

BWSSB to launch UFW project in city

BANGALORE, October 5, 2013: AFSHAN YASMEEN

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) ambitious project in the southern parts of the city to check water leakage is now being extended to the western and central parts.

With nearly 40 per cent of the city's daily water supply of 1,125 million litres of water a day (mld) going unaccounted for, especially when the city is facing a shortfall of 225 mld, the BWSSB had begun the pilot Unaccounted for Water (UFW) project in south Bangalore in July 2012. Tenders have been finalised and letters of acceptance have been issued to Larsen and Toubro and **SPML Infra**, who have bagged the three-year contract. While the first company will take up works in west Bangalore, **SPML Infra will execute it in central Bangalore.**

T. Venkataraju, BWSSB Engineer-in-Chief, said the extended project costing Rs. 160 crore will be taken up with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

In south Bangalore, L&T has been entrusted to conduct a survey and replace pipes, household water connections and meters in 55 sq.km. in Basavangudi, Chamarajpet, Padmanabhanagar, Jayanagar, BTM Layout and Bangalore south.

These constituencies have been divided into 85 district metering areas (DMAs). Every DMA comprises nearly 3,000 connections. The agency has been inspecting every consumer meter to conduct pressure tests. "The pressure test will show faulty meters and leaks based on the inflow and outflow pressures in a DMA. The project also includes detection of water theft and replacing old and corroded pipes," he said.

The executing agency will monitor the total supply to each DMA and revenue collection in each month so as to calculate the non-revenue water. "Unaccounted for water supply in the city is nearly 40 per cent of the total supply. The target is to reduce this to 16 per cent," Mr. Venkataraju said.

"If the revenue collection does not correlate with the total supply, it could be on account of physical infrastructure leak, non-metering or poor metering. This is what the agency will find out and set it right," he added.