The Main Directions of Rational Use and Improvement of the Population Ensuring Drinking Water

Allaeva Raisa Rakhimovna, Bobonarova Kamola O`ktamjon qizi, Narzullaeva Diyorahon Rahmatulla qizi, Sarsenova Dinara Doniyor qizi

Abstract*: The most important task in the current environment is more rational and efficient use of water resources. In order to achieve this, the introduction of technologies that reduce water losses in the drinking water delivery system to water users will help. In the conditions of a shortage of water resources, one of the most urgent tasks facing water supplying organizations is to increase the volume and quality of services provided to the country's population.

Key words: modernization, water supply, efficiency, mechanism, wells, shortage, industry, climate change, GDP, consumption, industry, agriculture, irrigation, sewage, legislation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Water underlies all aspects of development, linking various sectors of the economy, countries and components of wildlife. General dependence on water resources could not affect their quantity and quality. As the population grows and the economy grows, their need for water increases.

One of the priority directions of social policy implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan is to provide the population with high-quality drinking water through the implementation of comprehensive measures and targeted programs for the development and modernization of drinking water supply systems for the long term.

To this end, a number of large-scale measures have been taken to ensure centralized water supply to the population of most regions of the republic, an important place among which is taken by the Presidential Decree adopted on April 20 of this year "On the program of integrated development and modernization of the drinking water supply and sewerage system for 2017-2021" [1].

The implementation of this decree will allow:

i. to introduce effective mechanisms for monitoring and accounting for the rational use of groundwater;
ii. to increase the effectiveness of hydrogeological work on the increase in stocks of freshwater groundwater and provide water to an additional 7 cities, 21 villages and 426 villages;
iii. organize effective monitoring of the state of groundwater, taking into account the expansion of their network by 1,555 wells and the installation of 500 units of modern automated systems for monitoring their condition;
iv. prevent flooding of 132 cities and district centers by increasing the number of drainage wells by 715 units and the length of collectors by 280 km and, thus, qualitatively improve the living conditions of people in many localities of our country.

About 369 billion soums will be allocated to finance the Program at the expense of the State budget, international financial institutions and local budgets.

Also, for organizing the industrial production of desalination plants of domestic production and equipping the corresponding settlements with them, it is planned to carry out pilot work by the end of 2017 in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Bukhara, Navoi and Khorezm regions.

To date, the population of 69 cities, 335 villages and 2,902 villages is being met by groundwater reserves.

However, the intensive development of industry and agriculture over the past few decades has had a negative impact on the state of fresh groundwater, which has led to a significant reduction in their reserves and depletion of individual fields due to unauthorized construction of water intake facilities and uncontrolled water withdrawal.

In some regions with a shortage of potable-quality water, modern technologies are not being sufficiently introduced, and the existing potential for the production of the necessary equipment and desalination plants is not being realized.

A recent report by the World Bank's Global Water Management Organization, "Hot and Dry: Climate Change, Water Resources and the Economy", notes that by 2050, in some regions, economic growth may fall by 6% of GDP due to losses due to water shortages in various sectors.

Climate change is also expected to exacerbate the problem of water scarcity, especially in regions already experiencing water scarcity.

Currently, almost 1.6 billion people live in countries experiencing physical water shortages - and this figure could double in the next 20 years [3].

A generalized indicator of the efficiency of the use of water resources, which compares the amount of water consumed with the results of economic activity, is water-intensiveness. On the scale of the economy as a whole, it can be measured as follows:

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Allaeva Raisa Rakhimovna, Senior teacher, A.P, India.
Bobonarova Kamola O`ktamjon qizi, Student, A.P, India.
Narzullaeva Diyorahon Rahmatulla qizi, Student, A.P, India.
Sarsenova Dinara Doniyor qizi, Student, A.P, India.

W=(R1+R2)/V m^2/soums,

Where, W is the water intensity of national income;
R1 is the annual consumption of fresh water;
R2 is the annual volume of circulating water supply.

Water intensity shows how much water resources need to be spent to get a unit of national income. The dynamics of this indicator can serve as an indicator of water resources efficiency.

In order to pay more attention to the efficiency of water resources use, improve the quality of work while reducing tariffs for services, the head of Uzbekistan decided to act boldly, in particular, to create a center for the implementation of investment projects in agriculture and water management, abolish advice on solving problems of agricultural sectors, create irrigation in several basin controls.

Such innovations, according to Mirziyoyev, should contribute to attracting foreign investment in Uzbekistan, increase the efficiency of the country's water potential use [2].

Also, the head of Uzbekistan signed a decree on the establishment of the State Inspectorate to monitor the rational use of drinking water.

The agency will operate under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan.

The tasks of the State Inspectorate will include improving the provision of high-quality drinking water to the population, the effective operation of water supply and sewage facilities, the creation of a unified system of state control over the use of drinking water.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the formation of the State Inspectorate for Monitoring the Use of Drinking Water under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan", the State Water Inspectorate has the right:

- to conduct surveys of all categories of water supply and sewage facilities, as well as water wells, regardless of the form of ownership, on matters within their competence;
- in accordance with the established procedure, conduct inspections at facilities of legal entities and individuals, including in residential premises, for compliance with the rules for connecting and using the water supply and sewage systems;
- -the imposition of fines for violations of the requirements of legislation in the field of water supply and sanitation, as well as the rules for connecting and using system water supply and sanitation [3].

Water is not only necessary for human life, it is an important factor in production activities. This means that a decrease in water resources may lead to a slowdown in economic growth.

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