

WATER SHORTAGE PROBLEM IN URBAN AREAS

Water shortage has become a core issue in the urban sector of Thane Dist. Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council are making their best to overcome the issue. Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini has organized a seminar through its Vilasrao Salunkhe Research cell on 28th April, 2008 at its Knowledge Excellence Center, Uttan, Bhayander. The Program was attended by representatives of peoples of municipalities in Thane Dist. Seminar was conducted by Dr. Sanjay Dahasahasra, Secretary of Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran. He presented his study on water supply of different areas and problems faced by government to meet the increasing demand of water in urban areas. He also discussed the new ongoing projects which may help to reduce the gap between demand and supply of water. The greatest challenge in front of water supply department is to supply potable water at the time of disaster such as floods, earth quake, landslide etc. which disturb the water supply system. He shared his experience of 26th July, 2005, when Mumbai and its suburbs got flooded. How he and his team were able to repair the damage done by floods in 2-3 days and regularize the supply of water. In the interacting session with the people's representative, he presented before him problems faced by them to satisfy the needs of people in their respective municipalities. They suggested him some measures that can be taken to reduce water cuts faced by people. On the issue of water cuts there was a live debate between them. Ram Patkar (Mayor of Kulgoan-Badlapur Municipal Corporation) suggested that rain water harvesting is essential as the ground water level is very low.