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'Haryana not releasing Delhi's share of water through Munak canal'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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HITTING OUT at the Haryana government once again, Delhi Water Minister Atishi Saturday alleged that the state was releasing less water through the Munak canal — one of the primary sources of potable water for the Capital — and accused it of doing “dirty politics”.

On its part, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), terming the situation a “water emergency” arising out of the AAP-Delhi government’s “mismanagement”, demanded that a special session of the Delhi Assembly be convened to discuss the problem and find a solution.

Following an inspection of two sub-canal fed by the Munak Canal in Northwest Delhi’s Bawana, Atishi alleged that Delhi should ideally receive 1,050 cusecs of water per day but was receiving just 840 cusecs. “Delhi is completely dependent on the Yamuna for water for domestic use. The water we use at our homes comes from 7 water treatment plants; water in these plants comes from the Wazirabad Barrage and two sub-canal of Munak Canal, CLC (carrier line channel) and DSB (Delhi sub-branch),” she said.



Water Minister Atishi

“Never has it happened in the history of Delhi that less than 1,000 cusecs of water has come to Delhi from the Munak Canal. But yesterday, this quantity was reduced to only 840 cusecs... this will affect the production of all the seven water treatment plants of Delhi...,” she alleged, adding that the water problem in Delhi was likely to become “even more serious in the next 2 days.”

Hitting out at the minister, the opposition’s chief whip in the Delhi Assembly, Ajay Mahawar, wrote to Speaker Ram Niwas Goel asking him to convene a special session of the Assembly over the issue. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva challenged Atishi to an open debate with the Haryana government and the Delhi BJP or to call an all-party meeting regarding water supply.

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BJP asks Speaker to convene special session on water crisis

Convene session urgently to allow a discussion on the crisis, BJP leader tells Speaker; Atishi blames Haryana govt. for shortage, says entire city will be affected if water level at Munak canal doesn't rise

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday wrote to Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel demanding a special session of the House to discuss the prevailing water crisis "caused by mismanagement of the Delhi government".

Meanwhile, Water Minister Atishi continued to blame Haryana for the water shortage, accusing the BJP's State government of not releasing Delhi's share of 1,050 cusecs of water in the Yamuna river through the Munak canal. "If the water level in Munak canal does not increase by tomorrow morning, water supply in the entire city will be affected," the Minister said.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court had directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to the national capital on Friday and asked Haryana to give the water the "right of passage".

Addressing a press conference, Ms. Atishi said during the summer, when Haryana releases 1,050 cusecs of water, Delhi re-



A woman waiting with empty cans for a water tanker in Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ceives about 995 cusecs. However, in the past week, the Capital has been getting much less water.

"The city received 924 cusecs on June 1, 884 cusecs on June 4, 856 cusecs on June 6, and 840 cusecs on June 7. During every summer, there is a loss of around 59 to 60 cusecs of water due to evaporation. However, if only 840 cusecs of water is reaching

Delhi, it means Haryana is not releasing enough water in the Munak canal," Ms. Atishi said.

Blaming the Delhi government for the crisis, BJP's chief whip in the Assembly, Ajay Mahawar, requested the Speaker to "immediately call a special session of the Delhi Assembly to discuss and find a solution to this crisis and provide relief to the people

from this disaster caused by mismanagement of the Delhi government and the Delhi Jal Board".

BJP's South Delhi MP-elect Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said water released by Himachal Pradesh takes 48 hours to reach the city and that the Water Minister had begun accusing the Haryana government even before the 137 cusecs of water had made its way to Delhi.