



Delhi Jal Board

At a Glance

Functions

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) of the Government of NCT Delhi is entrusted with the responsibility of procurement and distribution of water and treatment and disposal of sewage in Delhi.

Findings

- ◆ Delhi Jal Board has a staff strength of 2,600 and pays a monthly wage bill of Rs 20 crore with a monthly income of Rs 18.75 crore.¹
- ◆ 25% of Delhi's population does not receive DJB water. 40% of Delhi does not have sewer lines.
- ◆ According to a study (Lorente and Zerah, 2003), the total cost borne by Delhi households on account of strategies devised to compensate for water shortages like pumps, tankers, storage, is estimated to be *6.5 times higher* than what they pay for their consumption of water. This figure does *not* include the cost incurred on water purification devices.
- ◆ DJB needs to invest Rs 35 crore (just 14% of its annual wage bill) to install meters to check leakage and theft—this is where the DJB currently wastes about 40% of water.²
- ◆ Only 20% of the funds allocated for laying of water mains in unauthorised/regularised colonies and 40% of funds allocated for laying branch sewers in these colonies were used.
- ◆ It has been reported that most sewage treatment plants do not work to full capacity, and almost 50% of the sewage goes into the Yamuna untreated.
- ◆ A new water treatment plant at Nangloi with a capacity of 40 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) was completed and made functional.
- ◆ Water supply capacity was increased from 580 MGD to 650 MGD

and sewage treatment capacity was increased from 284 MGD to 484 MGD in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

- ◆ 14 new sewage treatment plants were constructed in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Reforms

- ◆ **Ward Level Water User Association:** Entrust repair, maintenance and upgradation of water delivery infrastructure to these user groups. Give them the responsibility of contracting out this work to private companies. This would ensure competition in the 'water delivery management' market for such ward level contracts, increasing efficiency and improving service. The transport of sewage from the households in the ward to the sewage treatment plants can also be contracted out to private companies by the WUAs.
- ◆ The existing network of storm water drains should be used by the WUAs to implement storm water harvesting, which may prove easier and cheaper to implement than household level rainwater harvesting. The recharged water tables would augment the ward's water supply sources.