Jal Jeevan
Samvod
April, 2021
In this issue

Note from the desk of Additional Secretary & Mission Director

JJM Progress

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India witnesses once again an unprecedented number of Covid cases. The only way forward in this battle is to wear masks, maintain physical distance, stay home and stay safe. National Jal Jeevan Mission wishes everyone and their loved ones a safe time ahead. Let’s help each other to defeat the virus.

Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure safe drinking water supply to every rural household – a noble and life changing mission is proving how it is bringing qualitative changes in the lives of scores of people living in our villages. Its impact especially on women and children is being felt everywhere. It is becoming a people’s movement – Jan Andolan, wherein various stakeholders have joined hands with the commitment to improve the lives of people.

After the announcement of the mission on 15th August, 2019 by Hon’ble Prime Minister from the Red Fort and release of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission on 25th December, 2019, despite CoVid -19 pandemic, by end of 2020-21, about 4.08 Crore rural households have been provided with new tap water connections. Thus, now tap water supply is reaching to about 7.30 Crore rural households i.e. more than 38% of rural homes of the country. This shows the commitment of all the States/ UTs to deliver on ‘speed and scale’ even during the time of adversity. Indeed, it is a matter of satisfaction, despite various challenges, we all have been able to mobilize people to carry out exemplary work in 2020-21.

Every rural home in Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands has started getting clean tap water supply. Jal Jeevan Mission works in other States/ UTs is going on in full swing as they are competing with each other to outperform others. The teams implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission in the field has imbibed the true spirit of the mission and are ensuring that ‘no one is left out’ in villages with piped water supply systems. As a result, all households in 58 districts, 713 Blocks and about 87 thousand villages, have started getting assured potable tap water supply on regular basis. The public health engineering teams on the ground along with partners like Gram Panchayats, ISAs, SHGs, UNICEF and others deserve compliments.

We have entered into the most crucial phase of the mission. The budgetary allocation for JJM has seen a quantum jump from Rs 11,500 Crore in 2020-21 to Rs 50,000 Crore in 2021-22, which shows the priority being accorded by the Union Government to provide this basic facility of safe drinking water in every home. With this huge allocation, States/ UTs need to make a realistic plan for provision of FHTCs with proper expenditure plan for effective utilization of funds. Discussion on Annual Action Plan for 2021-22 is underway to deliberate and finalize the saturation plan for the States/ UTs along with various support activities to ensure drinking water security in rural areas. Each State/ UT has prepared their Annual Action Plan (2021-22), which are being presented and discussed before finalization.

With Government’s undivided focus on water supply and improved sanitation, 15th Finance Commission allocated 60% of Rs. 26,940 Crore grants to RLBs in 2021-22 for supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling; and sanitation and maintenance of ODF status. This will supplement the ongoing efforts of adequate water for all. We must make all out efforts for judicious use of this grant by rural local bodies by focusing on various activities viz. rain water harvesting, strengthening of drinking water sources, improving water supply, grey water management and regular operation & maintenance.
NJJM has taken up a massive capacity building exercise and 126 Key Resource Centres (KRCs) have been identified. And they are going to prepare their Annual Calendars of activities to build the capacities of different stakeholders at different level in rural drinking water sector.

Similarly, about 180 reputed organizations have been selected as sector partners to work with NJJM and States/UTs for dovetailing resources and efforts to achieve the goal of Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal.

When the nation was recovering from the after-effects of Covid-19 pandemic, in last few days, we are witnessing a sudden spike of Covid cases in last few days, which has badly affected the whole country, jeopardising the lives of people, affecting the normalcy, etc. In these challenging times, efforts to be made for saving precious human lives and in the same time, provision of drinking water through household tap connections becomes all the more important, so that women and young girls do not have to go to distance to fetch water for the family and avoid crowding at public stand posts.

Public Health Engineering Departments/ Rural Water Supply Departments of the States/UTs have done commendable works during last year amidst the pandemic. National Jal Jeevan Mission expects that good works done to continue in the prevailing situation while taking all precautionary measures. This will help in PHE/ RWS departments as public service departments focusing on 'service delivery'. States/UTs must pool all resources and efforts for provision of drinking water in the water-scarce areas, so that people especially women need not to struggle to fetch water for their families.

NJJM hopes the States/UTs, PRIs, ISAs, sector partners, UN agencies, KRCs and other stakeholders will continue with the good works being done so far and work with more enthusiasm in 2021-22 to accomplish the planned activities to ensure 'Har Ghar Jal'.

[Bharat Lal]
Additional Secretary & Mission Director
National Jal Jeevan Mission
JJM Progress

Progressive coverage-Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 29.04.2021)

Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 29.04.2021)
As on 29th April, 2021

**India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of households (in millions)</th>
<th>Households with tap water connections as on 15 Aug 2019</th>
<th>Households with tap water connections as on date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19,19,63,738</td>
<td>3,23,62,838</td>
<td>7,31,92,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15.86%)</td>
<td>(38.13%)</td>
<td></td>
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Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

4,08,29,295 (21.27%)

**Har Ghar Jal [100 % HHs with tap water connections]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100% FHTC States/UTs</th>
<th>100% FHTC Districts</th>
<th>100% FHTC Blocks</th>
<th>100% FHTC Panchayats</th>
<th>100% FHTC Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goa, Telangana, A &amp; N Islands</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>44,618</td>
<td>87,530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: JJM-IMIS

As on 15th August, 2019

As on 29th April, 2021

Task at hand (No. of rural households to be provided tap water connections)
Task at hand
(No. of rural households to be provided tap water connections)

**Uttar Pradesh**: 233.95 lakh
**West Bengal**: 147.56 lakh
**Tamil Nadu**: 87.63 lakh
**Madhya Pradesh**: 85.01 lakh
**Rajasthan**: 81.55 lakh
**Karnataka**: 62.22 lakh
**Odisha**: 62.09 lakh
**Bihar**: 60.20 lakh
**Assam**: 56.25 lakh
**Jharkhand**: 51.42 lakh
**Maharashtra**: 51.20 lakh
**Andhra Pradesh**: 50.26 lakh
**Kerala**: 44.98 lakh
**Chhattisgarh**: 39.81 lakh
**Gujarat**: 15.71 lakh

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Task at hand
(No. of rural households to be provided tap water connections)

**Punjab**: 851.76 thousand
**Jharkhand**: 815.18 thousand
**Uttarakhand**: 810.58 thousand
**Tripura**: 583.09 thousand
**Meghalaya**: 490.75 thousand
**Haryana**: 404.02 thousand
**Himachal Pradesh**: 401.43 thousand
**Nagaland**: 313.15 thousand
**Manipur**: 222.99 thousand
**Arunachal Pradesh**: 111.36 thousand
**Mizoram**: 67.56 thousand
**Ladakh**: 40.21 thousand
**DNR and D&D**: 28.62 thousand
**Sikkim**: 23.94 thousand
**Puducherry**: 1.10 thousand
Roadmap

Annual Action Plan of States/ UTs for 2021-22 is underway

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, every year Annual Action Plan (AAP) is prepared and presented by the States/UTs before the national committee headed by the Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation with members from various Central Ministries/Departments and NITI Aayog. With the beginning of financial year, proposed Annual Action Plan are deliberated and finalized by the committee, which becomes the guiding force for the State/UT to follow during the year to achieve the target of ‘Har Ghar Jal’. For 2021-22, the AAP meeting with States/UTs began on 9th April 2021 and will be completed by 1st week of May.

As the Jal Jeevan Mission – Har Ghar Jal entered into third year of implementation with a Central grant of Rs.50,011 Crore in 2021-22, the National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti is carrying out the annual planning exercise with States/UTs from 9th April, 2021. As the Jal Jeevan Mission – Har Ghar Jal entered into third year of implementation with a Central grant of Rs.50,011 Crore in 2021-22, the National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti is carrying out the annual planning exercise with States/UTs from 9th April, 2021. This month-long exercise, daily taking up two States/UTs, is done by the committee chaired by Secretary, DDWS and rigorous scrutiny of the proposed Annual Action Plan (AAP) prepared by States/UTs before finalizing the same. Thereafter, funds are released throughout the year and regular field visits, review meetings are held to ensure implementation of these Annual Action Plans to achieve the goal of Jal Jeevan Mission.

As the financial year 2021-22 begins, the rigorous joint review exercise to finalize the Annual Action Plans (AAPs) has begun from 9th April. This year is a very critical year for JJM, which requires intensive planning based on rigorous data analysis, capacity of States/UTs to execute the work based on last two year’s progress, their preparedness, etc. While implementing, States/UTs are to give priority to water quality-affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe majority villages, 61 JE-AES affected and 117 Aspirational districts and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana villages to provide all households with tap water connection in a time-bound manner.

In addition to Rs. 50,011 Crore budgetary allocation for JJM, there is also Rs. 26,940 Crore assured fund available under the 15th Finance Commission tied-grants to RLB/PRIs for water & sanitation, matching State share and externally aided projects. Thus, in 2021-22, more than Rs. 1 lakh Crore is planned to be invested in the country on ensuring tap water supply to rural homes. This kind of investment is likely to continue over three years to achieve Har Ghar Jal.

The State/UT Action Plan is prepared by States/UTs with an objective to provide 100% households with tap water connections and achieve overall drinking water security. This is the master plan with detailed information on number of schemes to be retrofitted/new schemes to achieve saturation along with timelines to initiate and...
complete& commission the schemes on ground. It will also identify sources of convergence, firm up State O&M policy, intensify IEC/ BCC activities, Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance activities, etc.

The AAP (2021–22) further emphasizes on support activities like empowering Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs)/ Pani Samitis, preparation and approval of Village Action Plans (VAPs) which will have the components of drinking water source strengthening/augmentation, water supply infrastructure, grey water treatment & reuse, and operation & maintenance of in-village water supply systems. The States/ UTs are to plan for intense training and skilling programmes, especially 5 persons in every village on water quality surveillance and local community members as masons, plumbers, electricians, motor mechanics, fitter, pump operators, etc.

So far, 20 States and 3 UTs have presented their AAP before the committee. Ladakh was the first State to present their saturation plan proposing to achieve 100% target of providing tap water connection to every rural household by 2022.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/ UT</th>
<th>Total HHs (in lakh)</th>
<th>FHTCs provided in 2020–21 (in lakh)</th>
<th>FHTC coverage (in lakh)</th>
<th>Saturation year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Ladakh</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.04 (8.53%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>8.01</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>2.14 (26.73%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.81 (76.78%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J&amp;K</td>
<td>18.16</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>9.99 (55.04%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>31.03</td>
<td>7.89</td>
<td>26.93 (86.80%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>85.67</td>
<td>15.46</td>
<td>23.26 (27.15%)</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>0.475</td>
<td>0.66 (17.1%)</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>123.05</td>
<td>19.89</td>
<td>37.69 (30.60%)</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>91.19</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>28.15 (31.20%)</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>34.73</td>
<td>8.31</td>
<td>25.88 (74.53%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.94 (15.91%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>45.48</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>5.66 (12.5%)</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>1.02 (46%)</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>4.51</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>2.26 (50.20%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>142.36</td>
<td>37.15</td>
<td>91.08 (63.98%)</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>101.32</td>
<td>6.77</td>
<td>19.61 (19.36%)</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>92.92</td>
<td>10.93</td>
<td>77.21 (83%)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>163.25</td>
<td>12.47</td>
<td>14.94 (9.15%)</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.59 (46%)</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>2.63 (100%)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puducherry</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>1.08 (99%)</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>63.35</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>6.81 (10.75%)</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>95.66</td>
<td>12.97</td>
<td>45.09 (47%)</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
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JJM empanels Key Resource Centres as capacity building institutes

Jal Jeevan Mission launched on 15th August 2019 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, is implemented through institutional mechanism at national, State, district and Gram Panchayat level. The Village Water & Sanitation Committee/ Pani Samiti is constitutes as sub-committee of Gram Panchayat to support mapping, community mobilization, planning, execution, monitoring, water testing, collection of water user charge and operation & management of water supply infrastructure created.

In order to achieve the vision of JJM, it is necessary to re-orient and sensitize the Public Health Engineering officials as well as district administration along with field level functionaries. As water is a State subject, the same is being managed at different supply service level by village, Gram Panchayat, district and State. Leadership training is needed for effective implementation of the programme for assured regular supply of water in the long-term.

The motto of Jal Jeevan Mission is “Building Partnership and Changing Lives”. With the aim to forge Partnership with agencies/ organisation, an Expression of Interest (EoI) was floated in November, 2020 seeking applications from interested agencies, both government and non-government/ universities/ training institutes/ non-government organizations to function as Key Resource Centre (KRC).

The Key Resource Centres are expected to design, develop and implement capacity building programmes for 'responsible and responsive leadership' in water sector at multiple levels. These institutes will design the course, develop study material, deliver end-to-end high-quality training through lectures, discussions, interactions, activities, games, exercise and organize field visits.

During the pandemic, as we all know as physical trainings are not possible, trainings were conducted online, it is expected that agencies applying for empanelment as KRCs must have dedicated infrastructure to conduct online courses in an efficient manner, provide knowledge support on latest innovation, tools and best practices. For Level 3 training institute, a 7-year experience was desired, while for Level 1 and 2, 3-year experience is needed.

The agencies were given a month to apply under the Eol. Several agencies applied under the Eol of which some applications were under Senior Management Level, others under Middle Management level and Community level. The scrutiny of the applications is completed by a committee which has recommended 10 as L1, 29 as L2 and 87 as L3 to be empaneled as KRCs.
Field Test Kit training

- Rachna Gahilote Bisht, NJJM

3/4th of the Earth is covered with water out of which 97% is salt water and only 3% is fresh water. We use only 0.26% of fresh water. The fresh water comes from two sources – surface water and ground water. While surface water is prone to micro-biological contamination caused by virus, bacteria and protozoa, ground water gets contaminated by Arsenic, Fluoride, Sulphate, Nitrate, Iron, etc. It is mandatory for the rural water supply departments in the States/ UTs to test all water sources yearly; twice for bacteriological and once for chemical contamination.

Government of India has come up with the concept of “Laboratories for the People” by which the State, District and Block water testing laboratories are opened to public for the first time. People can now get their water tested at nominal rates. In addition to water testing at laboratories, the Gram Panchayats/ local communities are empowered to check the quality of water supplied to them both at source and end points through the use of Field Test Kits (FTKs).

The Mission’s operational guidelines have made provision to rope in five persons preferably women to carry out water test at regular intervals. In this regard, FTKs are procured and handed over to Panchayats. The government machinery is imparting training to the women engaged for water testing on how to use the FTKs.

The Field Test Kit has an instruction manual, test tubes, plastic beaker, test tube stand, water testing material and indicator chart. FTK can help test water on nine parameters viz; pH, Alkalinity, Total Hardness, Chloride, Nitrate, Fluoride, Iron, Residual Free Chlorine and H2S. The permissible limit for testing the pH level is 7-9. Consumption of water beyond permissible limit would leave bad taste in the mouth and could damage mucous membrane.

Alkaline test requires 10 ml water. 200 – 600 mg/l is permissible limit for Alkaline in water beyond which Alkaline leads to malnutrition and gastric irritation.

In order to test the Hardness of water, 10 ml water is taken in a cylinder and mixed with hardness buffer tablet. The permissible limit is 100 mg/l. Anything beyond the permissible limit leads to altered taste, improper cooking of food as well as gastric irritation.

Chloride test is carried out adding Chloride indicator tablet. The permissible limit for Chlorine in water is 250 mg/l. Corrosion of metal pipes and increased concentration of metals in drinking water can be seen beyond the permissible limit.

For undertaking nitrate test, a nitrate reagent tablet is added in 10 ml water. Wait for 6 minutes to see the reaction of the tablet. The permissible limit is 45 mg/l. Blue Baby syndrome and nitrate carcinogenic risks can be seen if the nitrate level is beyond the permissible limit.

4 ml water is needed to test Fluoride level in any water sample with 15 drops of Fluoride reagent. The permissible limit is 1.5 mg/l. Fluoride content more than the permissible limit leads to dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, anaemia and gastric irritation.
JJM Initiatives

Few drops of Iron reagent is needed to test Iron level in drinking water with 15 minutes waiting. The permissible limit in water is 0.3 mg/l beyond which the water tastes bad coupled with stomach and gastric irritation.

Residual Free Chlorine test requires 2-3 drops of OT reagent with 0.2-0.5 mg/l permissible limit in water. Excess Chlorine leads to asthma, skin disease and at times Cancer in the Bladder.

Finally, for undertaking H₂S test, the sample has to be kept in warm place with temperature ranging between 30-37 degree. Leave it for 24-36 hours. Observe, if the colour of water turns black then it is not fit for drinking and it can cause diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, nausea, fever and urinary tract infection.

Chhattisgarh Public Health Engineering Department organized FTK training programme to explain about the ill effects of contaminated water, how water quality check needs to be undertaken and precautions required to save the water source as well as storage of water to the newly appointed team of women responsible for undertaking water quality tests and Panchayat representatives. With supply of FTKs in the Panchayats the quality of water supplied can be analyzed in the village itself. The villagers no longer will have to wait for the PHED officials to check the water quality by undertaking the test.

Five villagers from all the 122 Gram Panchayat under Patan block were trained. The frontline workers who received the training included Sarpanch, Up-Sarpanch, Panchayat Secretary, Anganwadi and ASHA worker. The training was organized in two phases. People were informed on why it was important to check the quality of water supplied and how consumption of safe water leads to improved health parameters. Training drive was undertaken by the administration in Dantewada district. Similarly, trainings are provided in other States as well so that as we approach monsoon season all the women are trained to carry out the water quality test and report it in time for corrective action if so needed.

Inauguration

Shri Wangki Lowang, Minister of PHE & WS, Government of Arunachal Pradesh inaugurated a drinking water supply scheme on 12/04/2021 constructed by the Hawai PHE & WS sub-division under Jal Jeevan Mission at Kibithoo (the eastern most part of India along Sino-Indian border), in the presence of local leaders, officials, PR leaders and others.
The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in partnership with Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti announced a competition to develop 'Smart water supply measurement and monitoring system' through ICT Grand Challenge.

C-DAC Bangalore, is the implementing agency of the Grand Challenge and provided technical support for Proof of Concept (PoC) development of shortlisted candidates. The competition was launched on 15th September 2020. The Challenge comprised of three stages:

1. Ideation to Prototype stage;
2. Prototype-to-Product stage; and
3. Product Deployment stage

At the final stage the product will be deployed at 100 locations earmarked by Jal Jeevan Mission.

218 applications were received from various LLP companies, Indian Tech Start-ups and individuals. 10 participants were given two-months 'Ideation-to-Prototype' stage post in which participant would carry out demonstration from 8th - 10th February 2021 at Water Test-Bed set up at C-DAC.

The result of the ICT Grand Challenge has been announced and following four participants have been declared winner:

1. Prabhu Chaitanya Gundla from GLOBALm;
2. Varun Sridhar from Greenvironment Innovation & Marketing India Private Limited;
3. Jigar Desai from Rydot Infotech Private Limited; and
4. Sanjay Shrikhande from SBEM Pvt. Ltd

The next stage as per the guidelines of the Challenge is 'Prototype-to-Product' followed by Stage-3 for field trial, testing and deployment and demonstration of product at 25 locations by each finalist for the next one month.

Following three participants who could not make to Stage 2, can take upto 25 villages in consultation with Jal Jeevan Mission and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and demonstrate the products on pro bono basis without any financial assistance:

1. Pradeep Thalappil from Eyenetaqua Solutions Private Limited;
2. Krishna Chalam RVR from Ilonna Innovations Private Limited; and
3. Kunal Chakraborty from TATA products limited

Another three applicants are offered the opportunity to develop and deploy their products in five villages on pro bono basis without any financial assistance:

1. Kanish Aggarwal from Aqua Wireless Systems Pvt. Ltd;
2. Sri Harsha Karumanchi from Kritsram Technologies; and
3. Sijo Joseph from Ronds Technologies Pvt. Ltd
Jal Jeevan Mission is empowering women and changing their lives

- Vinod Mishra, Head, WASH programme, India (UNOPS)

While the world celebrated Women's Day on 8th March, several women in rural India, oblivious to this, were still busy walking a distance to fetch water to meet their basic domestic needs. Women are the true water managers in their households. The responsibility of bringing water for all tasks like drinking, cooking, bathing, washing utensils, cleaning, etc. everything lies on the woman! According to the NSS 76th round survey, close to 42% rural households travel every day to fetch drinking water. The distance they cover ranges from less than 0.2 km (30.4% households) to over 1.5 km (0.5% households). This means that women travel for more than 3 km (round trip from the primary water source) each day to get water. Annually, this comes to over 1,000 kms in a year.

However, things are changing. This is because, women have been kept at the heart of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), as has been emphasized by the Hon’ble Prime Minister several times in recent past. The main objective of JJM is to bring an end to the centuries old legacy of drudgery faced by women and young girls across rural India.

There are three aspects to carrying water. Distance, time and weight of the water that is being carried. Indian women generally take up to six trips a day to gather and transport water. They carry over 15 litres of water in each trip. Therefore, on an average, they carry over 90 litres of water in a day. They load jars or buckets on their heads to carry water. The pressure, added with the distance to water sources, creates back, feet, and posture problems. The heat adds to their exhaustion, and the chore itself takes away much needed time for other duties. Men step in, only when the women fall sick. Not otherwise. Let’s not forget the pain and discomfort that a menstruating woman or a girl might be facing. And what about the pregnant women or women and girls with disabilities. Imagine how hard must this task be for them! The Jal Jeevan Mission is fighting for the dignity of women, just like the Swachh Bharat Mission did.

Jal Jeevan Mission is about ensuring piped water supply to every household in the village. Both toilets and water play an important role in ensuring dignity for everyone, especially women.

Having access to safe and adequate water through individual household tap connections under JJM would mean that the women and girls can be free from the tension of spending hours daily for fetching water from long distances. They can use this time in so many more productive ways. For instance, the girls in school can study more peacefully knowing that there is no pressure to stand in a queue at the hand pump to fetch water. This is more important at the time of the Covid pandemic considering social distancing is highly important. Having a handwashing facility right next to their toilet with water supply to safely manage their menstrual absorbent material and wash their hands once they are done, without living in the fear of having to travel again to fetch water, would make menstrual hygiene management much easier for adolescent girls and women.

With all the time that will be saved, women can enroll themselves to actively participate in the village meetings and use this time to actually understand in-village water supply systems. They can hone their existing skills based out of their cultural heritage and monetize them thereby contributing to the rural economy. Financial independence will be great for their self-confidence because now they can become a financially contributing member of their family. Safe drinking water also means a reduction in the number of waterborne diseases which implies lesser money spent on doctors and medicines and lesser missed school days for children.

Self-Help Group members can be trained to test the quality of drinking water sources using Field Testing Kits so as to urgently alert the authorities about chemical or bacteriological contamination of the water source. Their capacity can be developed for conducting sanitary inspection- an on-site inspection of a water supply facility to identify actual and potential sources of microbiological contamination. The information can be used for deciding appropriate remedial action to improve or protect the drinking water source and supply system. Women to be trained to become masons, plumbers, motor mechanics, pump operators etc. for ensuring long term sustainability of the in-village water supply systems.

They say once you carry your own water, you will know the value of every drop. We already have hundreds of thousands of women in rural India who live this reality daily. They carry their own water and already know its value; about time they move a step forward and take charge of the operation and maintenance of the water supply systems in their respective villages. Let’s bring women and water together to rewrite our history. About time we change the narrative, isn’t it?
Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance: Role of local community

- Sumit Priyadarshi, Asst. Advisor, PHE, DDWS

Water is called universal solvent owing to its unique property to dissolve, to a certain extent, a broad spectrum of substances and microorganisms such as minerals, gases, bacteria, viruses and other leachates from the industrial waste, agriculture washouts, faecal contamination, etc. The state of sanitation, public health, menstrual hygiene, prevention and containment of spread of diseases and maintaining an overall healthy surrounding has a direct bearing on availability of safe and adequate water.

When summer approaches, the ground water level lowers down which results in failures of point water sources such as tube-wells, hand pumps, dug-wells due to lowered ground water table, sources completely dying up, mechanical fatigue of machinery due to over worked timings or mechanical wear and tear. When sources dry up completely, there is every possibility of increased concentration of geo-genic contamination in the aquifer. This calls for testing of water sources for chemical and microbiological contamination since it is expected to be highest during this time, especially in water quality hot-spots areas where previously threshold limits of geo-genic contamination have been reported. Since during summer, the pipes run dry, the intermittent wetting and drying promotes corrosion which in turn causes fissures and leakages. The leakages in the pipeline are a major cause of contamination besides wastage of water.

To prevent any possible outbreak of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases, chlorination as disinfection measure is adopted with higher doses than required leading to pungent odour of bleaching powder and gastric irritation and burning sensation. The in-sufficiency created during such hard times promotes ‘tendency to store’ water and to avoid the obvious agony of queuing up and fetching water. However, when drinking water is not stored safely, it increases health related risks.

When the summer/ drought spell is barely over, with the onset of the rainy season and in absence of proper management of solid, liquid and faecal waste management or due to improper managed water supply schemes or due to insanitary conditions, there is increased burden of water quality issues and related health aspects. The water supply schemes are therefore tested once before the monsoon and once after the monsoon for microbiological contamination to ensure that supply lines are free from coliforms/ enterobacteria.

Due to insufficient available human resources i.e. an average the lowest level of departmental staff in the RWSS department/ PHED has 100-150 villages under their jurisdiction, it is thus very difficult to attend to all the problems of all the villages simultaneously. Under such circumstances, the role of community holds the promise for water supply services to be monitored and operated on daily basis.

The best way is for the local community to play a key role. The people should be well informed about the possible sources and effect of the contamination and the local community may be oriented on conservation and protection measure as well as on periodical monitoring and surveillance through sanitary surveys. While water quality monitoring refers to routine and
systematic water quality testing in laboratories by Department, water quality surveillance refers to overseeing acceptable drinking water quality using Field Testing Kits (FTKs) and sanitary surveys. Sanitary survey is an 'on-site' examination of existing and potential quality risks and hazards in and around water supply system. FTK is a simple device for indicative or qualitative testing of water quality parameters such as hardness, pH, fluoride, chloride, nitrate, coliforms etc. The FTKs should be periodically used by the GPs/ VWSCs to assess the water quality at sources and delivery points.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, the GP and/ or its sub-committee such as VWSC/ Pani Samiti/ user group, etc. is required to identify, train and appoint 5 women from local community to conduct water quality testing using FTKs/ H2S vials and report the result. In case any parameters exceed their acceptable limit, the sample is referred to the water quality testing labs for confirmation. Under JJM, the community can also send the water to block/ sub-division or district lab for testing at a nominal rate. Further, to increase peoples’ participation in the mission, the State governments have been advised to engage polytechnic students/ degree college science students for water testing as part of their curriculum at nominal honorarium. The implementation support agencies to help the local community through various IEC/ BCC measures.

Since most of the domestic works related to water are done by women in rural areas, their participation in planning and implementation of water supply schemes as well as water quality monitoring and surveillance is of pivotal importance. The surveillance may not only be done for the piped water supply schemes but for the existing point sources as well. The group conducting water quality surveillance and sanitary surveys are to be well aware of the water supply network including existing/ old infrastructure. The risk factors may be assessed while carrying out the survey in consultations with the community and the observations brought out clearly for participatory discussion and necessary interventions in Gram Sabha. The results of the sanitary surveys and water quality surveillance are to be informed to the department for resolution and wide circulation along with a probable solution with a set time line.

As JJM has picked momentum, so has the strengthening/ upgradation of water quality testing laboratories and subsequent NABL accreditation to have international standards of testing and compliance. This is a new beginning towards bringing radical changes in the water quality testing by way of empowering the local community.

DID YOU KNOW

A Shower leaking at 10 Drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year
Our priority will be to provide FHTCs in all the SC/ST villages, DPAP and SAGY villages of Himachal Pradesh

- Shri Vikas Labroo, Secretary, Himachal Pradesh

**Tell us about the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the State of Himachal Pradesh.**

Out of the total 17.03 lakh households, 13.02 lakh households (76.44%) have tap water connections in Himachal Pradesh. In 2020-21, about 3.80 lakh FHTCs were provided and 3 districts, 11 blocks, 827 Panchayats and 7,540 villages were fully covered. Lahaul Spiti, Una and Kinnaur became 'Har Ghar Jal' districts. Under the 100-days campaign to ensure piped water supply in schools, AWCs and ashramshalas, Himachal Pradesh is one of the few States to complete the task.

Due emphasis has been given in water quality sector and 6 district level labs have got NABL accreditation so far. Remaining 8 district labs will get their accreditation shortly. Field test kits have been distributed in all Gram Panchayats for water quality surveillance activities by women.

**Ministry of Jal Shakti has released Rs 221 Crore as performance incentive grant to Himachal Pradesh? How do you perceive this kind of financial resources provided to the State?**

Government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to provide tap water connections to all the households by July 2022 soon after JJM was launched on 15th August 2019 by the Hon’ble Prime Minister. DPRs were prepared, tenders were finalized and now work on these schemes is at an advanced stage. Our priority will be to provide FHTCs in all the SC/ST villages, DPAP and SAGY villages this year. We also plan to achieve 100% coverage in the Aspirational district of Chamba in 2021-22. We are thankful to GoI that our performance has been appreciated and this incentive will motivate and enable us to achieve 100% coverage in priority areas.

**The State has ensured household tap water connection in Tashigang in Lahaul Spiti district, situated at about 15,000 feet above MSL. What is the plan ahead for other such tough terrains of the State?**

Tashigang, the highest polling station in the world at a height of 15,256 feet, has only six households. These were connected with taps running with potable water, in mid-August 2020. We are committed to providing FHTCs to all rural households of the State, no matter how remotely located they maybe. The State has already provided 100% FHTCs in the toughest districts i.e. Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti. The experience gained by us, will help us in executing the work in other tough areas like Chamba, which we plan to saturate this year.

**State has been working hard in implementing JJM amidst the challenges of tough terrain & climatic conditions, further compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic. How the State is planning to address water issues during the prevailing situation?**

Advance planning and timely procurement have enabled the State to overcome all these challenges. In Himachal Pradesh, there are many areas where the working season is limited,
advance preparation made there by keeping the men and material ready for deployment and working out the logistic before the working season. This ensures timely completion of the works. The State has also prepared a master plan to combat even a drought like situation so that there is no water scarcity.

**State is home to perennial water sources. How do you plan to use and revive the water sources for sustainability of water supply schemes to ensure regular & long-term water supply to rural households?**

Source sustainability is a very important component of water supply scheme. This is supplemented by converging with other programmes like MNREGS, LAD, etc. The SWSM under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary has issued specific directions to prepare a shelf of works to be executed by convergence with RDD under FC grants, MGNREGS & SBM (G), so that tied funds under the 15th Finance Commission grant to PRIs and other schemes for water & sanitation are utilized appropriately.

To ensure long term sustainability of the quantity and quality of water supplied, training is provided to the stakeholders on the various aspects of operation and maintenance of PWS schemes. Despite of Covid pandemic, 1,200 persons have been trained in rural areas in various skills, 5 women per GP are being identified and trained on water quality aspects, including use of FTKs. 16,243 women have been trained so far and women Groups have been formed and trained in 3,248 GPs. State government has taken a decision to train PRI functionaries on role of PRIs/ VWSCs in JJM, for which a plan is in place to train more than 28,000 PRI functionaries in next few months.

**What is level of community engagement in the State and how are you ensuring the village community to play a key role in implementation of JJM?**

Out of total 3,615 GPs in the State, Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) have been formed in 3,213 GPs. VWSCs in remaining GPs will be formed shortly. To ensure the involvement of the community, a special Gram Sabha meeting was convened on World Water Day i.e. 22nd March, 2021 throughout the State, wherein Village Action Plans were placed before the Gram Sabha for approval. 21 ISAs have been empaneled to ensure community participation, so that the beneficiaries have a sense of ownership and are ready the take over the O&M of the in-village water supply infrastructure.
In the morning hours the cacophony around water tankers in Kastunia village of Gujarat is now well replaced by the giggles and laughter of women & kids, as they carry on with their daily chores. The household have clean tap water connections now, and subsequently it has uplifted the quality of life of the womenfolk here. Jal Jeevan Mission has not only changed the daily life of villagers here, but also has acted catalyst in establishing a gender equal society here. The women of the village have improved health and leisure time, which is utilized by many in gaining financial independence and social recognition for them.

The village, owing to its hilly and uneven surface has ground water paucity despite being situated in the Valsad District of Gujarat, known as Cherapunji of South Gujarat. Few months back, summers used to be torturous here, especially for the womenfolk. Though the village has 3 open wells and 5 hand pumps, but in summers the ground water level dips considerably, resulting in drying up of water sources. Women and children used to travel at least one kilometre for water, that too in sweltering heat. Villagers also were highly dependent on the water tankers, supplied by State authority.

The situation of the village started taking a U-turn when the Sarpanch Mitaben Ishwarbhai Tumda started working towards the development of village. The Pani Samiti was formed in the village which got a survey conducted and after series of discussions amongst the villagers and hydrologists, the consensus was formed to bring water to the village through the new open well situated 1 Km away from the village area.

The Ground level near the open well is 99.79 mt. in which 20 Hp motor is installed and by 80 mm dia GI pipe of 1100 mt length, water is taken to 256.51 mt level to the sump, situated at 512 ft height. From the sump, ground level tank is filled and water is supplied to 141 Households through tap connections. The O&M of the scheme is done by WASMO and village authorities.

With the cohesive efforts of the villagers and State authorities, Kastuniya village has now have better water infrastructure and facilities.
It was quite challenging to collect water samples from Schools and Anganwadis during the lockdown” said Rabiul Islam, a water facilitator from Chowki Miradapur Gram Panchayat in Manikchak Block. The water facilitators or ‘Jal Bandhus’ as known in West Bengal, received formal training to take part in a special drive conducted during October-November 2020 across 146 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Malda, West Bengal.

In the context of Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent impact on water quality sample collection process, an analysis of the district’s most vulnerable water quality blocks was advocated by UNICEF to District Administration Malda. Available water quality test results in June 2020 were inadequate because of very less number of samples collected during lockdown. In this background, UNICEF coordinated a convergence meeting with line departments to address the development of a district wide water quality monitoring plan with special focus on Schools and Anganwadi centres in a special drive mode to identify most affected/vulnerable schools, Anganwadi centres and habitations with contaminated water sources, identify institutions with the highest affected drinking water sources as well as prepare a remedial action plan that can be integrated into annual Gram Panchayat planning process. This would thus facilitate a post pandemic safe drinking water access in schools and Anganwadi centres. The data analysis of the water quality test drive revealed that Kaliachak-I block was most affected with Iron and Arsenic, Kaliachak-III and Chanchal-I blocks were affected with Total coliforms and Ratua-I block was affected with E. coli following recommendations were provided by UNICEF to tackle the issues of contamination.

Improved planning for Water Quality Monitoring sample collection can be done by mapping of current status of water facilitators engaged at GP level, availability of necessary prerequisites like bicycle, ID-Card and smartphones so that they can effectively collect and geotag the water samples and sources, respectively, ensuring regular induction and refresher trainings and orientations, developing annual calendar for sample collection and testing and increase in coverage of water quality tests in schools, Anganwadi centres and habitations.

Information Education Communication (IEC)/ Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) for Water Quality Monitoring by strengthening community surveillance of sources, engagement with Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) and other community platforms, advocating for involvement of schools (higher secondary and science teachers) in surveillance and local testing of samples, orienting Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) in community Water Quality Monitoring and planning in Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPD) and development of awareness plans.

Long-term solutions to extend piped water connection to the schools, Anganwadi centres and habitations from the nearest Piped Water Supply Scheme, advocate with multiple Government Department of the District to include in their 15th Finance Commission grants at Zilla Parishad/ Panchayat Samity/ Gram Panchayat, convergence of funds to construct running safe water supply infrastructure in institutions and ensure its proper Operation & Maintenance. The mapping of schools and Anganwadi centres falling within the command area of PWS scheme will be conducted by PHED.

A remedial action plan was prepared and sent to the district administration for further action.

- Pragyan Bharti and Anwesa Dutta, UNICEF-West Bengal

Water Quality awareness drive in Schools and Anganwadis of Malda
Accreditation of water testing laboratories and surveillance by community

- Nagesh Patidar and Pankaj Mathur, UNICEF Field Office, Madhya Pradesh

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is under implementation with the aim to provide safe drinking water to rural households on regular basis in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality (BIS:10500). Water testing is important for monitoring the water supply, investigation of disease outbreaks, validation of process and taking preventing measures. Water quality testing tools needs to be used for deciding the quality of drinking water at source, within distribution system and at consumer level. Drinking water quality monitoring and surveillance are distinct, but closely related activities. PHED plays an important role in drinking water quality monitoring through its network of water testing laboratories and empowering communities in establishing community level water quality surveillance systems.

Madhya Pradesh has a network of 155 water testing laboratories working under PHED. It has one State level laboratories, 51 district level laboratories and 103 subdivision laboratories. These laboratories are supporting overall water quality monitoring across the State as per the JJM operational guidelines. Along with implementing the schedules for drinking water testing, these laboratories are open for common public for water testing on nominal fee.

Public Health Engineering Department in Madhya Pradesh embarked on the journey to strengthen overall performance of the existing water quality testing laboratories. The initiative focused on strengthening standard protocols and procedures for testing and feedback, build trust in testing/ calibration, enhanced service levels and improved confidence and satisfaction on reliability of water testing results. MP PHED along with UNICEF worked together to strengthen water quality testing laboratories across the State. In order to achieve standard service level, all the District Water Testing Laboratories were asked to get the accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). The NABL provides third party assessment of the quality and technical competence of testing and calibration laboratories. NABL accreditation of Water Testing Lab provides the status of testing results internationally acceptable.

The key interventions resulting in improvements of WQMS in Madhya Pradesh are as follows:

- **Strengthening Standard Operating Procedures and protocols for water quality monitoring**: PHED has developed and finalized the standards and specification for consumables such as glassware and chemicals to facilitate the unified procurement. This enabled smooth and uninterrupted supply.

- **Strengthening capacities of PHED functionaries**: Capacity building of key functionaries including lab technicians, engineers and sample collectors were taken up by PHED. Four-day training of laboratories functionaries organized focusing on water quality parameters, standards and procedures in laboratory. This resulted in accreditation on State Water Quality Research Laboratory, Bhopal and District Laboratory, Ratlam. This accreditation led to confidence of State and scale up. Subsequently, in November 2017, ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was launched and State initiated the large-scale capacity building with the objective to upgrade the quality monitoring procedures across the State.
Laboratory based gap assessments and improvement planning: Comprehensive gap assessment and improvement planning template was developed, and laboratory wise gap assessment and planning completed for all the laboratories in the areas of manpower, infrastructure and resources. The assessment also facilitated State and District level actions for improvement of services within laboratories and also focused on the need for updating of standards and procurement procedures.

Handholding support for procedures and documentation: State level technical resource group and zonal level officers deployed expert lab functionaries, officials and technical consultant provided by UNICEF. This expert group provided handholding support to laboratories in improvement of services, infrastructures, procedures and documentation. The supervision also provided opportunity to advocate at district level for resource mobilization and enhance sampling and feedback at community level.

Face to face dialogue with NABL to build confidence of PHED functionaries: One day face to face dialogue organized with CEO, NABL and Additional Chief Secretary, PHED, MP on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 to encourage the PHED functionaries for NABL accreditation in a bid to maintain the standards of water quality monitoring across State. This workshop provided opportunities to over 80 PHED functionaries in directly getting clarity on accreditation procedures and more importantly raising practical issues.

Connecting water quality monitoring by laboratories and water quality surveillance at community level: PHED focused on linking water quality surveillance at community level and water testing at laboratories. Community members especially women and VWSC members are being skilled across State. State is focusing on promoting use of Field-Testing Kits at villages level and refer the positively tested samples to the nearby water quality testing laboratory for confirmation; sanitary inspections to identify factors associated with drinking water that may pose a risk to health. Various awareness programmes at schools, AWCs are being organized across State on water quality.

Sustained efforts and initiative led to implementation of lab improvement plans across 50 district level laboratories successfully completed proficiency testing in 94% parameters. As State level lab and District Lab Ratlam were already accredited; additional 25 District Labs accredited to NABL protocols by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021, the highest number achieved by any State in a year.

Madhya Pradesh continues its focus on sustaining the water quality monitoring through achieving high standards in water testing and bringing credibility of lab functioning for general public to achieve access to safe water for all. Community empowerment for water quality surveillance, safety of source and water safety behavior at household level are big steps forward under Jal Jeevan Mission in the State.
Three teams from National JJM visited districts of Chittoor, Prakasam and East Godaveri in Andhra Pradesh during 15-19 March, 2021 to assist the State team in resolving key issues, understanding ground situation and finding best practices. The teams visited 16 villages in these districts to observe the village schemes, water treatment plants, planning of State for coverage of tap water connections to rural homes, etc. The touring teams observed that the progress in the State is appreciable after the month of November. Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCCs) were formed in the villages with active women participation in which meetings are conducted at regular intervals and proceeding of the same is properly maintained. It was noted that the training programmes for skill development is in progress and village people are actively participating in those programmes. Besides, FTK testing is regularly conducted in villages by trained female members. State has involved multidisciplinary staff at village level and has appointed third party monitoring agency to check the quality of works. The teams urged the State to take up works of retrofitting/ augmentation of existing water supply schemes to provide household tap water connections to remaining households in these areas.

A six-member team of National Jal Jeevan Mission visited 3 districts of State of Chhattisgarh during 23-26 March, 2021. 23 villages and 2 labs across 3 districts of Raipur, Durg and Mahasamund were visited by the NJJM teams. The purpose of the visit was to have discussion with district officials about planning of FHTCs and PWS coverage for 100% saturation, support activities, training and capacity building of stakeholders, IMIS related issues, etc. The team toured the villages/habitations and interacted with Gram Panchayats/ VWSCCs members, village community as well as PHED officials with focus on community participation and institutional arrangements for the implementation of JJM works. The team also sensitized the district officials about immediate provision of piped water supply in schools, Anganwadi centers and ashramshalas.

### Did You Know?

Don’t keep the tap running while washing clothes/ utensils

Saves more than 50 Litres per day
UNOPS organizes 6-day training programme in Uttar Pradesh for field level functionaries

A 6-day capacity building programme was organized by UNOPS at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh for the programme implementers on planning, source sustainability, recharge, reuse through grey water management, rain water harvesting and other aspects of Jal Jeevan Mission.

3 national, 3 State and 14 district consultants participated in the training programme held at Sahbhaghi Shikshan Trust. Shri Simon Apelblat, Environment Counsellor from Royal Danish Embassy gave the inaugural address. Experts from WASMO, Water Aid, Knowledge Links and UNOPS along with former PHED officials led various sessions covering strategy for planning and implementation, institutional mechanism needed to support implementation of JJM, financial planning, technological intervention based on region specific requirement, water quality surveillance & monitoring, evaluation, etc.

During the 6-day training programme, a session was held on water security and sustainability explaining the participants on worsening water situation in the country with special focus on water scarce Bundelkhand and Vindhayachal region. A session was devoted on community involvement in grey water management so that water coming out of every household is used in plantation and ground water recharge to help address the depleting water level.

The concept of Jal Chaupal was explained in detail to the participants on to use it as a tool for introducing water budgeting technique and assessment of water security amongst the community. Use of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) as a tool for data collection was explained to the trainees. Later the participants were divided in groups and assigned to carry out a mapping exercise using these two tools.

A specific session on water quality testing at all quality-affected regions was explained in detail. A demonstration using Field Test Kits was held to undertake testing of all water sources and delivery points both pre and post monsoon as mandated under the JJM guidelines.

Mr Vinod Mishra, WASH head, UNOPS India took a session on “Attitude, Behaviour and Action Planning”, while Mr Robert Chambers took a virtual session on “Learnings from the past as a development professional”. Crucial role of Village Water & Sanitation Committee at community level was discussed and how the sub-committee at Panchayat level acts as a catalyst in pre-planning, planning, implementation and post-implementation phase. The training ended with distribution of certificates to all the participants.

The training at this juncture is crucial as Jal Jeevan Mission embarks on its third year journey of implementation. Capacity building of ground level functionaries is very important and much needed to help the States/UTs achieve the target as planned.
Jal Jeevan Mission: Ushering a social revolution

Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, speaking at a webinar organized by BRICS International Forum, a civil organization, highlighted the role of BRICS nations in resolving common issues like lack of access to safe drinking water. Shri Kataria cited example of Cape Town, South Africa, which became the first major city to run out of water in 2017-18. He mentioned about Brazil where around 3 million population still lack access to safe drinking water. Russia on the other hand has 1/4th of the world’s fresh surface water and ground water resources and provides 248 lpcd water to its residents for domestic use.

Shri Kataria added that the ongoing pandemic has exacerbated the existential global crisis like hunger poverty and water scarcity. He termed providing safe drinking water to people as an inescapable duty of any Government and also a Human Right as enshrined in UNGA resolution 64/292.

Shri Kataria informed that realizing the true importance of providing access to assured and safe drinking water to each rural household, Government of India, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, launched an ambitious programme to cover all rural households with piped water supply by 2024. The total outlay of Rs 3.60 lakh Crore (48 billion US$). Shri Kataria informed that in a short span of 1 and a half years, India has provided over 40 million tap water connections to rural homes. At this pace, it is expected to meet the ambitious target of covering all rural households well within the time limit.

The MoS Jal Shakti added that the outcome of Jal Jeevan Mission cannot be limited to providing tap water connections to households as it is ushering a social revolution as every household - irrespective of caste, creed or religion is getting adequate water following an inclusive approach. It is reducing the drudgery of women who used to travel long distances to get water for their families. In fact, village level committees have been constituted for making plans for augmenting water supply for their respective villages. 50% participation has been ensured for women in such committees. This will empower women to take important decisions linked with water management.

The mission includes a huge investment in water network infrastructure like pipes, taps, water pumps, storage tanks, etc. and as such will create a huge demand for skilled/ semi-skilled workforce like masons, plumbers, electricians, pump operators, etc.

Shri Kataria mentioned that India is ready to share its experience with other developing nations. He also called upon the BRICS Nations for sharing the innovative and best practices being followed in water sector both at the Government level as well as amongst the civil organizations. This will sensitize people towards judicious use of water and to develop efficient water management practices. In the end, he termed BRICS as an association of emerging economies, with considerable regional influence, and built upon the principles of equality, trust, mutual understanding.

The webinar was attended by Prof Prince William Mishiki, Hon’ble Minister of Dr. Congo, Yulia Berg Co-Founder of The International Business Acceleration Centre, Russia, Purnima Anand President, BRICS International Forum President, International Federation For Indo-Russian Youth Club, Volker Tschapke Consultant for Foreign Trade Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade Global Economic Trade (Germany) amongst others. India is the chair country of the 13th conference in the BRICS summit and is committed to the common goals uniting the BRICS countries.
Jal Jeevan Mission has captured the imagination of the whole country through its achievement in terms of provision of clean drinking water in rural homes, thereby improving their lives. While announcing the mission, PM Narendra Modi appealed all to make ‘water everyone’s business.

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
during budget session of the Parliament