to 380 mld per day.

"The world over, the measurement of demand is done through a district metering area but we did not have such a system in place. We were only focusing on supplying water and no one was monitoring how much water was going where."

The Water Resources depart-

ment has tried to curb illegal connections.

"So far we have found 108,000 illegal connections across the state and removed 86,000. We are monitoring T&D losses and repair work of leakages is ongoing," said Lokwani.

Prof VS Vyas, deputy chairperson of the State Planning Board says a beginning has been made by government towards water conservation.

But experts like Rajendra Singh of Tarun Bharat Sangh and Prof MS Rathore, director, centre for environment and development studies say the government has to show political will to make the commitment to water conservation successful. The steps taken include bringing out the water policy 2010 that stresses on activating community users groups to manage water resources, encourage drip and sprinkler irrigation and growing crops

that are not water intensive, compulsory building of water harvesting structures in buildings that are more than 300 sq feet, reviving traditional water harvesting structures

The government has also undertaken an awareness campaign through the media and NGOs and set up water and sanitation committees at the village and block levels to make water management plans for villages and blocks in the state.

A survey is being done of the water resources by a private agency, Ramky Enviro Engineering Pvt Ltd, as well as by the new Water Resources Management Centre at the University of Rajasthan. It will help to quantify the amount and quality of ground water and the 'dark zones' where drawing ground water is banned. Dr AK Saxena of Ramky says the report on Dausa will be submitted on October 15.

POLICE TAKES STEPS FOR SAFETY OF TOURISTS

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UDAIPUR: Anticipating a boom in the number of tourists, the Udaipur police have made special arrangements for their safety and security.

They have put together a team of informers, who will keep an eye out for lapkas (snatchers) and drug sellers, waiting to make a move on tourists.

Intelligence agencies and hotel operators have also been roped in to provide confidential information. The police are also planning to install cameras at tourist areas, to keep a check on miscreants.

SP Sanjeev Narjari said, "More than 500 police personnel have been deployed as a part of the security arrangements. We are also taking help from ex-servicemen and two different wings of the secret police. Concerned police stations have been instructed to carry out regular patrolling."