

Chapter 10

Use of treated Waste Water

Issues

The STPs of DJB treat about 475 MGD of waste water. Only about 90 MLD of this waste water is presently being used by DJB and the rest released into drains which also carry untreated waste water. Some of the waste water, as per the DJBs report, has BOD as low as 10 mg/L. In fact with installation of more and more STPs and commissioning of ISP, more and more treated waste water treated to very high level of purity (tertiary standards) will become available. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the authorities to find most appropriate use for this water so as to reduce overall demand for fresh water which indirectly helps rejuvenation of the river.

Since most of this water is suitable for various non-potable uses like horticulture, agriculture, irrigating parks and gardens, washing, cooling in power Plants and even for flushing in the toilets NGT had vide order dated 07-06-2016 directed the VC DDA to take a meeting with DJB, MCDs and other agencies and Institutes and prepare a report on the use of treated waste water. Reuse of treated waste water was reiterated by NGT vide order dated 19-05-2017 and directed DJB to prepare a proposal in this regard.

Present Status:

Neither DDA nor DJB has shared any report prepared by the Authority/ Board in compliance of NGT's orders or provided a road map with deliverable and timelines for use of treated waste water for agriculture, maintenance of parks and gardens for horticultural uses, for non-potable domestic use including flushing through dual plumbing, in power houses for cooling, for washing purposes or even to recharge water bodies. DJB has also brought to the notice of the MC, their proposal to convert the treated waste water through a pipeline upstream and release it into Yamuna.

The DJB and the NCT Delhi has, however, been asked whether such a proposal has been examined from the point of view of its technical feasibility, whether any expert body has been consulted and whether the treated water so released has been treated for Total Coliform/Faecal Coliform.

Action Plan:

A detailed plan will be got prepared keeping in view the total treated water available and likely to be available once the ISP and STPs under construction get commissioned, the location of STPs, facilities like parks and gardens, water bodies or housing colonies where such water could be used for non- potable uses, the length of the conveyance system required etc. The road map will include increasing the recycling from present 20% to say 30% and higher and lay down monitorable timelines.

In short term DDA, DJB and DMCs have been asked to prepare a plan for switch over to use of treated water for irrigating parks/gardens and stop use of ground water. Quarterly monitoring would be done by MC.

Use of the treated water for rejuvenating some of the water bodies will be also considered after discussion with experts and agencies owning such water bodies.

The feasibility of CETPs, which presently release treated waste water into drains or reuse it for horticultural uses, achieving ZLD, as directed by the NGT will be explored and pursued with CETP societies and DSIIDC.