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DELHI WATER CRISIS

AAP govt urges Haryana to discharge water on humanitarian grounds

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In view of the water shortage in the national capital, the Delhi government has appealed to Haryana to discharge additional water into the Yamuna on humanitarian grounds, senior AAP leader and minister Atishi said on Saturday.

Delhi's water minister also told a press conference here that the capital is facing a shortage of 70 million gallons per day (MGD) in production due to a lack of raw water in the Munak Canal and Wazirabad reservoir.

The normal water production of around 1,002 MGD in Delhi on June 6 went down to 932 MGD on Friday because of a lack of raw water, she said.

"The Delhi government has appealed to Haryana to release additional water for the people of the city on humanitarian grounds," the minister said, adding that issues related to the share of Yamuna water can be discussed after heatwave conditions abate.

Delhi's water production has dropped to 932 MGD due to insufficient inflow from Haryana. The water level at



Delhi Minister Atishi addresses a press conference, in New Delhi, on Saturday

PTC/NAVEEN SHARMA

the Wazirabad Barrage has plunged by six feet to 668.5 feet, and the water received from Munak Canal has decreased to 902 cusecs, she said.

The water level at Wazirabad Barrage should be 674.5 feet but it is only 668.5 feet right now. The water at Wazirabad Barrage has almost finished and no water is coming at all, said the minister.

"On the other hand, Delhi is also not getting enough water from the Munak Canal. On June 10, Delhi received 925 cusecs of water from Munak Canal, which decreased to 919

cusecs on June 11, decreased to 903 on June 12, reached 906 on 13 June, and decreased to 902 cusecs on June 15," she stated.

The minister said no solution to the water crisis in Delhi could be found during the meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board on Friday. Himachal Pradesh is ready to provide the water that was not used by it to Delhi, she claimed.

"I spoke to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu on the phone and he assured me cooperation," the minister said.

Meanwhile, the AAP MLAs

have written a letter to Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Paa-til urging his intervention to solve the water crisis faced by the national capital amid the prevailing intense heatwave.

Calling the situation "very critical", AAP's chief whip in Delhi Assembly Dilip Pandey on Saturday said the Yamuna water issue was an inter-state issue that required coordination of the Jal Shakti Ministry.

Pandey said that in the letter from the AAP MLAs, time has been sought to meet the minister for a discussion on the matter.

Highlights

- » The normal water production of around 1,002 MGD in Delhi on June 6 went down to 932 MGD on Friday because of a lack of raw water
- » The water level at Wazirabad Barrage should be 674.5 feet but it is only 668.5 feet right now
- » AAP MLAs have written a letter to Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Paa-til urging his intervention to solve the water crisis

Water crisis:
Cong holds
'matka phod'
protests in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Amid a water crisis in the national capital, the Delhi Congress held 'matka phod' protests across the city on Saturday with its members smashing earthen pots to the ground.

The protests began around 10 am in all 280 blocks in Delhi.

Carrying earthen pots on their heads and Congress flags, the protesters raised slogans against the Delhi government and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Later, they threw the pots on the ground.

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav, who also joined the protests, demanded a special session of the Assembly to discuss the issue.

AGENCIES