



Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board

Sub:- Water Crisis in Bengaluru- BBC Report appeared in News Papers on 12th February - Response of BWSSB

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The BBC news that Bengaluru will face severe water crisis is based on the survey undertaken in 2014 of the world's 500 largest cities, which is far from the factual situation. The report talks about unprecedented growth of the city, the inadequate water supply network system and the polluted lakes. Based on the statistics collected in 2014, the BBC has reported that Bangalore is one among the 11 cities which may run out of fresh water. Large numbers of water related development works and the remedial measures are undertaken by the BWSSB and Government of Karnataka to mitigate the problem of water crisis. Solutions taken for the effective water management are in terms of both Supply Management and the Demand Management, in a very categorical manner and the citizens of Bengaluru need not have to worry about this BBC report,

The present population of Bangalore is between 11 to 12 million. It is expected that by 2031, the population would be probably increase to 20 million, the fresh water supply per person available by then will be around 88 litre per day with 25% water loss. Looking into the water requirements of the city, Government of Karnataka has allotted 10 TMC of additional water from the river Cauvery in the year 2014. Also the Government of Karnataka has tied up with JICA, Japan for loan worth Rs. 5500 crores out of which Rs. 4500 crore will be used to bring the 10 TMC of

additional water to Bangalore City. The project will be started in the year 2019 and will be commissioned by 2023. With this the total water available from the river Cauvery to Bangalore city will increase from the present availability of 1400 MLD to 2175 MLD. In addition to this, Yettinahole project with 2.50 TMC of water will augment the water supply by 200 MLD by 2021. Hence the total supply of fresh water to the city of Bengaluru will be 2375 MLD by the end of the year 2023.

It is important to mention here that BWSSB has reduced NRW (technical and commercial water losses) from 49% in 2012 to 39% as on today and with the continued various measure it will be further reduced to 25% by 2025. By reducing NRW by 10% which translates to about 135 MLD of water and by additional pumping of water through the existing facilities only (100 MLD additional) from the river Cauvery, BWSSB intends to meet the full requirements of water in the city till 2023. The Water demand has to be reduced through various measures like reuse of water and Rain Water harvesting. The demand reduction requires co-operation of the citizens. The Government has made installation of onsite STPs compulsory to apartments having more than 20 units. If the wastewater generated is used by the house holds after treatment for flushing, gardening and cleaning of cars and floor, the demand can be reduced by 20 to 25%. The installation of rain water harvesting structure have been made compulsory since 2009 for all new buildings on sites of 30'x40' dimensions and for all existing buildings on 40'x60' and above site dimensions. The rain water harvesting structures will reduce the demand and also improve the ground water table in the city.

Bangalore receives good rainfall and hence as a long term measure the lakes of the city will be used as sources for drinking water to the city by storing the rain water in lakes. Large number of measures are being undertaken to treat the sewage and also to bring the sewage in separate pipes to the STP to avoid mixing of sewage water with the water in the Storm Water Drains. The Government is investing in treatment of sewage substantially with 336 MLD of treatment capacity added in this year making 75% of sewage generated in the city capable of being treated. These STP's have been constructed at the cost of around Rs.1000 crore. The work of another 515 MLD capacity with 09 STP's at the cost of Rs.1388 crores are in progress. These STPs will be completed by 2020 and will make BWSSB completely capable of treating all the sewage generated in the city. In order to avoid sewage entering into the lakes through Storm Water Drains, the STPs are being connected with the fool-proof Sewerage system at a cost of Rs.650 crores, under Environmental Action Plan Works.

Government is also thinking of bringing Sharavathi water from Linganamakki dam to Bangalore, for augmenting the supply if the need arises. The Government is taking all measures to see that the water is provided in adequate quantity to the citizens of Bangalore. However, great responsibility lies on the citizen of Bangalore to use the water judiciously and to save the water. The rampant exploitation of groundwater should be avoided and Rain water Harvesting should be undertaken in a way to replenish the groundwater with the help of enlightened citizenry and pro-active Government it will be ensured that the city does not face the water crisis.

