

**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, TTE, FINANCE, PLANNING,
REVENUE, POWER, WATER, PWD, LAW JUSTICE & LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS, SERVICES, VIGILANCE AND INFORMATION & PUBLICITY
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
ROOM NO. A-608, A-WING
DELHI SECRETARIAT: I.P. ESTATE
NEW DELHI-110002**

Yesterday, I visited Mohan Garden D Block, A-Extension Mohan Garden and DK Road in Uttam Nagar after getting repeated complaints from residents regarding sewer related problems. I have been informed that on numerous occasions local residents and the area MLA had sent these grievances to the DJB. These grievances also reached me via emails and social media. When I reached there, the state of sewer overflow was absolutely shocking. These localities have been turned into a living hell. This kind of sewerage overflow is a breeding ground for several diseases and can cause a serious public health crisis.

When I spoke to the residents of the area, they informed me that they have lived in this locality for years but have never seen this kind of a sewerage crisis. They told me that when they give their complaints to the DJB field staff they are told:

- * Hamare paas machines ki kami hai*
- * Humare paas sewer maintenance ke liye staff ki kami hai*
- * Budget nahin hai isliye hum sewer line nahin change kar sakte*
- * Fund nahin hai isliye sewer machines nahin badha sakte*


The Hon'ble MLA Mr Naresh Balyan informed me that till last year 73 contractual manpower were deployed for maintenance of sewer and water pipelines. However, this year it has been reduced to merely 18 people. Last year, 14 sewer cleaning machines were deployed in the entire Uttam Nagar constituency which have now been reduced to just 7 machines. I fail to understand how will sewer maintenance and removal of sewer blockages be done if there are inadequate machines and manpower is available on the ground. When the hon'ble MLA took up this issue with officers of DJB, he was informed that machine and manpower reduction has been done due to lack of funds with the DJB. I was aghast when I heard this statement.

DJB is a critical civic utility. The national capital could come to a standstill if DJB fails to do its work properly. A budget of Rs. 7195.00 crore has been passed by the Delhi assembly which is 9.5 percent of the total budget of Government of NCT of Delhi. This budget has been approved by the Council of Ministers, the Hon'ble LG, MHA and the Delhi Assembly. However, in this entire financial year only 400 crores have been released to the Delhi Jal Board so far. Files keep shuttling between DJB, Urban Development Department and Finance Department but the DJB remains starved of funds, this is the reason why the DJB is in a crisis. Delhi has been turned into a living hell because an artificial financial crisis has been created in DJB. This cannot be allowed to go on. When the government has allocated a large budget for the DJB, proper deployment of machinery and manpower needs to be done on the ground. Otherwise, the officers busy shuttling the files and causing a financial crisis in DJB will be held responsible for creating a public health crisis and epidemic-like situation in Delhi.

The Chief Secretary is hereby directed to:

1. Ensure adequate deployment of manpower and machinery in every part of the city to ensure that there are no sewer overflows causing inconvenience to the people of Delhi.
2. Ensure release of funds to the DJB from the budget that has been allocated to them within the next 48 hours.
3. Take the strongest possible action against all officers responsible for creating this artificial fund crisis that has brought Delhi on the verge of a major public health crisis.

It will be the personal responsibility of the Chief Secretary to oversee the resolution of the sewer related crisis that has been created in Delhi.


(Atishi)
Minister (Water/ Finance)
22.08.2024

Chief Secretary