

Bhama Askhed farmers get ₹15L/ha, PMC keen to finish pipeline by Oct

Sarang Dastane & Nisha Nambiar | TNN

Pune: The long pending Bhama Askhed water pipeline project, which will provide additional water to the city's eastern parts, will now race to completion.

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday approved a compensation of Rs 15 lakh per hectare to the 1,414 project affected farmers at a meeting in Mumbai attended by Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporations' authorities.

The Pune Municipal Corporation has completed about 80% work pertaining to the project so far. Friday's decision has paved the way to finish the rest. The civic body plans to complete the work by October 2019. A 42-km pipeline will run from the dam up to the city.

Both corporations will deposit the compensation amount with the district collector based on the quota of water each will lift from the dam. About 400 project-affected people have given written assurance to the district collector that they will accept



Pic courtesy: PMC

The Bhama Askhed pipeline project

the compensation of Rs 15 lakh per hectare.

The PMC would pay Rs 130 crore to the district administration. The civic administration has set aside Rs 105 crore.

The city will receive 2.64 TMC water annually, around 200 MLD. The water will be brought through the pipeline to the water tanks being constructed by PMC in areas along Ahmednagar Road.

The pending works expected to get over by October include the construction of a 3km pipeline, a jackwell at the dam and a filtration plant.

The state government, in Friday's mee-

ting, decided to waive the rehabilitation expenses which both municipal corporations have to pay to the state irrigation department. The decision will save PMC Rs 191 crore, civic officials said.

District collector Naval Kishore Ram said the issue pending for 20 years was finally approved by the chief minister on Friday. "The district administration, divisional commissioner Deepak Mhalsekar, municipal commissioner Saurabh Rao, PCMC civic chief Shraavan Hardkar and I had proposed the plan. The project will now move ahead," he said.

Rao told **TOI** that water from Bhama Askhed will reduce the load on Khadakwasla dam. He said nearly 2.75 TMC of water can be allotted to the eastern parts of Pune city.

"The farmers will get the cash component calculated on the amount of land they should be given. This would amount to Rs 200 to Rs 250 crore which will be shared by Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporations in a 60:40 ratio," he added.