



सत्यमेव जयते

सत्यव्रत साहु, आई.ए.एस.  
संयुक्त सचिव  
*Satyabrata Sahu, I.A.S.*  
Joint Secretary

भारत सरकार  
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मंत्रालय  
Government of India  
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
B-2 Wing, 4th Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003  
Tel. : 24361043 Fax : 24364113  
E-mail : jstm@nic.in  
Website : www.ddws.nic.in  
D.O. No. 11015/3/2015-WQ  
Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Sub: Review by Hon'ble Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Performance of Coverage of Water Quality Affected Habitations.

-X-

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation reviewed the performance of coverage of water quality affected habitations and had directed the Ministry to advise States / UTs to improve their performances and provide safe drinking water in all water quality affected habitations at the earliest possible time.

2. \* You are aware that about 3.6 crore rural population are at risk of consuming drinking water contaminated chemically with fluoride, arsenic, iron, salinity or nitrate in 63,282 rural habitations as on date. Out of these, 86 lakh people in 11,309 rural habitations are at risk due to excess fluoride and about 25 lakh people are at risk of consuming arsenic rich water in 1,482 rural habitations. Since these two contaminants are highly detrimental to human health, highest priority has to be accorded to provide safe drinking water in these habitations.

3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has identified 60 high priority Japanese Encephalitis (JE) / Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) districts in 5 States namely Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. You are aware that a large number of children are dying due to these severe bacteriological / viral problems. Therefore, equal priority has to be accorded to provide safe drinking water in these affected districts also.

4. Adding to the woes, more than 12,000 rural habitations are emerging with various problems of heavy metals like uranium, lead, aluminum and chromium, etc. and many of these are carcinogenic and therefore warrant immediate provision of safe drinking water in these water quality affected habitations.

Contd...2/-

5. It is seen that during the past few years, the targets given for coverage of water quality affected habitations were never met due to various reasons. In view of the above, you are requested to direct the concerned officials / engineers to take immediate necessary action in providing piped water supply from safe surface water bodies and in the meantime, States/UTs may also consider commissioning community water purification plants so that at least 8 to 10 liters per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water for drinking and cooking purposes will be available to all the affected rural people immediately.

6. Last but not the least, I solicit comprehensive action plan from your end with freezed time-lines of implementation for coverage of water quality affected rural habitations with safe drinking water.

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
7/5/15  
(Satyabrata Sahu)

**All Principal Secretaries / Secretaries  
in-charge of Rural Drinking Water Supply Programmes**

**Copy also to:**

- 1) Sr. TD (NIC), MDWS, New Delhi – with a request to upload into MDWS Website prominently.

  
7/5/15