Clean Yamuna: New STPs to use UV treatment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Water will be subjected to ultraviolet treatment at some sewage treatment plants (STP) to control faecal coliform level and, thus, reduce pollution in the Yamuna. Though only the STP at Kapashera is equipped with UV technology, water is currently being treated for faecal coliform in 15 other STPs too.

TOI had earlier reported that over 75% of the city's STPs were failing to reduce faecal coliform level, a major marker of pollution in the river water. This was because most of the STPs had no technology for bacterial disinfection through either chlorination, UV treatment or ozonation, despite an order to the effect by the National Green Tribunal.

According to bacteriological analyses reports, the faecal coliform levels at the outlet of one STP throughout January this year was 14,00,00,00,000 MPN/100ml (most probable number per 100ml of water), while at another it was 24,00,00,00,00,00, and 46,00,00,00,000 MPN/100ml at a third.

"DJB has 38 STPs of which 15 STPs are now complying with the latest NGT norms on parameters, of which faecal coliform is one," said an official of the water utility. "As per standard, the faecal coliform must be below 230mpn/100ml and we are now able to reduce it below 100mpn/100ml at some STPs, which is the desirable norm."

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According to Delhi Jal Board officials, the goal is to upgrade 28 of the 39 STPs by September. These upgrades will bring the STPs in line with the standards accepted by NGT, including reducing faecal coliform level to below 230 units.

Another official said that of 15 currently compliant STPs, the one at Kapashera was using UV treatment while the others employed chlorination and other processes. Nine others are undergoing augmentation at present and four are having trials.

"Many Delhi STPs are very old. These have to be upgraded to meet the standards. All STPs are working on design parameters, which earlier did not include faecal parameters until NGT came out with the norms. Now they are being upgraded," said the official. "Apart from this, the Yamuna Vihar Phase-2 STPis being upgraded to augment its capacity from 10 million gallons per day (MGD) to 15MGD. Similarly, Kondli and Rithala Phase I and II are being upgraded to meet the pollution norms, including faecal coliform. By September, we hope to have 28 STPs with augmented facilities." The official added that all new STPs would employ UV technology to treat water for bacterial contamination.

DJB official felt this step would improve the quality of the Yamuna's water against the current situation when only semi-treated or untreated sewage is flowing into the river

"We hope that once these STP facilities are commissioned, the quality of the river will improve. Apart from these, there are decentralised STPs also and the use of these smaller plants will be crucial to treat effluent from unauthorised areas," the official said. He explained that sewage from an unauthorised colony could cause overloading at an STP, but a decentralised STPs could be employed to trap sewage and treat it at the spot itself. "Otherwise, the untrapped sewage flows into the Yamuna through stormwater drains," official added.