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Recycled water must for new apartments near lakes: Minister

Javadekar takes stock of frothing at Bellandur lake

BENGALURU: In the wake of Bellandur lake making headlines because of its pollution, Union Minister for Environment, Prakash Javadekar made a quick visit to the water body to review the situation.

The minister, who held meetings with civic agencies including the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) said that out of 600 MLD sewage water is generated around Bellandur and Varthur areas, only 75 per cent was being treated. "Civic agencies have given their timelines to implement rejuvenation measures," he said.

The minister said he will visit the lake again by March and the Union government will monitor the lake's progress constantly. He said new apartment complexes that would be constructed around lakes will have to mandatorily use recycled water and they will not be allowed to drill borewells.

The BWSSB Chairperson T M Vijay Bhaskar said he has

drawn an action plan listing out short-term and medium-term measures.

"Short-term measures include spraying water to reduce foam, putting a mesh around the lake and constructing a ramp below the waste weir. The medium-term plans include construction of sewage treatment plants (STPs) at the water body and other lake development activities."

Bhaskar said presently, the STP near Bellandur lake has the capacity to process around 300 MLD per day.

He also suggested sewage water diversion at Bellandur lake. However, he said the diversion will be a costly affair and hence, would be difficult to implement.

Ramesh Shivaram, a resident of Bellandur said a delegation from Union government had earlier monitored the lake after which a report was prepared. "The report was submitted to Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar. There are several Public Interest Litigations (PILs) in the court and it is being looked into by the Union government seriously. We are hopeful about the lake's revival," he said.

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