

BUDGET 2023–24

WATER SECTOR NEEDS ATTENTION

Water is the harbinger of the economic and social growth of a country. India has such a large human and livestock population is facing a difficult challenge in making provisions for clean drinking water for human, commercial, and agricultural needs.

The water industry in India was expecting that the Finance Minister will focus on water and wastewater infrastructure development with some new initiatives and good financial allocation given the situation of water stress and increasing water source pollution in the country. There needs to be a focussed approach to making water available for people, industries, and agriculture so that our efforts toward creating a robust economy will not be hampered.

We at Aquality Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd. welcome the increased allocation for Jal Jeevan Mission projects to the tune of INR 70,000 Crore, an increase of over 16.6% from the last year's allocation. There is still a huge task of making provision of tap water facilities created for 83 million (43% of total) rural households in the country within the remaining period of just over one year as per the Mission's timeline. The development under this mission has so far been successful in making drinking water delivery to an additional 78.3 million rural households since its launch in August 2019. The progress so far has been effective in making clean drinking water provisions for 110.6 million (57% of the total households) in the country. The increased investment will certainly help in making better progress on the mission which is being monitored at the highest level.

I have witnessed the severe water stress situations in Karnataka and am happy that the union government has considered it and allocated big amount of INR 5,300 Crore to develop Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water for the people in the drought-prone central region of Karnataka.

Launching the Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission for improving socio-economic conditions of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) by providing clean drinking water and sanitation, health, etc. An allocation of INR 15,000 Crore for a period of three years will support the creation of livelihood facilities for the vast tribal population in India.

We are expecting that the Finance Minister will subsequently allocate more resources towards the development of water and wastewater infrastructure while increasing stimulus for technological intervention in water management as both these will be important aspects towards better water sustainability.



Mohammed Naser Azeez

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