

W-11011/10/2015-O/o JS (W&A)
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation

4th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003

Date: 22nd June, 2018

To,
The Principal Secretary / Secretaries
In-charge of Drinking Water Supply,
All States & UTs

Subject: - Change in role of Area Officer allocated to States.

Sir / Madam,

I am directed to refer to letter of even no. dated 16.05.2018 of this Ministry regarding the above mentioned subject and to draw your kind attention towards the proposed changes in the nomination and role of Area Officer of this Ministry.

Initially, only the technical officers of this Ministry were used to be nominated as Area Officer. Later on, for some time / period all the officers of level of Under Secretary & above of this Ministry were nominated as Area Officers irrespective of division / experience / expertise. However again, Ministry nominated only technical officers as Area Officers and this practice is in vogue at present.

The role of an Area officer of a State is to coordinate the progress of NRDWP in the state, compliance of NRDWP guidelines & various subsequent instructions in this regard, examine the proposal proposals submitted for the recommendation / appraisal and to function as a member of SLSSC. The Area Officer is also required to brief the officers of the Ministry regarding status of rural drinking water supply. He is used to be a link of the Ministry for that state.

Before submitting the scheme proposals to SLSSC for administrative approval by the competent authority (generally Secretary level officer heading the department of rural water supply in the state), the DPR / proposal got approved by State level technical committee. After SLSSC also, the scheme is required to be approved by competent financial authority of the state. In the SLSSC, representation of various concerned State departments is already there. Role of Area Officer is to see that instructions / guidelines of NRDWP are being complied while sanctioning the schemes.

In last one year, IMIS has started capturing various scheme level details like milestone based physical progress and facilitating report of scheme level financial progress. NRDWP has been restructured and various clear instructions have been issued by this Ministry in this regard to the States. With these changes and further the sector is being a state subject, it is proposed that Ministry Officials / Consultants may not be a part of SLSSC. However, in case States want to avail flexi-fund facility as per MoF OM dated 06.09.2016, Area Officer will participate in the SLSSC. If SLSSC meeting is convened, the role of Area Officer would be limited to approval for the flexi-fund only. However, Area Officer will continue to perform following functions:

- to carry out scheme-wise review of NWQSM.
- to coordinate the progress of NRDWP in the state and assess compliance of NRDWP guidelines & various subsequent instructions, in this regard, based on field visits and IMIS data uploaded by

the States.

- to function as a member of SLSSC for flexi fund only (as per Guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance vide O.M. dated 06.09.2016.
- to brief various officials regarding status of rural drinking water supply in assigned State by giving a monthly report.

In view of the above, it is hereby requested that all the all above changes may be complied with immediate effect.

This issues with the approval of Secretary (DWS).

Yours sincerely,



(Subrata Sanyal)

Under Secretary to Govt. of India

Copy to (for information):-

1. PPS to Secretary (DWS)
2. PS to DG (SP-SBM), PS to JS (SBM), PS to JS (W), PS to JS (Coord.), PS to DDG (Stats.)
3. All Area officers through e-office