

Soon, Kadamba plateau will be tanker-free

Ponda: Aiming to service the upcoming townships on Old Goa's Kadamba plateau in Tiswadi taluka, the public works department (PWD) has started work on an additional 27 MLD-capacity water treatment plant at Opa in Ponda taluka.

The thousand-plus residents of the plateau are presently supplied water through PWD tankers, say officials, adding that the new plant will cost ₹31 crore which includes ₹4 crore for maintenance of the project.

The existing 140 MLD water pumping plant at Opa consists of four water filtering units with a total 114 MLD water filtering capacity. Of the 114 MLD filtered water, 57 to 59 MLD water is supplied to Tiswadi, while Ponda receives the remaining 55 to 57 MLD of water.

Though the plant supplies water to most parts of the two talukas, several hilly areas in Ponda's Shiroda, Savoi Verem, Volvoi and Marcaim and Tiswadi's Kadamba plateau and Bambolim experience water scarcity, which peaks during summer. Locals from these areas depend heavily on tankers, PWD sources said.

The additional 27 MLD-water treatment plant will focus mainly on the areas where water from the existing plant does not reach, explained Dilip Dhavalikar, executive engineer, water division, PWD. He elaborated, "Of the 27 MLD water, maximum water, that is up to 15 MLD, will be supplied especially to the Kadamba plateau and surrounding Bainguinim areas of Tiswadi. About 4,000 people staying in the areas get water through tankers, and the areas are expected to turn tanker-free after the new plant is commissioned."

Besides this, 3 MLD water will also be pumped to the Goa Medical College and Hospital complex at Bambolim, 2.5 MLD each to the three assembly constituencies of Shiroda, Priol and Marcaim, and Ponda constituency will get 5 MLD water over the existing water supply, Dhavalikar said. The demand for potable water from Ponda is increasing sharply, he