



Monthly Newsletter: Issue 8: August, 2013

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Message from Chairperson



I am happy to share with you the eight issue of FICCI Water Mission E-Newsletter. This newsletter gives you an update on the Mission's work and developments in the water sector.

The Ministry of Water Resources unveiled the draft National Water Framework Bill which seeks to provide a right to water, while stating that water allocation and pricing should be based on economic principles.

Every individual has a right to a minimum quantity of potable water for essential health and hygiene and within easy reach of the household, states the draft Bill. In addition, it mentions that the minimum quantity of potable water shall not be less than 25 litres per capita per day. We have included a note on the Salient Features of the Bill in this issue.

The Secretariat organised the second Water Awards Ceremony on August 06, 2013. Mr. Montek S Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, was the guest of Honour for the occasion. I congratulate the winners and urge them to spread the message of water conservation.

The newsletter contains an update from our members and important sectoral reports. We hope that you find the newsletter useful. The Secretariat looks forward to your comments and suggestions.

Atul Singh

Chairperson, FICCI Water Mission

Deputy President, Pacific Group, Coca-Cola

Water Mission Activities

Recommendations on Guidelines/ Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals/ Requests for Ground water Abstraction

Water Mission Secretariat submitted the compiled response to the Guidelines/ Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals/ Requests for Ground water Abstraction to the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources for his consideration. The compilation was prepared in consultation with the members of the Water Mission Technical Committee.

FICCI Water Award Ceremony - 2013

The Water Award Ceremony was organised on August 6 2013. Mr. Montek S Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai, President FICCI and Country Head HSBC India & Director HSBC Asia Pacific and Mr. Atul Singh, Chairperson FICCI Water Mission and Deputy President, Pacific Group, Coca-Cola gave away the awards to the winners.



Mr. Ahluwalia, in his remarks, pointed out that there is a need for greater awareness on water conservation for optimal usage of the existing resources. The government alone cannot achieve this, people need to realize that water is scarce and use it judiciously, added by Mr. Ahluwalia. He also urged the industry to take up necessary measures for optimal utilization of the available water resources.



On the occasion, a panel discussion on 'Industry's response to water scarcity' was also organized. The ceremony was attended by 100 participants representing industry, academia, civil society, government and media.

FICCI Water Awards Compendium: 2012

FICCI Water Awards Compendium was released by Mr. Montek S Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on the occasion of Water Awards Ceremony on August 6, 2013. It contains

collection of best practices adopted by various companies. The case studies depict the wide range of initiatives Indian companies are taking to conserve water resources. Initiatives adopted range from integrated watershed management, rainwater harvesting; wastewater treatment; water audits and technology modification for reduction in freshwater consumption and reuse of wastewater.



Draft National Water Framework Bill, 2013 - Salient features

National Water Framework Bill, 2013 is a Bill to establish a framework with governing principles for protection, conservation and regulation of water. The Draft National Water Framework Bill 2013 comprises eight chapters.

Chapter I deals with short title, extent, commencement and definitions. Chapter II deals with Basic principles for water management. These principles are considered fundamental to a system of water governance which ensures prudent, wise, equitable, socially just, conflict free, efficient and sustainable management of water. These principles have been enshrined in the Act in keeping with the spirit of the National Water Policy, 2012.

Chapter III - Rights To Water, Preservation of Quality and Water Pricing

Right to Water

The draft Bill seeks to provide "right to water", while stating that water allocation and pricing should be based on economic principles. Every individual has a right to a minimum quantity of potable water for essential health and hygiene and within easy reach of the household, states the draft. The minimum quantity of potable water shall not be less than 25 litres per capita per day, it says, adding that the quantity must be fixed by the "appropriate government".

Preservation of Water Quality

The draft Bill calls for preservation of water quality in all rivers, streams, surface water bodies, aquifers and other water sources throughout the country.

Water Pricing

The draft Bill outlines the flexibility of engaging a private agency to perform some of the functions of the state while noting that the government remains the trustee of water resources. In this context,

it stipulates that allocation and pricing should be based on economic principles. Water charges shall be determined on volumetric basis to ensure its development costs, and so that water is not wasted in unnecessary uses and utilized more gainfully. The Bill proposes an incentive mechanism through an appropriately planned tariff system for promoting recycling and reuse of treated water. For this purpose, an independent statutory water regulatory authority shall be established by every state for ensuring equitable access to water for all, and its fair pricing for drinking and other uses. The decision of this authority will be subject to judicial review. The regulatory authority will be entrusted with fixing the water price and its periodical review, and formulating a principle of differential pricing for water for drinking and sanitation.

Chapter IV- Water Resources Projects: Planning and Management

Integrated River Basin Development & Management

The draft Bill seeks to make river basins the mandatory basic hydrological unit for planning, development and management of water resources, while stipulating that governments should come up with specific legislations for developing, managing and regulating basins of intra-state rivers.

Water Resources Information System

The draft Bill seeks to develop and maintain a web based Water Resources Information System (IndiaWRIS) on Geographical Information System platform integrating water resources and other related data with satellite imageries through use of state-of-the-art Information Technology by establishing a National Water Informatics Center to collect, collate and process hydrologic data regularly from all over the country, conduct the preliminary processing, and maintain in open and transparent manner in the IndiaWRIS. The Bill suggests setting up an appropriate agency for each river basin/ sub-basin to collect and collate all data on regular basis with regard to rainfall, river flows, area irrigated by crops and by source. The agencies shall maintain, supply and feeding of water related data at prescribed intervals into IndiaWRIS.

Management of Floods and Droughts

The Bill suggest the creation of an appropriate government and local authority to strive towards mitigating water related disasters like floods and droughts, through structural and non-structural measures, with emphasis on rehabilitation of natural drainage system, coping mechanisms and preparation and periodic updating of emergency action plans/ disaster management plans.

Project Planning and Management Water resources projects shall conform to the River Basin Master Plan, applicable efficiency benchmarks and shall take into account all social and

environmental aspects in addition to techno-economic considerations of the project in consultation with project affected and beneficiary families. Local authorities, like Panchayats, Municipalities, Corporations, and Water Users Associations, wherever applicable, shall be empowered and involved in planning and management of the projects.

Institutional Arrangements for Water Sharing

The Bill outlines the establishment of an appropriate institutional arrangement at all the levels within the state and beyond up to an inter-state river-basin, to resolve emerging differences through negotiations, conciliation or mediation, or other such means. The government shall lay down principles for allocation of water resources for amicable resolution of differences and disputes. Data of all kinds with the exception of classified data shall be freely shared by the states concerned and put in the public domain added by the Bill.

Groundwater Regulation and Management

The draft Bill outlines a precautionary approach to protect available groundwater resources and promote its sustainable use. It asks states to manage groundwater conjunctively with surface water by taking into account the interconnections between aquifers or between aquifers and a body of surface water and advises the extraction of groundwater through community based institutions. The Bill mentions the nexus of electricity and water and suggests to regulate electricity to regulate groundwater by providing appropriate pricing and separate feeders for pumping groundwater for agriculture use. In addition, it asks to keep all groundwater related information, such as, groundwater levels, water quality, local aquifer maps and groundwater utilization in public domain.

Urban Water Management

The Bill calls for 100 per cent metering in urban areas and pricing mechanism which is based on volumetric basis. It recommends the supply of minimum water to Below Poverty Line (BPL) populations may be subsidised by the government. The government and local authority shall ensure that urban water supply and sewage treatment schemes are integrated and executed simultaneously with provision of sewerage charges included in the water supply bills to promote reuse of urban water effluents from kitchens and bathrooms, after primary treatment, in flush toilets ensuring no human contact.

Industrial Water Management

The Bill asks major water using industries and businesses consuming water more than one million cubic meter in a year to file annual water returns containing information, such as, water utilization

per unit produce, effluent discharge details, rain water harvested, water reuse details and fresh water consumption and suggests subsidies and incentives to encourage recovery of industrial pollutants including recycling and reuse.

Participatory Water Management

The draft Bill asks the government to recognise, undertake and encourage a participatory approach to water management at all levels through appropriate laws, regulations and administrative measures including establishment of Water Users Associations. The decisions for conservation, management and regulation of water shall be based on the principle of subsidiarity and such decisions shall be made with the involvement of users, especially women, in the planning and implementation of water projects added by the Bill.

Chapter V - Promotion of Innovation and Technology

The Government shall promote indigenous knowledge and develop technologies for conservation of water resources, promote continuing research and advancement in technology to address issues in the water sector and encourage, recognize and award innovations in water resources sector, the Bill says.

Chapter VI - Convergence of Schemes

The draft Bill asks the government to synergise and integrate different development schemes including schemes for water conservation, sanitation and improvement of water quality at Panchayat or Municipality level and further at sub basin and basin level.

Chapter VII - Coordination and Policy Support Mechanism

The Bill asks the Centre and the State Governments to set up a High Powered Committee at the Centre and in each state to prepare a perspective plan for sustainable development of water resources ensuring water security for the years 2025 and 2050 for each district, state and for the entire country. In addition, the committee shall provide support to local authorities and state governments.

Enforcement of the Act

States shall, where appropriate, enact laws and regulations to accomplish the purposes set forth in this Act and shall adopt adequate and efficient administrative measures, including management and implementation plans for the enforcement of this Act.

Update from Members

SPML Infra Secures New Orders worth Rs. 596 Crores

SPML Infra Ltd., India's leading infrastructure development company has won new orders worth Rs. 596 crores from Delhi Jal Board and PHED, Rajasthan. The combined orders received from PHED, Jaipur and Ajmer of Rs. 418 crores is for water supply schemes to more than 337 villages and their dhanies in the districts of Nagaur, Tonk and Sikar. More than a million people of these villages will be benefitted with drinking water facility once these projects are completed. SPML will also be responsible for the operations & maintenance of these water infrastructures for a decade after the commissioning. The order from PHED Jaipur requires building of a 200 MLD Water Treatment Plant with latest technology.

The two orders from Delhi Jal Board are worth Rs. 178 crores. First order of Rs. 151 crores is for supply, installation and 7 years maintenance of AMR/ non-AMR water meters in Delhi. The second order of Rs. 27 crores are for supply, installation and 4 year maintenance of bulk water meters with remote reading device capable of transmitting data of various sizes.

Sector Report - Sharing water: Engaging business

The report provides comprehensive analysis of importance of watershed approaches to business sustainability. It explores the possibility of engagement of watershed management into the broader context of corporate action on water which would result in significantly enhancement of water stewardship efforts and provide opportunities for cost saving and revenue growth. Working collaboratively with other users and investing in the preservation of watershed services has the potential to yield long-term benefits for businesses. The report concludes that watershed approach can mitigate critical risks to long term water security. It also provide compendium of case studies of corporate water management approach.

Download the report –

<http://www.wbcds.org/sharingwaterengagingbusiness.aspx>

Comments/ queries can be address to –

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