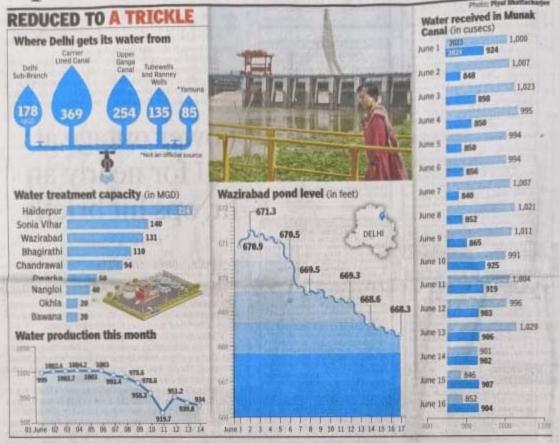
## Wazirabad pond level dips further, 3 plants work below capacity: Govt



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With overall production of potable water down to 917 million gallon per day (MGD), Delhi water minister Atishi urged Haryana again to release more water in the Yamuna.

After visiting Wazirabad barrage on Monday, Atishi said the water level in the pond had decreased by 6.2 feet to a little over 668 feet (above sea level), forcing three water treatment plants linked to it - Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla - to run below capacity.

"There is so little water left in the Wazirabad barrage that islands have started appearing. Water from this pond goes to Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla treatment plants and the production is now getting affected," she said.

"If no water is received, how will the water treatment plants work? Unless they release water in the Yamuna, there will be continuous water shortage in Delhi," she said.

Atishi said one part of the Yamuna water is supplied to the Wazirabad treatment plant while the other part goes to the Bawana contact point from Munak Canal. While Delhi's water production touched a peak of 1,005 MGD earlier this month, it has fallent o 917 MGD.

"On the one hand, we are getting less water in the Munak canal and on the other, there is no water at all at the Wazirabad barrage.

"If water does not go to the water treatment plant, how can we supply it? I can only fold my hands in front of Haryana. If it does not release water in the Yamuna, Delhiites cannot get relief," she said.

She added that the production had decreased by 48 MGD in the Wazirahad water treatment plant alone and many filters we re closed due to the shortage.

A DJB official said production at Wazirabad was down to 86 MGD against the overall capacity of 134 MGD.

## ATISHI SAYS

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The Wazirabad plant is fed by the Yamuna river channel and raw from Haiderpur coming via Munak canal.

"Wazirabad plant is also fed raw water from Haiderpur via Munak canal. We are currently only drawing aro und 20 MGD water from the barrage area and the rest of the water is coming from Haiderpur. Haryana claims they are releasing enough water as per combined allocation of Munak canal and Yamuna as per the 1994 agreement. The real allocation via Yamuna

channel is zero but the demand of Delhi has grown a lot and it needs additional water," the official explained.

Atishi said a team of DJB and Delhi govt will meet the Haryana irrigation department on Tuesday to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP secretary Harish Khurana and spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor claimed in a joint statement that there was a negligible shortage of raw water for those who can buy water, but it was the poor who were suffering.

"Instead of controlling the water pipeline leaks or water theft, the minister is working overtime to mislead the people of Delhi. There is less water at Wazirahad barrags because its pond has lost depth. The Wazirahad water treatment plant's pond and barrage have not been cleaned for almost a decade and 90% of it is filled with silt. That's why the barrage area cannot hold water." BJP functionaries said in their statement.

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