

DELHI JAL BOARD
GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI

Minutes of the 114th (Emergency) meeting of Delhi Jal Board held on 30.12.2013 at 4.00 P.M.at the residence of Chairperson, DJB at Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, UP.

The 114th meeting of Delhi Jal Board was convened on urgent grounds and notice of meeting was issued on 29.12.2013 under Rule 4 (c) of the Delhi Water Board (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Regulation, 2002.

The following were present for the meeting:

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| 1. Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi | Chairperson |
| 2. Shri Vijay Kumar, CEO, Delhi Jal Board | Member |
| 3. Shri Sandeep Tanwar, Member, Delhi Cantonment | Member |
| 4. Shri Jai Gopal, Member, EDMC | Member |
| 5. Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Member SDMC | Member |
| 6. Ms. Meera Aggarwal, Member, NDMC | Member |
| 7. Shri Arun Goyal, Pr Secretary (UD) & Director (Local Bodies) | Member |
| 8. Shri Jalaj Srivastava, Chairman NDMC | Member |
| 9. Sh. Arun Kumar, Member, SML, CGWA | Member |
| 10. Shri S. Naiyer Ali Najmi, Member (Finance) | Member |
| 11. Shri R.S. Tyagi, Member (Drainage) | Member |
| 12. Shri B.M. Dhaul, Member(W/S) | Member |

At the outset, Secretary DJB, extended welcome to all the members of the Board. It was informed that as the meeting was convened on urgent grounds; the agenda items could not be circulated in advance and hence were being presented as table items.

The Agenda items were discussed and following resolutions were taken by the Board:

RESOLUTION NO. 93 (ITEM NO. Admn. 17)

Free water supply upto 20 KL per month to domestic consumers

The members were informed that as per Section 55 of the Delhi Water Board Act 1998, the Board has the power to levy fees and charges, collect deposits and to recover interest on amounts payable to it. Further it provides that the fees, charges, rentals etc shall be so fixed as overall to ensure the recovery of all costs of operation, maintenance, repayment of debt and a return of not less than three percent on net fixed assets.

However, as per Section 73 of the Act, if any decision taken by the Government is proposed to be implemented by the Board; the Government has to obtain and consider the opinion of the Board, before issuing any such directions. Section 73 further provides that Government shall make due provision for any financial liability to the Board arising directly in consequence of any such decisions.

The Financial and systemic implications of the proposed decision were presented before the Board members. It was informed that as per the data available from the last three billing cycles, approximately 9 lac consumers consume up to 20 KL per month. Accordingly, the minimum financial implication if such a benefit is allowed would be around Rs 165 crores annually. It was also apprehended that consumers would start applying for multiple connections to avail this benefit.

It was further informed that DJB has been able to meet its O & M costs through its internal revenue generation and is no longer receiving any Non Plan Assistance from GNCTD. This has allowed DJB to access capital funds from JNNURM and External funding agencies at favorable terms. As the proposed decision will reflect negatively on the balance sheet of DJB, access to capital funds from JNNURM and External agencies may be adversely affected or may be at terms less favorable to DJB.

It was clarified to the members that there is no surplus in the total budget (inclusive of Plan and Non Plan funds) of DJB. For undertaking its plan/capital works, DJB is still dependent totally on GNCTD and GoI funds.

The surplus is limited only to the Non plan and has accrued largely because the internal revenue generation has been more than the non plan expenses for the past three financial years. If the internal revenue generation is decreased on account of the proposed scheme, it is likely to impact DJB's ability to meet its O & M costs on its own.

The Board considered the proposal regarding free water supply up to 20 KL per month to domestic consumers. Other issues discussed included the suggestions of members regarding extending the benefit to the residents of Delhi Cantonment, NDMC, Bulk consumers, additional financial implications etc. Following decisions were taken:

- (i) The domestic consumers of Delhi Jal Board consuming water upto 20 KL per month would be exempted from payment of water bill. W.e.f. 01.01.2014.
- (ii) The benefit of free water upto 20 KL per month will be available only to consumers who have functional meters.
- (iii) Domestic consumers consuming more than 20 KL per month will be billed as per applicable tariff for their full water consumption.
- (iv) For the remaining three months of the financial year, i.e from Jan 2014 to March 2014, the financial implication arising out of this decision would be borne by DJB out of its internal resources. For subsequent implications, DJB would request the GNCTD to make good the losses arising on this account by creating an appropriate head and allocating sufficient resources under the same.

The Board resolved to take further action in anticipation of confirmation of the minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 94 (ITEM NO. Admn. 18)

Information regarding enhancement in existing water tariff w.e.f 01.01.2014 and on going rebate schemes.

The Board was informed that as per Resolution No 1896 dated 30.11.2009 of the Board, the tariff for all the categories of consumers stands automatically enhanced at the rate of 10% every year from 1st of January. Accordingly, 10 % increase in existing tariff is due w.e.f 01.01.2014.

It was submitted before the board that last year the Board had deferred the 10 % increase due w.e.f. f 01.01.2013.

Some views were expressed that a 10% annual hike for all consumers across the board is not appropriate and that the decision to increase the tariff should be taken on the basis of categorization of properties as per the property tax slabs or as per the status of colonies. The matter was discussed in detail.

The Board considered the proposal and resolved to enhance the existing tariff by 10% in respect of all categories of consumers.

The Board was informed that as per Resolution No 2218 dated 25.03.2013, the following schemes for domestic consumers were introduced:

1. Unconditional waiver of LPSC of JJ/Resettlement Consumers
2. On payment of arrears standing as on 31.03.2013, waiver of 100% rebate on LPSC and 30% rebate on arrears.

The Board considered the continuing schemes and in view of the positive response to the schemes, resolved to extend the existing 30% rebate scheme up to 31.03.2014 i.e. co-terminus with LPSC waiver scheme due to expire on 31.03.2014.

The Board resolved to take further action in anticipation of confirmation of the minutes.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON, DJB

SECRETARY, DJB