

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

**Minutes of the 167<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of Delhi Jal Board held on 17.01.2024 (Wednesday) at 10:00 AM. in the office of Hon'ble Chairman, DJB at 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110 002.**

**P R E S E N T**

1.	Ms. Atishi Marlena, Hon'ble Minister (Water)	Chairperson
2.	Sh. Somnath Bharti, Member of Legislative Assembly	Vice Chairman
3.	Sh. Manish Kumar Gupta, IAS Addl. Chief Secretary & Director(LB)	Ex-Officio Member
4.	Sh. A. Anbarasu, IAS Chief Executive Officer, DJB	Member
5.	Sh. Naresh Balyan, Member of Legislative Assembly	Member
6.	Sh. Sharad Kumar Chauhan, Member of Legislative Assembly	Member
7.	Mr. Azimul Haque, IAS Member (Admn.) & Member (Finance) i/c	Member
8.	Sh. A.K. Patre, Scientist ' E '	Representative of CGWB
9.	Sh. Amit Kumar Jain	Secretary, DJB

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of 166<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board held on 13.06.2023 were confirmed. While discussing the last minutes, it was observed that there has been considerable delay in holding of Board meeting. It was noted that the Board meeting should be held once every month, as envisaged in the Regulation, concerned.

## **ACTION TAKEN NOTE**

The action taken notes in respect of the decisions taken in 166<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board held on 13.06.2023 were placed before the Board, and the same were taken on record.

While discussing the ATR on the Service matter related agenda of the last Board meeting, Hon'ble Chairman directed that legal opinion be obtained as regards to the competent authority in Delhi Jal Board for issues relating to Service matters. In this regard, CEO, DJB apprised that the Service Rules as applicable to Govt. of NCT of Delhi departments are applicable to the employees of DJB and, therefore, there was no need to take such opinion. However, Chairman desired that a reference may be made through Urban Development Department seeking clarification.

Hon'ble Chairman, DJB wanted to know as to why extension of contractual engagement to the post of Doctor was given effect to, whereas, contractual engagements for the post of Consultants and Addl. Pvt. Secretary on co-terminus basis were discontinued, though Board had given its approval for extension of their contractual engagement in its last meeting. It was desired that a report in this regard be submitted in the next Board meeting.

Hon'ble Chairman, while referring to the ATR on agenda item No. Chairman -01 for Transfer & Posting of DJB employees, wanted to know as to why this was not being followed and why transfer & posting of DJB employees were being done against this decision. CEO, DJB apprised that due procedure was not followed while placing the Table agenda items no. Chairman-01, 02 & 03. None of these agenda items were examined in the office and they were placed in the Board meeting without proper authentication as unsigned documents and also without prior approval of CEO, DJB as required under the Regulation (besides, transfer & posting being service matter, its power has been vested in Hon'ble LG on the recommendation of the NCSSA in r/o Group A, Officer in terms of GNCTD Amendment Act, 2023). Chairman, DJB stated that as per the Regulations, any matter can be taken up in the Board meeting with the approval of Chairperson. Chairman, DJB further directed that opinion from Law Department through U.D. Department may also be taken in this regard. It was clarified by both the Addl. Chief Secretary (UD) & CEO, DJB that any agenda placed in the Board Meeting (either through prior Circulation or tables at the meetings have to follow the provision of relevant regulation and only issues can be raised with the prior approval of Chairman and not suo moto agendas.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1364**

**ITEM NO. ADMN.-640 Approval of Balance Sheet of Delhi Jal Board as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 (Financial Year 2018-19) for onward submission to CAG for Audit**

The Board considered the proposal contained in proposal No. DJB/Dir.(F&A)/B&A/BS/2023/1663 dated 06-09-2023 of Director (F&A) and resolved to approve the annual statement of accounts including the Profit and loss account and the Balance Sheet for the year 2018-19, for onwards submission to CAG for Audit.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1365**

**ITEM NO. ADMN.- 641 Approval of Balance Sheet of Delhi Jal Board as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 (Financial Year 2019-20) for onward submission to CAG for Audit**

The Board considered the proposal contained in No. DJB/Dir.(F&A)/B&A/BS/2023/1315 dated 20-12-2023 of Director (F&A) and resolved to approve the annual statement of accounts including the Profit and loss account and Balance Sheet for the year 2019-20 for onwards submission to the CAG for Audit.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1366**

**ITEM NO. ADMN.-642 Conversion of Loan into Grant and providing further plan fund in Grant-in-Aid only**

The Board considered the proposal contained in Item No. DJB/Dir.(F&A)/B&A/2023/1399 dated 11-01-2024 of Director (F&A) and decided to take up the issue with Urban Development Deptt. and Finance Department, Govt. of Delhi to understand the modalities for making a formal request for writing off Loans before sending the proposal to Finance Department. It was also decided to request the Finance Department through the Urban Development Department, Government of NCT of Delhi to sanction funds for new project only in the form of Grants for both capital and revenue requirements and not in the form of Loan.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1367**

**ITEM NO. ADMN.- 643** Approval of Balance Sheet of Delhi Jal Board as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 (Financial Year 2020-21) for onward submission to CAG for Audit

The Board considered the proposal contained in proposal No. DJB/Dir.(F&A)/(B&A)/BS/2023/1421 dated 15-01-2024 of Director (F&A) and resolved to approve the annual statement of accounts including the Profit and loss account and the Balance Sheet for the year 2020-21 for onwands submission to the CAG for Audit.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1368**

**ITEM NO. ADMN.- 644** Report on unspent Balance of DJB as on 31.03.2023

The Board was apprised of the proposal contained in Item No. DJB/Dir.(F&A)/AO(B&A)/unspent Bal./2023/1422 dated 16-01-2024 of Director (F&A). Upon perusal of the report, the Board directed that a detailed Presentation on this issue be made at the next Board meeting and, accordingly, the item was deferred.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1369**

**ITEM NO. ADMN.- 645** Guidelines for release of funds for works to be carried out by Delhi Jal Board from Government funds

The Board noted the contents as contained in Item No. DJB/Dir.(F&A)/Preamble/Scheme/2024/1429 dated 16-01-2024 of Director (F&A) relating to the copy communication on DJB issues to Urban Development Department containing guidelines issued by the Finance Department Delhi Government for release of funds to DJB. Hon'ble Chairman stated that in her capacity as Minister (Finance) certain directions have been issued on the communication from Finance Department and desired to comply with the same.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1370**

**ITEM NO. ADMN.- 646 Financial Health of Delhi Jal Board and need for Revenue reform reg.**

The Board considered the proposal contained in agenda No. DJB/DOR/Comprehensive Preamble/2024/108 dated 16-01-2024 of Director (Revenue) and after deliberation decided as under :

**1. Para 6.1 (Revision in Water & Sewerage charges)** - The Board directed to prepare a concrete proposal for revision in the tariff in such a manner as to avoid any major financial burden to the Economically Weaker Section of the Society and place the same before the next Board meeting. It was further directed that, while preparing this proposal, the tariff of other states may be compared and the consumers should be encouraged to use water judiciously.

**2. Para 6.2- Recasting of water charges bill-** The Board was apprised of its approval granted in its last meeting for the **Bill recasting Scheme 2023**, which was aimed at settling the old pending bills of consumers who had certain dispute with regard to the truthfulness of readings of their meters. The Board was further apprised that the Scheme, as approved by the Board, was forwarded to the UD Deptt. for seeking approval of Govt of Delhi before it could be implemented as the proposed scheme had provisions regarding grant of subsidy from the Year 2012, whereas, the Govt's subsidy scheme came into existence in 2015. Chairperson DJB expressed her worry that the process of bringing the scheme to the Cabinet has caused major delays and suggested that changes should be made in the Scheme that can be passed at the level of the Board itself. The Board was further apprised that the Bill Recasting Scheme has been returned to the DJB for further deliberation on the Scheme.

The Board considered the earlier Recasting scheme and decided to amend the following terms of the Scheme-

1. The scheme may be made applicable only for the period commencing from 1.4.2015 and dues dating before that shall not be covered.
2. Recasting shall be done in respect of the period during which water meter remained functional.
3. Recasting of bill will be done on an yearly basis (financial year) w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 till the cut-off date of the scheme only.
4. While calculating the outlier readings, those falling under 0.5 times of the median value may also be ignored.
5. Where meter is functional and no reading is available for an entire year, the average of the year before and the year after shall be taken to recast the bill for that particular year.

The issue of waiver of LPSC was discussed at length and it was felt that the amount of LPSC being charged @5% per billing cycle by DJB was quite high and need to be rationalised in order to make it more acceptable to the consumers. However, as far as the Bill recasting scheme is concerned, Addl. Chief Secretary(UD), CEO, DJB and Member (Finance) stated that some nominal amount should be charged as LPSC (keeping in mind time value of money) in order to instill a sense of timely payment by consumers. However, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and other two Members of Legislative Assembly felt that, for this scheme, it should be waived off completely, as has been done in the past. Accordingly, it was suggested that LPSC would be waived off completely in this scheme for domestic consumers.

The Board further decided that in the water bill recasting scheme if the average water consumption comes below 20KL, then the consumer would be covered in the existing water subsidy scheme and a corollary the bill amount would be claimed from the Govt as subsidy. Additional Chief Secy. UD stated that even for this modified Scheme, approval of the Council of Ministers would be required since the proposed scheme covers period starting from 2015, there would be cases where financial liability would go back to past years, for which subsidy account stands already settled. Under the circumstances, this provision of the scheme would require explicit and prior approval of Govt for re-reimbursement of subsidy amount pertaining to past years.

The Board accordingly, authorised the Chairperson to approve the modified Bill Recasting Scheme as per above mentioned amendments. It was also resolved to seek necessary approval of Government of NCT of Delhi through UD Department for reimbursement of the additional financial liability which would arise with retrospective effect against 20KL subsidy so as to put the Bill Recasting Scheme in operation.

### **6.3 Enforcing recovery of dues**

The Board was of the opinion that defaulters should be dealt with strongly and necessary action for recovery of dues should be undertaken.

### **6.4 Bringing down non-revenue water (NRW)**

The Board was informed that illegal/ un-authorised water connections are being identified and action initiated as per provisions of the Act/guidelines. A detailed action plan should be prepared by Member (Water) after obtaining inputs from Zones through SEs/ZROs. The Board was also informed that the administrative jurisdiction of zones, Divisions are being redrawn taking into account the water network. SEs should be made accountable for the volume of water supplied in their area and ensuring that the same is billed without any substantial gap.

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## **6.5 Involving Jal Mitra/Jal Sakhee**

It is decided that the Odisha Jal Sathi Model of involving women sathies & local community for billing may be implemented on a pilot basis. For this purpose, one zone may be identified and billing assigned to Jal Mitras/Jal Sakhees. If the pilot is successful, the model may be implemented across Delhi till smart meters are installed in respect of all connections. It was also decided to explore the possibilities of involving RWAs in this regard.

## **6.6 Installation of smart meters**

The Board was of the unanimous opinion that a better billing & metering solution needs to be put in place in Delhi Jal Board in order to make the same transparent and reliable. It was decided that smart metering may be undertaken in a phased manner. In first phase, all commercial institutional and bulk connections may be covered following which necessary decision regarding remaining connections may be taken. Chairperson also suggested that in the meanwhile, chatbot for self billing may also be put in place as soon as possible.

## **6.7 ERP Solution for Billing**

It was decided that an integrated IT solution covering all aspects like RMS, FMS, HRMS and project management etc. may be implemented in DJB.

## **6.8 Rationalisation of LPSC Charges**

The Board discussed the issue of late payment surcharge (LPSC), which is presently being levied @ 5% per billing cycle per unpaid bill, and it was unanimously felt that the rate of LPSC was quite high and unreasonable which needs correction. The Board felt that the rate of LPSC should be such that it compensates for the time value of bill amount which would be realised late. The Board suggested that a rate of 12% p.a. to 15% p.a. may be a reasonable rate for levying LPSC and directed that a fresh proposal in this regard be placed before the Board for deliberations and decision.

## **6.9 Rationalisation of IFC charges**

The Board felt that the IFC charges in their present form are unreasonable and quite high and need to be rationalised. It was decided that a detailed proposal in this regard be placed before the Board for deliberations and decision.



#### **6.10 Rationalizing meter installation and new connection cost and time bound installation**

There was detailed discussion on the same and it was decided that a comprehensive policy needs to be brought in on the same. It was directed to bring a proposal to the Board for deliberations and decision.

#### **6.11 Imposition of heavy penalty in case of non-replacement of dis-functional, non-functional and faulty meters.**

It was decided that in case of non-replacement of dis-functional, non-functional and faulty meters, a heavy penalty may be imposed by way of increasing the Average on which such connections are billed during 2-6 rounds, beyond which the connection maybe disconnected.

The Board was of the opinion that while revenue needed to be boosted, there was a crying need for curbing expenditure as well. The following decisions towards this effect were taken.

#### **7.1 Rational deployment of manpower, water tankers and sewerage cleaning machines.**

The Board was informed of the rationalization exercise undertaken in DJB in the recent past. It was decided further to optimise resource deployment and utilisation while avoiding under-utilization. It has also been decided to deploy DJB owned tankers in two shifts by hiring additional drivers from the Rajya Sainik Board. The Board also impressed upon the need for timely conclusion of the new tender for hiring of private tankers.

Further, the rates of water supply through water tankers may also be revised and a detailed proposal maybe put up regarding the same before the Board. The existing available human resources also need to be rationalised and utilised in an efficient manner.

#### **7.2 Saving in electricity bill by generation of solar power**

The Board decided that possibilities of electricity generation through Solar power and gas at STPs may be explored and to utilize the services of Power Department, Government of NCT of Delhi in this regard.

#### **7.3 Advertisement**

The Board approved the proposal for commercial advertisements on RMS Portal, DJB website, water bills, water tankers, unipoles & billboards at DJB's own land which remains untapped in co-ordination with the MCD, wherever applicable.

#### **7.4 Ground Water Billing & Management**

The Board directed that the possibility of billing ground water illegally extracted through borewells may be explored and to regulate the borewells.

#### **7.5 Monetizing Treated Water**

It was decided that a system for supply of treated water generated at Sewage Treatment Plants may be put in place. The same can be utilized for supplying such water through a pipeline network to meet the needs of Departments like PWD, MCD, DDA, Forest, etc. while also supplying the same to big private firms, farm-houses, sports complexes, party lawns etc. Projects on the same may be considered to be taken up under the AMRUT Scheme of Govt. of India.

#### **7.6 Estate Management**

The Board directed that the possibilities of monetizing DJB owned land including redevelopment projects may be explored.

#### **Any other item :-**

1. Hon'ble Vice Chairman, with the approval of Chair raised the issue that Panel for Lawyers in Delhi Jal Board has not been reviewed since 2016. Hon'ble Chairman suggested to revise the panel on the basis of the procedure which is followed in the Law Department of Delhi Government.

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



**CHAIRMAN, DJB**



**SECRETARY, DJB**