

# NDMC inks contract to improve water supply

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**NEW DELHI:** The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has signed a contract agreement with a joint venture firm to revamp the existing water supply system.

The project entails a water audit and consumer survey to ensure 24X7 water supply in NDMC areas. The project will be implemented on the public-private-partnership model. Work will be taken up in three phases. NDMC aims to bring down the NRW to less than 15% by reducing leakages and unmeasured supply. The goal is to improve service standards in a period of 5 to 8 years. "In phase-I the consultants for the project will study deficiencies in the water system and provide us with solutions to achieve continuous water supply in our areas.

In phase-II, bid documents and evaluation criteria for implementation of the project through PPP will be prepared.

In the last phase, project management and monitoring for construction and rehabilitation of the network will be taken up," said NDMC spokesperson Anand Tiwari. The NDMC is going to pay Rs 1.4 crore as consultancy charges. The cost of the project could run into Rs 200 crore to Rs 300 crore, say sources.

Studies show that NDMC areas see 12% loss (non revenue water) in reservoirs and about 10% distribution losses. This project has been taken up to achieve service level benchmarks set up by the Ministry of Urban development.

As a first step, a water audit, house to house consumer survey, GIS mapping of water network and hydraulic modeling will be carried out. This will also help the civic body identify unmetered consumption.

A site survey will be carried out to decide the alignment of pipelines and to check whether additional facilities like line boosters and sluice valves are needed. The consultant will also help NDMC identify a competent agency which will be appointed on a PPP model. The project will be funded under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Such PPP projects have also been taken up in other states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The civic body had mooted the project in its budget for 2011-12. "Given the constraints on raw water supply, NDMC needs to manage its water demand within the present water availability for achieving continuous supply. It is necessary to correctly assess losses and weaknesses in our distribution network," said Tiwari.

**NDMC has signed the contract agreement with a JV Firm consisting of DRA Consultants Pvt Ltd, Nagpur, Shah Technical Consultants Pvt Ltd, Mumbai and Miya Manila Water Projects Inc, Philippines.**