



# India WASH Forum

## WASH News and Policy Update Bi-monthly e-Newsletter of India WASH Forum Issue # 35 May 2014

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### India WASH Forum News

India WASH Forum stands for an independent credible voice in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. We bring out one WASH News and Policy Update in two months. It is an open platform for engagement on contemporary issues in WASH sector in India and elsewhere. We are pleased to share the 35<sup>th</sup> Issue of our WASH Policy Newsletter that is produced once in two months consistently from 2009.

WASH Policy Newsletter promotes information and knowledge sharing, research and analysis for advocacy on critical issues.

Our newsletter provides an analytical perspective on contemporary WASH issues. We are conscious of the need to engage with and understand other larger debates in the social and economic development scenario, of which drinking water and sanitation is a part. Hence we

include in our news analysis and policy updates, events and developments from other related development fields, besides the WASH sector. We invite readers to share their experiences and reports that can be disseminated from this WASH Policy Newsletter.

**Water Day** this year was celebrated as the Right to Water and Sanitation Day in Delhi by several citizen groups. Delhi has witnessed a reversal of free lifeline water and sanitation since April this year.

Bringing focus on the tardy progress on steps taken to convert the 2010 commitment that the Indian government gave to the 2010 UN Resolution on Right to Water and Sanitation. Infact instead of progress there is regression. The latest draft National Water Policy makes a case for treating water is an economic good, does not make any commitment to lifeline water supply by the government as a state responsibility and opens the door for full scale water and sanitation privatization.

Fortunately, the **Madras High Court differs from the national water policy position**, wants the government to learn from the failed privatization of water and sanitation experience in Cochobamba Bolivia.

"The right to life is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution and it includes the right of enjoyment of pollution-free water and air".

The judge said: "Admittedly, no law has been enacted so far (in Tamil Nadu). On the contrary, the enactment that was in force earlier — the Tamil Nadu Ground Water (Development and Management) Act, 2003 — has actually been repealed recently."

"None of the nation-states appears to have drawn a lesson from what had happened in Bolivia and in the neighbourhood of Johannesburg, South Africa, where the policy of privatisation of water supply was tested in recent times."

The judge said that after water supply was privatised in Johannesburg, people became unable to pay their water bills. "The private water supply agencies stopped supply of water, forcing residents to drink water from polluted rivers. This led to an outbreak of cholera claiming hundreds of lives," Justice Ramasubramanian said.



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We share the Resolution of a national consultation on Right to Water and Sanitation organized by the Citizens Solidarity Forum on Right to Water and Sanitation in Delhi on the Water Day this year. We also share the results of a survey of 12 settlements of Delhi to assess the impact and relevance of 20kl/month free water and sanitation commitment of the erstwhile Delhi government. The survey shows the quantum of water allocation as a Right is considered justified by the poorest habitants of Delhi, is not an overestimation from their current water usage. A list of demands is also included in the Resolution passed after the meeting, meeting, urging the LG of Delhi to continue with the Right to Water and Sanitation entitlement secured by the Delhi government.

**Paris defends re municipalisation record.** In March this year, **the City of Paris marked its first full financial year of in-house service**, after a contract with Veolia and Suez Environment expired, by announcing a cut in water prices by 8% from 1 July 2011. It said that this had been made possible by Eau de Paris generating an annual gain of €35 million from transferring the services to the public sector. This drew a sharp riposte from Veolia Eau, when its deputy managing director Marc Reneaume argued that the savings and reductions in water bills had nothing to do with re-municipalisation and that the public operator was simply reaping the benefits of the private companies' investments.

Paris' deputy mayor responsible for water, Anne Le Strat, responding to Veolia's claims, told GWI: "What I find astonishing is that here we have a private operator who, during its 25-year tenure, did not once reduce prices but rather imposed successive increases and whose accumulated effect over the period worked out at a rise of 260%."

Often perceived as the scourge of private operators, Le Strat says she prefers to see herself as more "a standard bearer of public water services management". Nevertheless, she casts a scornful eye on Veolia's interpretation of the Paris water price cuts. "All of a sudden, now that Veolia is no longer operator, it wants to take credit for the reduction Eau de Paris is going to implement while also having the brazenness to claim it would have gone even further in decreasing prices. The obvious question is, why didn't Veolia offer to lower prices during the term of the contract?" she asks. She also takes

Veolia to task on the issue of the private sector's investment legacy.

**The Indian national elections results** will be out shortly. It is unfortunate that some of the major issues that should have mattered for India, were not the agenda of most political parties. Instead there was a vigorous campaign against some of the pro poor measures taken in the recent years – against national enactments on livelihoods and food security.

Inflation is just a generic term and to say that x party will fight inflation means little without defining how. If food prices have risen, can we fight food inflation without addressing the high cost of food production? Is more of FDI in food processing, more investment in cold storage and infrastructure, eliminating middlemen by creating monopoly retail chains – the answer to food inflation? Similarly, can you address inflation meaningfully without intervening to reduce the price of drinking water and sewerage and electricity – as a lifeline lowest slab for urban poor and yet provide good quality services? There is no commitment for these from most political parties.

Criticism of MNREGA has been that it is keeping people away from wage labour. This is possible given the fact that people now have a choice for 100 days in a year to do MNREGA works (if these are available). What the critics are hiding however is the parallel situation of continuing farmers suicides and deprivation, despite MNREGA. The cost of cash cropping in dryland farming is not only restricted to wage labour costs affected by MNREGA, it also includes expensive farm inputs – seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and water – all to be purchased from the market and with borrowed money at high interest rate – the fifth input cost of agriculture.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/gallery/2014/may/05/india-cotton-suicides-farmer-deaths-gm-seeds>

Given that the overwhelming majority of Indians engaged in agriculture are landless labour and small and marginal farmers, what options do they have other than MNREGA or Food Security when the landed gentry and commercial farmers are becoming risk averse from commercial farming and in dry land farming there is a spate of suicides of landed farmers? This macro aspect of Indian agriculture crisis is seldom brought out and instead we have case study based stories of individual entrepreneur farmers

who cannot find wage labour because of MNREGA, in the media and by mainstream economists.

Why do these pundits not talk of interventions/solutions to this aspect of agrarian crisis? Why no recommendations to ensure that seeds, fertilisers, pesticides costs – all of which are industry based – their prices controlled or their production brought under state control if prices are not reduced by private sector in a time bound manner? If agriculture is unremunerative, given high input costs, why attack only wage labour costs and point fingers at MNREGA and Food Security?

In the grave agriculture crisis and livelihood stress in India, if MNREGA and Food Security serve as welfare dole entitlements for the poor, should we complain that this intervention that has immense value for the poor? It needs to be seen how the new government deals with these welfare entitlements when the next government is formed. Recession hit Indian industry wants more money flowing to it through government contracts and expenditure on infrastructure. How many well paying jobs are generated from every Rs.100 spent on industrial revival generate, could have been the issue for general elections. Instead the issue was only on x% of GDP growth, even when there is evidence to show that the last decade of highest GDP growth was also a decade of jobless growth and highest inflation.

## How NREGA and Food Security Bill will impact poll outcome in Bihar

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-how-nrega-and-food-security-will-impact-poll-outcome-in-bihar-1984464>

Some 30 kms away from Bihar's Muzaffarpur, in Moshari block, peasants sit around a common *hookah* at a village *chaupal* after an exhausting day. They sign Maithili folk songs and relating stories of Raj Kishore and Tasleemudin, legendary Naxalite leaders who took on local landlords in the 1960s.

This region, along with Naxalbari in neighbouring West Bengal, was the centre of bloody clashes, forcing socialist leader Jai Prakash Narayan to camp in the Menka village of this block for over six months to preach peace. Both Naxalite leaders were killed in a police encounter, but not before they spread terror amidst upper caste landlords,

forcing them to part with their lands and hand them over to peasants. There are no medals for them. But their stories are told. Ironically, the village is now the only island with a Congress foothold, with Raj Kishore's brother-in-law managing its local office.

Some four decades down the line, there aren't many big landholdings, but new issues confront farmers and small industrialists alike. Dharminder Singh, a 76-year old farmer who has just returned from his farm after toiling hard the whole day in the scorching summer, complains of not being able to find labourers. The culprit, he believes, is the Centre's flagship Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Scheme (MGNREGA) and the latest Food Security scheme. "Both schemes have wrought havoc for farmers here. We are unable to get labourers to till the lands, and sowing season will end soon," says Singh. "Last year, I had to leave vast stretches of my land barren for want of labourers."

Before MGNREGA was implemented, labourers charged Rs 50-75 per day for work. Now it is difficult to find one for Rs 300 for four hours. Surviving on agriculture is therefore becoming unsustainable for many in this region.

Professor Krishan Mohan Prasad, who heads the department of economics at Muzaffarpur University, says the Centre's two flagship schemes have belied basic economic principles. "When a labourer gets food and wages without working, why should he toil?" he asks. "Those making policies in air-conditioned rooms in Delhi have no idea of a village economic cycle, which relies on inter-dependency. "By getting labourers out of this cycle, they have broken the chain," he says, adding these schemes should have been linked to wages. "If they had thought to link them to work, it would have addressed the issue of unemployment and also used this money to increase productivity rather decreasing it."

In Chhatuna village, 10 kms from neighbouring Samastipur, where social scientist Professor Sachidanand Singh, who has taken to farming after retirement, says a successful agriculture requires four ingredients: capital, irrigation, labour and market. He rues the drying up of labour in the region. "People are either migrating to cities, or sitting idle, banking on NREGA and Food Security," he said.



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And this is true not just for farm hands, but for small-scale industries as well. In Muzaffarnagar industrial estate, Chitranjan Prasad, a small industrialist who makes PVC pipes, says he used to hire labourers for Rs 150 a day. The rate has now gone up to Rs 400, making his trade uneconomical. "If the government wants to promote industry and address unemployment, it needs to look at the labour issue as well. I have been hit below the belt due to NREGA and Food Security."

He believes NREGA, instead of creating the promised 6 crore rural jobs at a government investment of Rs 70,000 crore, has only increased absenteeism from regular employment, and wage levels in traditional vocations. "Instead of working additional hours, enhancing incomes and climbing the aspirational ladder, the rural people seem to have given up their regular occupations and chosen to be satisfied with their current levels of income and consumption," he added.

Yet, no matter how serious these issues are, they hardly find mention in the run up to the 2014 Lok Sabha campaign. An upper caste Bhoomihar (Brahmin land owner) Sachidanand Pathak in Menka villagesays "vote and daughters are given only in own caste, not outside", implying that despite the economic issues, caste reigns supreme in the choice of public representative.

## Citizens Solidarity Forum for Water and Sanitation: World Water Day Conference Resolution

CSOs, NGOs and community representatives got together as the Citizens Solidarity Forum, to commemorate the World Water Day as the Right to Water and Sanitation Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014 at Indian Social Institute, Delhi. The meet was well attended by children, women from bastis of 12 slum settlements of Delhi. Action India team had conducted a survey in January 2014, to assess the current water use by slum residents and the impact of the Delhi government policy decision of free water and sanitation services up to a certain lifeline water usage. The one day conference provided opportunity for sharing the survey findings on the likely impact of the 20KI free water on people. An opportunity to discuss lessons learnt from water privatisation experience and struggles in India and internationally. And to arrive at recommendations on what needs to be done to strengthen peoples rights to

water and sanitation. Retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Mr. Rajinder Sachar was the Chief Guest. Speakers included Mr. SA Naqvi of Citizens for Water Democracy, Mr. Kshitij Urs of the National Platform Against Water Privatisation, Mr. Afsar Jafri of Focusweb South Asia, Ms. Kiran Shaheen Journalist and Mr. Onkar Mittal Social Scientist.

## Resolution of the Conference

- 1. The Policy decision of providing free water up to 666 lts/day/connection and accompanying sanitation services, is justified as it meets the requirements of basic needs of a household of six members** for washing clothes, toilet use, bathing, cleaning, drinking water and cooking. The right to water and sanitation can only be ensured if this level of good quality water supply and individual sanitation is provided to all. People do not want 24x7 water and are not willing to pay more for this, they only want adequate water of good quality.
- 2. There are reports that the benefit given to the people of Delhi may be discontinued with effect from April 1, 2014.** The citizens solidarity meet urges the Lt. Governor of Delhi to continue the free water facility as it is a vital human right. We demand that the present administration take necessary steps to ensure that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) gets the required funds to fulfill this commitment.
- While the decision of the erstwhile AAP government decision is welcomed, **we are pained to see that it will only benefit households with a pipe water and sewerage connection.** Large number of residents of unauthorised colonies, JJ colonies, urban villages and some resettlement colonies do not have piped water supply and sewerage facility.
  - We therefore call for **urgent and time bound plan of action for covering all residents of Delhi, irrespective of their legal status, with water and sewerage connections.** This plan should be prepared and placed in the public domain.
  - Connection charge should be abolished.** Connection charge for getting a pipe water connection is as high as Rs.20,000.



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4. **Pricing of water. Willingness to pay is a subjective assessment.** If you ask anyone who currently is not getting adequate, good quality water, he/she will want this service and will be willing to pay for it. This does not mean that they have the ability to pay. Willingness to pay is therefore an expression of denial of service and should not be interpreted for determining the price of water and sanitation services. Pricing of water must be seen separately in terms of;

- what is a fair payment for water and sanitation services that a government should charge considering its total revenues and social responsibility to right to water and sanitation, and not simply the cost and revenues of water and supply services,
- what is the amount that the poorest people can afford to pay.

Pricing of water and sanitation services should be based on the above analysis. It may mean that payment if any for water and sanitation services, may only be very minimum payment that is not related to the recovery of O&M cost of service provision, but is more of a social cost recovery for a right to water and sanitation, involving cross subsidization across rich and poor consumer categories and across different economic and social costing for a given administrative unit.

5. **All Public Hand Pumps and Pias in Delhi should be revived so that the free water can be provided to the public.** A policy decision allowing digging of hand pumps and bore wells for public water consumption, should be announced. Pending installation of public taps for water, tankers should be used on regular and daily basis for all those who do not get piped water, to provide them 20kl water at the government cost.

6. **The government must take immediate steps to eliminate water mafia in slums and unauthorised colonies of Delhi.** There are some areas where household pipelines are laid but are not connected with the nearby main pipelines carrying water for distribution. Not doing this is obviously benefiting the water mafia selling water at exhorbitant price to the locality. All such areas should be immediately provided water through main pipelines.

7. **Immediately stop all wasteful construction work of DJB including creating infrastructure for District Metering Areas** – underground water tanks for water distribution and related water regulating infrastructure. There is no need to invest in wasteful infrastructure that was meant to aid privatisation of water.

8. **Strengthen the DJB to be able to perform its public utility role.** There has been sustained efforts to weaken the DJB which faces severe financial crunch and manpower shortage. We demand that the government conduct an assessment for additional staff requirement of DJB to serve as a public utility and not as a commercial contract management agency as it has now become; increase technical and non technical staff, particularly line staff who can service faults and complaints; create a social accountability division within DJB to address grievances and complaints and set up separate units for monitoring of the water supply and checking the fraud to ensure transparency and public scrutiny. Benchmarking of Water Utilities/Boards/Municipalities, should be for equity in supply and use, affordability and satisfaction levels of public, not simply on managerial efficiency parameters alone as is being done currently.

9. **There should be no privatisation in any form in the water sector at any stage. We consider recently entered 3 PPP contracts**(in Malviya Nagar, Vasant Vihar and Nagloi for Operations and Maintenance of water supply only), **as an unacceptable delegation of human right obligations by the state to private agencies.**

- a. There is evidence to show that **DJB will end up paying a higher volumetric payment for supplying water than the rate at which the DJB is currently supplying water.** Sanitation and sewerage is more costly than supplying water, remains the DJB responsibility, thereby transferring **all costs to the DJB and the profits to the private business.** The government must therefore **revoke these 3 PPP contracts** and entrust the DJB with the full responsibility for the distribution of water and sanitation services.

- b. Under the new policy of providing 666lts/day/connection free water, **taxpayers money should not be used to benefit private water operators under the 3 PPP contracts.** Since the water tariff has been revised w.r.t January 2014, the volumetric payment bids for the PPP contractors that were negotiated a year ago, should not end up providing windfall profit for the PPP denominated privatisation of water supply in Delhi.
- c. **Priority should be new infrastructure of pipelines in rest of Delhi and not additional capital investment and higher fees to private sector for 24x7 in some areas.**
10. **The situation on sanitation front is alarming.** There is a great shortage of both individual and public toilets catering to the slums and unauthorised colonies. Resettlement colonies have been created by government of Delhi with no provision of piped drinking water supply and sewerage for household toilet connectivity.
- a. Where sanitation and sewerage is not being provided to individual households, **government should provide a subsidy for septic tank construction** for JJ colonies, unauthorised and resettlement colonies.
- b. **It is hard to find any functional and well maintained public toilet. No provision is made by the PWD or MCD to maintain public toilets.** Almost all public toilets in bastis and slums of Delhi are either non functional, closed, choked and with foul smell. Most of them are unsafe for women and girls. This is, perhaps, the most neglected area where the Delhi government ought to have been more caring and active though the a policy and programme for ensuring adequate and well maintained public toilets a government responsibility. There is an urgent need to repair and restore all public toilets in a time-bound and planned manner with mechanism for the regular maintenance that are not contracted out to private operators as has been the case so far.
- c. **Almost all basti residents in our survey said that the responsibility of operation and maintenance of public toilets in bastis should be the responsibility of the government.** The demands made for public toilets include;
- i. Women caretaker for womens toilets
- ii. Provision of water, electricity and a guard
- d. Experience of ActionIndia where basti women were offered the choice of managing public toilets in the bastis has shown that **it is not viable for the women to manage public toilets and recover all the O&M expenses from user charge.** The municipality should **bear the following expenses; Electricity, Water, Regular maintenance of assets** - walls, roof, doors, floor toilet pans and other fixtures.
- e. In view of regrettable condition of sanitation this assembly of activists urges the Delhi government **to put in place a monitoring system with local participation of people in the maintenance and management,** and also introduce regular public hearings at mohalla level on water issues – once in 3 months. Hearings for public grievances can be on fixed dates with an advanced information to the public.
11. **We call on all citizens to come together and help prepare a comprehensive Water Policy for Delhi as a model policy for large urban metros.** We must aim at securing firm commitment to water conservation and less reliance on external water sources, protecting river beds and promoting local water use and recycling, provision of water and sanitation as a Right of the residents of the city, and a responsibility of the state.



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## Citizens Solidarity Forum for Right to Water and Sanitation : Assessment of the impact of the Delhi government decision for poor settlements of Delhi from a Rights Perspective

21<sup>st</sup> March 2014 Water Day Conference, ISI, Delhi

Action India team conducted a survey in January 2014, to assess the current water use by slum residents and the impact of the Delhi government decision on the announcement of free water and sanitation services up to a certain lifeline water usage. This work was undertaken as part of the joint civil society initiative to assess the impact of the Delhi government decision to provide free water and sanitation services up to a certain lifeline water supply norm.

In all 12 bastis settlements were covered with a simple questionnaire based survey of 10 residents in each slum.

Areas surveyed:

East Delhi: Sundarnagri, Seemapuri, Kalindi colony, Welcome colony, Harsh Vihar, Chand bag, Janta Colony

North West Delhi: Bhalaswa, Nand Nagri

South Delhi: Dakshinpuri, Madangiri, Sanjay Camp

South West Delhi: Bharat Vihar/Dwarka

The survey addressed the issues of water quantity use and expected impact of the 20KI/month/connection free lifeline water and related sanitation as a Right. To understand if this quantitative norm met the with the water use and demand of the poorest residents of Delhi and seek a response from the residents if they welcomed this decision or not. It also assessed related issues of water quality, status public toilets in bastis and drainage issues. Women respondents formed the majority of the surveyed. People were also asked what they wanted in terms of improvements in public toilets, if they were willing to pay for water and sanitation instead of the free entitlement. Income levels of the respondents were also noted.

This is perhaps the first independent survey that takes feedback from the some of the poorest residents of Delhi,

post the radical announcement of the Delhi government to provide 20KI water per month per household and the associated sewerage services free to the residents of Delhi who have a water connection.

### Key Findings

Most people residing in the bastis surveyed were daily wagger workers in construction and in small manufacturing, retail and related works. Average salary of a single earning household is only Rs.5000 to Rs.7000 a month. Given the high inflation rate of all essential commodities, any price increase impact of water and sanitation services is felt the most by this segment of citizens of Delhi.

#### 1. Quantity of water used and likely impact of the free water decision

The basis of declaring 20KI water/connection/month for a household was questioned by many people - whether this quantitative norm is in gross excess of the prevailing usage of the poorest category of water users of poor residents of Delhi. Whether it is below the current and future usage norm of a slum household.

The survey found that only in three out of the 12 bastis( Harsh vihar, Chand Bagh and Sundar Nagri), majority of the households have toilets, on account of water available from either DJB pipelines or from private submersible pumps. In the rest of the nine bastis people do not have individual toilets. Water usage it therefore higher in bastis with toilets.

Water usage is for different purposes in poorer settlement versus middle class colonies. Quantity of water used also differs accordingly. Washing of clothes is the largest demand on water, followed by toilet use, bathing, house cleaning, water for cooking and drinking. This reflects the predominant nature of manual or physical employment of the residents of bastis and their higher water usage. Water usage in summer is nearly double the amount used in winters. Hence respondents were asked to provide an estimate of quantity of household water usage separately for in winter and summer.

The survey found that on an average a family size of 5.4 members with toilet facility at home, consumes 450litres/day at a percapita consumption of 80lts/person/day. A household of 5.4 members not having a toilet, consumes on an average 300 lts/day or 55lts/person/day. This estimate is for summer months.

Water usage for an average household is a factor of family size, current water availability, storage capacity of the households, toilet in the house. Currently most bastis do not get adequate water. If more water is available easily with home connections, water usage will rise. While the average family size in this survey was 5.4, there are many households with a larger family size.

While working on a minimum cap for household water consumption it is therefore advisable to take an upper level of water use that incorporates all variables. Hence the decision by Delhi government to declare free water of 666lts/day/household for a family unit of 6 members – is required for ensuring right to water and sanitation is met.

## 2. What people are paying for water now

In many bastis of Delhi, water is not paid for by the residents, where it comes from connectivity with DJB water mains, daily water supply by DJB water tankers and DJB borewells and other private arrangements by residents. The survey found that people pay anywhere between Rs. 30 to Rs.300/month for water, when DJB water supply is not there. Willingness to pay is therefore an expression of denial of service and should not be interpreted for determining the price of water and sanitation services.

In this survey a large number of respondents said that they cannot afford to pay for water. While some said that they are willing to pay if better services are provided. Connection charge for getting DJB water connections is very high, in some cases as high as Rs.20,000.

## 3. Do you want a water meter

Some people are wanting a water meter as it will help them in knowing their water consumption. Some do not want a water meter because they cannot afford to pay for water if it is metered and billed to them. There could be other reasons for wanting a water meter – it gives legality/proof of residence to residents of bastis and unauthorized.

## 4. Water quality

In bastis where Action India has worked in the past few years to ensure DJB pipelines are laid and water connectivity improved, only in these areas people express full satisfaction with the quality of water supplied. In other bastis, most residents are not satisfied with the quality of water that they receive now. Water quality worsens in summer months.

## 5. Response to the Delhi government decision on free water

Most residents are happy with the decision of 20Kl/month/household free water and associated sanitation services, they are not willing to pay for water if that is given as a choice.

## 6. Public toilets

Where individual toilets are not there on account of sewerage systems not being place, people prefer to go out and defecate in the open. Instead of using public toilets. Almost all the residents are concerned about the poor status of public toilets in the bastis. In terms of its infrastructure, cleanliness, safety and high user fee.

Currently the users of public toilets pay Re1/woman/use and Rs.2/man/use. This amounts to a significant user fee per family. It was found that families pay from Rs.30 to Rs.120/month/family for usage of community toilets.

When asked what was the reasonable amount they were willing to pay for public toilets usage, the response was Rs.50 to Rs.60/month/family. Like water, willingness to pay for toilets is an expression of denial of services.



Absence of sewerage lines, small houses with little space for individual toilets, poorly maintained public toilets – these conditions compel people to respond that they are willing to pay for toilet usage. However this response should not be interpreted as willingness to pay. People are willing to pay for water and sanitation only if the service provided is of good quality, there is no corruption in terms of inflated billing.

Almost all residents said the responsibility of operation and maintenance of public toilets in bastis should be the responsibility of the government. The demands made for public toilets include;

- Women caretaker for womens toilets
- Provision of water, electricity and a guard

The status of public toilets and its improvement emerges as a major concern.

## 7. Drainage of waste water and storm water

Almost all residents are unhappy with the sweeping of streets and cleaning of drains in the bastis. People are not willing to pay for sweeping and cleaning of drains. They say that government is already paying a sweeper to clean the drains but they do not do their job.

### Concluding remarks:

1. People do not want 24x7 water and are not willing to pay more for this, they only want adequate water of good quality.
2. Willingness to pay is often a subjective assessment. If you ask anyone who currently is not getting adequate, good quality water, he/she will want this service and will be willing to pay for it. This does not mean that they have the ability to pay. Willingness to pay is therefore an expression of denial of service and should not be interpreted for determining the price of water and sanitation services. Willingness to pay must be seen separately in terms of;
  - what is a fair payment for water and sanitation services that a government should charge considering its total revenues and social responsibility to right

to water and sanitation, and not simply the cost and revenues of water and supply services,

- what is the amount that the poorest people can afford to pay.

Pricing of water and sanitation services should be based on the above analysis. It may mean that payment if any for water and sanitation services, may only be very minimum payment that is not related to the recovery of O&M cost of service provision, but is more of a social cost recovery for a right to water and sanitation, involving cross subsidization across rich and poor consumer categories and across different economic and social costing for a given administrative unit.

3. Experience of Action India where basti women were offered the choice of managing public toilets in the bastis has shown that it is not viable for the women to manage public toilets and recover all the O&M expenses from user charge. The municipality should bear the following expenses; Electricity, Water, Regular maintenance of assets - walls, roof, doors, floor toilet pans and other fixtures.
4. The survey found that sweepers are employed by the municipalities on contract with low pay. They are handed over the task of cleaning more than one basti and hence cannot come to each basti every day. The sweepers are not paid separately for brooms and cleaning detergents, this is now merged with their salary. It leads to a situation where brooms and cleaning agents are not available. Hence payment of full salaries to basti sweepers, allotting reasonable work and allocating them materials for cleaning is government responsibility.

## Court warns against privatising water supply cites Bolivia case

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Court-warns-against-privatising-water-supply-cites-Bolivia-case/articleshow/30505087.cms>

CHENNAI: Cautioning governments against privatising fundamental responsibilities such as providing drinking water to people, the Madras High Court has wondered how a company, which dragged Bolivia into international arbitration over privatisation of drinking water, was involved in a Tirupur area development scheme.

The state government's ambitious Tirupur development plan envisaged several schemes including treatment and supply of potable water. It engaged a consortium of international firms for the purpose.

While passing orders on disputes over restructuring the stake-holding companies, Justice V Ramasubramanian narrated the dangers of privatising essential amenities such as providing drinking water to people.

He said: "It is an irony of fate that Bechtel, which was a member of Aguas Del Tunari, the multinational consortium of private investors that was driven out of Bolivia, appears to be part of the consortium selected by Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd for funding the Tirupur project. I do not know if anyone is aware of what happened in Bolivia."

In October 1999, Aguas Del Tunari was awarded a 40-year contract to provide water and sanitation services to residents of Cochabamba in Bolivia. Following public outcry over 200% increase in water rates, the company was thrown out. In November of 2002, it demanded a compensation of \$50 million from the Bolivian government, and dragged it to the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank. Nearly four years later, in January 2006, it agreed to drop the case for a token payment from Bolivia, which had already spent more than one million dollars on legal fees alone.

Noting that there could be no dispute about the fact that water supply to people was an obligation of the state, Justice Ramasubramanian cited the Supreme Court ruling which said: "The right to life is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution and it includes the right of

enjoyment of pollution-free water and air".

The judge said: "Admittedly, no law has been enacted so far (in Tamil Nadu). On the contrary, the enactment that was in force earlier — the Tamil Nadu Ground Water (Development and Management) Act, 2003 — has actually been repealed recently."

The judge said the National Water Policy 2012 suggested that water could be priced to fully recover the cost of operation and administration of water resources projects. Noting that operators in the private sector jumped into the fray to fill the gap between resources and the unwillingness of the government, Justice Ramasubramanian rued: "None of the nation-states appears to have drawn a lesson from what had happened in Bolivia and in the neighbourhood of Johannesburg, South Africa, where the policy of privatisation of water supply was tested in recent times."

The judge said that after water supply was privatised in Johannesburg, people became unable to pay their water bills. "The private water supply agencies stopped supply of water, forcing residents to drink water from polluted rivers. This led to an outbreak of cholera claiming hundreds of lives," Justice Ramasubramanian said.

Anne Le Strat, Paris' deputy mayor responsible for water, acknowledges that bringing the city's water supply under public control was foremost "a political choice"— but remains convinced that government can offer more savings.

## Paris Defends Remunicipalisation Record

<http://www.globalwaterintel.com/archive/12/5/general/paris-defends-re-municipalisation-record.html>

In March this year, the City of Paris marked its first full financial year of in-house service, after a contract with Veolia and Suez Environnement expired, by announcing a cut in water prices by 8% from 1 July 2011. It said that this had been made possible by Eau de Paris generating an annual gain of €35 million from transferring the services to the public sector.

This drew a sharp riposte from Veolia Eau, when its deputy managing director Marc Reneaume argued that the savings and reductions in water bills had nothing to do with re-municipalisation and that the public operator was



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simply reaping the benefits of the private companies' investments.

Paris' deputy mayor responsible for water, Anne Le Strat, responding to Veolia's claims, told GWI: "What I find astonishing is that here we have a private operator who, during its 25-year tenure, did not once reduce prices but rather imposed successive increases and whose accumulated effect over the period worked out at a rise of 260%."

Often perceived as the scourge of private operators, Le Strat says she prefers to see herself as more "a standard bearer of public water services management". Nevertheless, she casts a scornful eye on Veolia's interpretation of the Paris water price cuts.

"All of a sudden, now that Veolia is no longer operator, it wants to take credit for the reduction Eau de Paris is going to implement while also having the brazenness to claim it would have gone even further in decreasing prices. The obvious question is, why didn't Veolia offer to lower prices during the term of the contract?" she asks. She also takes Veolia to task on the issue of the private sector's investment legacy.

"What is conveniently forgotten is that when Eau de Paris was a semi-public entity, it invested too, alongside Veolia and Suez – the prime example being €150m for the construction of four water treatment plants. It's important to point out, in passing, that in the next five years, Eau de Paris will be investing more on an annual basis than Veolia ever did."

The Paris council's ruling majority and Le Strat, in particular, have been criticised by their political opponents for not giving the private sector the opportunity to table offers on price cuts. They point to the SEDIF's competitive auction in the Parisian suburbs where it was able to secure a tariff reduction, in percentage terms, from Veolia, of more than twice what Eau de Paris was able to offer.

Le Strat underlines that the shift to in-house management was first and foremost a political choice, mayor Bertrand Delanoë's re-election manifesto making it clear that water should not be an instrument of profit. "We made it known ahead of the election in 2008 that we would not be launching a competitive tender ahead of the expiration of the contract... we were within our rights in making this choice," Le Strat says.

"SEDIF's tariffs were 72% higher compared to Paris' before the reduction it obtained from Veolia in the new contract and today remain 40% higher than in the capital. I think that says it all."

Returning to the Paris water price reduction, the local Green party accused Le Strat of "whipping up media hype around a derisory sum" and she accepts that the decrease could work out at to as little as €10 per household annually, given that the price of water represents only one-third of the full amount on a bill, other factors being sewage costs and taxes, which are outside municipal control.

"But nevertheless, the price is coming down – the first in a quarter of a century – and which would almost certainly not have happened if we'd had to factor in an operator's profit margin."

Economic aspects aside, she says the reduction is also proof that public ownership of water services can be efficient and "sends a message to subscribers that we are responsible", highlighting the principle that any gain Eau de Paris garners in running services is reinvested in the network and in passing on rebates to subscribers which will total €76m over the next five years.

Paris' move in taking water services under public control is a recurring theme in Le Strat's speeches at conferences. "With 75% of delegated water services contracts in France up for renewal by 2015, councils are mulling whether to consider in-house management. What we have done and are doing in Paris is providing much food for thought. I can't say whether these councils are poised to follow the same path as Paris in significant numbers, but what is clear in debating with them is that a lot of questions are being asked on the future of private sector management in France."

See more at:

<http://www.globalwaterintel.com/archive/12/5/general/paris-defends-re-municipalisation-record.html#sthash.dhusOrbc.dpuf>



# India WASH Forum

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## About India WASH Forum

India WASH Forum is a registered Indian Trust since 2008 with Trustees from all over India. It is a coalition of Indian organizations and individuals working on water, sanitation and hygiene. The coalition evolved out of WSSCC support to national WASH sector advocacy.

In order to undertake credible independent WASH advocacy work in India, the national coalition got registered as an Indian charity in 2008 and has undertaken a number of significant research and advocacy work that includes:

### Knowledge Networking and Advocacy initiatives undertaken by India WASH Forum;

- Gender and Sanitation South Asia Workshop with National Foundation of India in Delhi; 2005
- Review of Swajaldhara and TSC Programme Guidelines; 2007
- Input to the Technical Expert Group set up to review the National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM); 2007
- Civil Society Input, Urban Sanitation Policy 2009
- Review of TSC in 4 states of India 2009
- Organisation of SACOSAN 3 in Delhi. CSO session and a CSO Statement of Action, 2009
- National Right to Water and Sanitation Workshop 2009 with participation from the Ministry and CSOs
- Start up of the GSF programme in India

- Launch workshop 2009 with stakeholders in Delhi, 2009
- Developing and finalising the Country Programme Proposal, 2010
- Leading the PCM of GSF, as an institutional host and Chair and Convener.
- Providing oversight for programme review.
- Member Govt of India 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan Working Group on Drinking Water and Sanitation 2010. Recommendations on behaviour change priorities and staffing for national sanitation programme.
- Recommendations for Urban and Rural Water and Sanitation inputs: national consultations on drinking water and sanitation by Planning Commission Govt of India and Arghyam 2010
- National Pro poor Urban Water and Sanitation Consultation, 2010
- National report and a South Asia Report for SACOSAN 3 : Peoples Voices – a National Study project, Reports for India and South Asia, 2011
- Formal Input to the National Water Policy 2012, with a focus on drinking water and sanitation
- Report to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation: UNDP international consultation – Greening of Rural Water Supply Programme and Guidelines, 2012
- FANSA-IWF Review of national commitments and progress since Sacosan 4, and preparation for World Water Forum 2012
- School Sanitation Baseline Research by GIZ for Tirupati and Mysore, 2012

A unique feature of IWF is its non-hierarchical set up. Most of the Trustees of India WASH Forum are represented in their individual capacity and do not represent the organisations they are associated with. The agenda and activities that India WASH Forum are determined at the initiative of the Trustees and support from organisations and individuals.

Since 2010, India WASH Forum is actively engaged in the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) and currently hosts Programme Coordination Mechanism (PCM), of the **GSF in India**. The role of the PCM is to provide a governance oversight to the GSF Programme in India. The Programme is being implemented by an Executing Agency called Natural Resources Management





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Consultancy(NRMC) that makes NGO sub grants in the two states of Jharkhand and Assam. The Programme is managed directly from WSSCC Geneva and with the support of the PCM and an Auditor(called the Country Programme Monitor) that is KPMG for India.

**The mandate/charter of India WASH Forum is Hygiene and Health outcomes** from sanitation and water sector;

- ❑ **Promoting knowledge generation** through research and documentation which is linked to and supported grassroots action in the water-sanitation-hygiene sectors. Special emphasis is given **to sector-specific and cross-cutting thematic learnings.**
- ❑ **Supporting field-based NGOs and networks in their technical and programmatic work.** The IWF would also consistently highlight gender and pro-poor considerations, and provide a national platform for interest groups working in the sector to come together.
- ❑ **Undertaking policy advocacy and influence** work through
  - Monitoring and evaluations
  - Media advocacy and campaigns, and
  - Fact finding missions
- ❑ **Undertaking lobbying and networking to promote common objectives** in the sector.

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