

September 28, 2012

JICA Press Release

Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Nagaur)

(a) Background and Necessity

In India, the ratio of people who have access to safe water has improved from 72 percent in 1990 to 88 percent in 2008. Steady progress has been made toward the objective of providing sustainable access to drinking water throughout India. However, development of water source and water supply facilities has not kept up with the rise in water demand associated with the population growth and economic development. This results in excess dependency on groundwater, and discontinuous and unstable water supply is a constant challenge. Furthermore, in some areas, the groundwater contains substances harmful to the human body such as fluoride and arsenic, greatly exceeding the standard provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines for drinking water quality.

Located in Northwestern India, State of Rajasthan has an annual rainfall of 531 millimeters, less than the national average in India (1,200 millimeters). The groundwater has been over exploited due to the limited availability of surface water, resulting in a chronic ground water shortage. In Nagaur District (population: approximately 3.31 million) of State of Rajasthan, the main source of water supply is groundwater which invariably does not conform to WHO standards as it contains excess of fluoride. Despite its unsuitability, residents are forced to use the groundwater for drinking due to a lack of other water resources, resulting in problems such as dental and skeletal fluorosis among them. A survey in 2010 found that approximately 34 percent of children in the district between the ages of six and fourteen had fluorosis. About 80 percent of the population in the district does not have access to safe water, placing the district as having one of the most dire water shortages in the state.

(b) Objective and Summary

Under Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Nagaur), water supply facilities will be constructed that use water drawn from the Indira Gandhi Canal and fluorosis mitigation measures will be implemented to people in Nagaur District. The project will provide safe and adequate drinking water supply to people suffering from acute scarcity of potable water and ground water which is heavily contaminated by fluoride, thereby reducing hardship and improving the health and quality of life.

Loan funds will be allocated to constructing water supply facilities, implementing awareness campaign and strengthening the diagnosis capacity of medical personnel, as well as being allocated to consulting services.

(c) Executing agency

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Rajasthan
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(d) Planned implementation schedule

(i) Completion of project: May 2017 – when the facilities are put into service

(ii) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services (including construction monitoring):
November 2012

(iii) Tender announcement of initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction:

Procurement package titles: Construction of Water Treatment Plant, Transmission Main and Introduction of SCADA System

Release date: November 2013