

Times of India 18.07.2009 **Protest against high water tax gains momentum**

ALLAHABAD: The corporators along with people in general put lock up of the numerous offices of Jal Sansthan while protesting against the deposition of the water [tax bills](#) at high rates on Friday. The lock up was put at the zone 1-A office situated at Jawaharlal Nehru Road, office of zone 2 at Gaughat and also at the office at Daraganj locality.

The people are protesting the hike in water [tax](#) and saying that that unless the new slab rates are approved by the government, they should not be forced to deposit the water tax at high rates.

In this connection, locals and corporators reached the Daraganj office of Jal Sansthan in the day. Shiva Tripathi, corporator present at the office said, "We would continue the struggle until the high rates of water tax are withdrawn." He further added that taking the hard earned [money](#) by the Jal Sansthan officials was unpardonable.

Kusum Lata, another corporator said it seemed that the imposition of the high water tax reminded of the Jaziya of the mediaeval period.

Anamika Chowdhry, corporator and former deputy mayor said, Jal Sansthan had taken an anti-public measure by issuing inflated bills, which had not even approved by the government. She also appealed to the people not to deposit the water tax.

Addressing the people, Umesh Dwivedi, corporator said that

though it had been decided in the meeting of June 1 that unless the government approved the new slab rates, the bills of water tax would be issued on the old slab rates yet the Jal Sansthan had been consistently issuing the bills based on the new slab rates without adhering to the norms. Anand Ghidiyal, corporator from Colonelganj also exhorted the people not to deposit the inflated water tax bills so that their interest could be preserved.

The office of Jal sansthan of Zone 2 at Gaughat was locked under the leadership of Satyendra Chopra, chairman of the ward committee of 4. People along with the leader reached the office and forced the lock up of the office. They raised slogans against the JS officials on hike in water tax. A memorandum was also handed over to the manager of zone 2. The manager assured the protestors that unless the government approved the new slab rates and mayor returned to the city, bills of water tax would not be distributed among the people.