

# **JAL MANTHAN 2**

**National Policy for Priority of Water Allocation  
- Past and Present**

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# Need of Policy to prioritize Water Allocation

- Most of the times, the total water demands for different purposes from a water system (which can be an isolated project, set of multiple projects, a sub-basin or a basin, etc.), exceed water availability.
- Even if it is not so in present, it is likely to be so in future as the demands are ever increasing whereas availability is more or less constant.

# Need of Policy to prioritize Water Allocation...

- It thus becomes desirable to have a policy of prioritization of water allocation for different competing demands in such situations.
- Even without formal policy for prioritization of water allocation, drinking water requirements have been assigned highest priority for obvious reasons.
- The prioritization of water allocation has been an important aspect of NWP.

## Water Allocation Priorities

**8. In the planning and operation of systems, water allocation priorities should be broadly as follows:**

- **Drinking water**
- **Irrigation**
- **Hydro-power**
- **Navigation**
- **Industrial and other uses.**

However these priorities might be modified if necessary in particular regions with reference to area specific considerations.

**No mention about eflows.**

## Water Allocation Priorities

**5. In the planning and operation of systems, water allocation priorities should be broadly as follows:**

- **Drinking water**
- **Irrigation**
- **Hydro-power**
- **Ecology**
- **Agro-industries and non-agricultural industries**
- **Navigation and other uses.**

However, the priorities could be modified or added if warranted by the area / region specific considerations.

# National Water Policy – 2012

## Basic Principles

- Water is essential for sustenance of eco-system, and therefore, minimum ecological needs should be given due consideration. [Para 1.3(v)]
- Safe Water for drinking and sanitation should be considered as pre-emptive needs, followed by high priority allocation for other basic domestic needs (including needs of animals), achieving food security, supporting sustenance agriculture and minimum eco-system needs. Available water, after meeting the above needs, should be allocated in a manner to promote its conservation and efficient use. [Para 1.3(vi)]

# National Water Policy – 2012

## Water Pricing

- The principle of differential pricing may be retained for the pre-emptive uses of water for drinking and sanitation; and high priority allocation for ensuring food security and supporting livelihood for the poor. Available water, after meeting the above needs, should increasingly be subjected to allocation and pricing on economic principles so that water is not wasted in unnecessary uses and could be utilized more gainfully. [Para 7.4]

**THANKS**