

W-11020/03/2013-Water(NRDWP)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

9<sup>th</sup> floor, Paryavaran Bhawan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi 110003  
Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013

To,  
Shri H. K. Borah  
Secretary  
Public Health Engineering Department  
Government of Assam  
Block B, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Secretariat Complex, Dispur  
Guwahati 781 006.

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held on 25.2.2013 at Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi to discuss NRDWP Annual Action Plan- 2013-14 in respect of Assam

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to send a copy of minutes of the meeting held to discuss NRDWP Annual Action Plan- 2013-14 in respect of Assam on 25.2.2013 at Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi for further necessary action.

Yours Faithfully

  
(Kamal Pandey)  
Deputy Director ( Stats)

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. Director( Water)
2. Technical Director ( NIC) for hosting the minutes on Ministry's website.

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**  
**W-11020/03/2013/NRDWP/Water**

**Minutes of the Meeting on NRDWP Annual Action Plan 2013-14 (Assam)**

1. A meeting to discuss NRDWP Annual Action Plan (2013-14) of Assam State was held on 25.02. 2013 on 12th Floor, Conference Hall, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Shri T. M. Vijay Bhaskar, Joint Secretary-Water, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (GoI). Assam State was represented by a delegation led by Chief Engineers (PHE), Asst. Engineer and Deputy Secretary PHED of Assam. The detailed list of the participants is annexed.

**A. Physical Progress:**

Total number of rural habitations in State	Target (as marked into IMIS for 2012-13 )	Habitations reported covered (during 2012-13)	Target as per AAP 2013-14	
			Quality Affected	Not Quality Affected
<b>59,575</b>	<b>7,230</b>	<b>4038 ( as on 13/02/2013)</b>  Anticipated habitations by 31.03.13 is <b>6441</b>	<b>3125</b>	<b>4178</b>

As per Census, 2011 Report in 20.4 % villages, atleast 10 households are situated more than 500 metres away from drinking water source. JS (water) asked Assam to look at the block wise figures. Census data also reported that 18 percent wells in the State are uncovered wells, which need to be covered. **The State to focus covering the public wells and IEC for private wells.** During review JS (Water) highlighted that the progress of Assam needs to be improved as far as RFD achievements are concerned. The Director (Water) said they should attempt to achieve the targets otherwise the RFD score would be low.

**B. Financial Progress :**

Joint Secretary (Water) informed that Assam's tentative allocation for 2013-14 will be about Rs. 563 crore. For 2012-13, the total allocation of the State is Rs. 525.71 crore out of

which 14 crore is for MDI allocation. JS, (water) asked the State to consider transfer of funds to Gram Panchayat for O&M. As the State has not transferred funds to GPs, their MDI allocation is low. Director, Water asked the State to provide UC for at least 60 per cent of WQ earmarked fund so that second installment can be released. Assam has already placed demand for the second installment of Support funds.

### **C. Water Quality**

JS, Water appreciated the approach of Assam to cover quality-affected habitations, as it is well-planned and balanced with equal attention towards both Arsenic and Fluoride. Assam is using surface piped water supply in place of underground water in contamination affected areas. Regarding coverage of schools, State said that availability of filters is low in schools and remote areas so piped water is a better proposition.

Shri. Dinesh Chand (Additional Advisor) suggested that the State go in for regular water tests to monitor water contamination. JS, Water suggested that State should stick to BIS standards for water quality testing. The representatives from Assam said that some schools have installed Iron removal plants under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In the areas where iron is present in higher quantity, hand pumps become heavy as a result, children find it difficult to operate them especially in lower primary schools. Most of the areas in Assam suffer from iron contamination.

### **D. Minority Affected habitations**

There are about 13 Minority Concentrated Districts in Assam. JS, Water observed that the targets in Minority Concentrated Districts are low. 3413 habitations have been targeted in Minority Concentrated Districts in 2013-14. In 2012-13 period 1540 habitations have been covered against the target of 2758 habitations. State has to update the figures on the IMIS

### **E. School drinking water supply coverage**

As per DISE, the total number of Govt. rural schools to be provided with water supply was 1986; State has covered 194 schools till January/Feb end. As per IMIS, during 2013-14, 10066 Anganwadis have to be provided with water supply.

### **F. Sustainability**

The target for Sustainability structures in RFD is 2117, and the State has reported achievement of 1435. The target for next year is 2230 structures. The State's achievement in the current year would be about 60-70 per cent.

### **G. Support Activities**

State has not transferred funds to Gram Panchayats as yet. The State has Water User Committees, as VWSCs are mostly active in the sanitation sector. State sought a permission to release funds to Water User Committee though they are not linked to GPs. State has to rationalise the system of public participation, so that the provision of the NRDWP Guideline are satisfied. There should be a link between Water User Committees and GPs as per NRDWP Guidelines.

Director, Water said that State needs to implement a system through which Utilization Certificate for any kind of expenditure can be easily obtained. JS, (water) suggested that O&M funds could be given to Block panchayats and that State should provide manpower support, trained pump mechanics and training of at least 2-3 people at the block level, so as to facilitate participation. **Assam promised to consider this suggestion once the Panchayat elections are over.**

JS said that most States have handed over O&M of hand pumps to Gram Panchayats. He said that State can hold capacity building trainings to be followed by funds transfer. Assam has conducted 280 Block level trainings and 72 song and drama based programmes at the District level. In addition, they have conducted 34 street plays and organized 136 fairs (mela). These are to be entered on the IMIS.

Explaining the details of the 'Others' category mentioned in the target of training of 65186, representatives from Assam clarified that the others comprise of VWSC functionaries training, State level trainings, IMIS online data entry trainings, lab persons training, regional workshops, zonal and interstate exposure visits, development and printing of training modules, competitions amongst school children summing up to a total of 65186.

JS, Water appreciated Assam's lab testing targets but found their achievements in the current year were not clear. He requested the State to enter the targets and achievements in IMIS, clearly. The State is using FTKs, however, in the last year no refills were provided for FTKs. Refills have now been obtained and the State will be achieving FTK testing targets. State has reported to have trained only 3000 grass root level workers against the target of 33000.

Assam has completed collection of GPS coordinates of drinking water sources for 2 -3 blocks. JS, Water said that Assam has more than one lakh sources and GPS coordinates should be collected for all sources. Assam said that the process has already started and departmental agencies are doing it.

Regarding Sustainability structures, Shri. Sudhindra Mohan Sharma, NRC Consultant shared that State is doing good work. They have collected data for the HGM maps and have

taken 20 to 40 GPS coordinates per topographic sheet, which is a good number. They are doing the work but not entering the same into the IMIS

Regarding staffing, Assam officials shared that 92 per cent Block Level Engineers posts are filled and are functioning as regular employees.

JS, Water informed that Rs. 75 could now be given to ASHA worker for motivating people to take house connections and Rs. 75 for toilet construction as incentive. He requested the State officials to start an IEC campaign to inform ASHA workers about the Incentive. Further, he asked the State to issue a joint letter from the Health and Drinking Water Supply Department informing everyone about the provisions.

### **I. Census 2011**

As per Census, 2011 report Assam has more than 18 percent uncovered wells. Assam officials explained that in most cases, households have their own private source or wells.

### **Points raised by the State**

- I. The State highlighted the point of raising the remuneration of Block Coordinators. They shared that Haryana is paying 15000 rupees out of their Support funds. They were informed that this matter is under review.
- II. Representative from Assam said that Manganese affected habitations should also be included among chemically contaminated habitations.

### **Important Action Points for the State:**

- I. State will have a tentative allocation of Rs. 563.53 crores in 2013-14 of which 9.41 per cent is for SCSP and 13.59 per cent for TSP.
- II. State needs to focus on covering uncovered public wells by identifying target habitations for covering all the public wells.
- III. State should mark the targeted habitations online by 15.04.2013 to facilitate release of first installment.
- IV. State should plan to provide running water supply or ground level tank near school toilets with taps. State to add targets for rural schools to be provided with running water supply in 2013-14 in the Annual Action Plan.
- V. Assam has to train about 5200 VWSC members in 2013-14
- VI. State to conduct at least 2 lakh water quality tests in lab and sub divisional labs.
- VII. There are 165 incomplete schemes. These be completed on a priority.

- VIII. At least two people to be trained in each Gram Panchayat and all 2580 GPs to be covered. A target of 5000 for training for 2013-14 was fixed. State should adopt conjoint effort in training of grass root workers for water and sanitation. Every training should have exposure visit component.
- IX. Data regarding Sustainability Structure needs to be updated on IMIS
- X. State to conduct Refresher trainings for 2 Grassroot level workers on FTK testing i.e. total 5160. Training on using FTKs should take place prior to the distribution of FTKs refills.
- XI. State should expedite according administrative sanction to all the projects/schemes taken under NRDWP after SLSSC approval. Time gap (after SLSSC approval) should not exceed 2 and half months.
- XII. Uncovered wells, untreated water from PWSS/taps or any other drinking water sources which are contaminated must be treated before supplying drinking water.
- XIII. PWSS coverage should be expanded to reach the goal of 50 per cent household coverage by 2017 and individual tap connections should be increased to reach the goal of 30 percent household coverage by 2017.
- XIV. State should get Water and Energy audit done for large water supply schemes.
- XV. State may conduct a workshop on training of HGM maps after June 2013
- XVI. Defunct bore wells should be converted as recharging structures.
- XVII. State may try to cover institutional buildings like schools, health centres, Panchayat offices, etc. with roof water harvesting in 2013-14 under NRDWP (Sustainability). State should revive traditional water bodies using sustainability fund
- XVIII. State should install bulk meters in PWS schemes.
- XIX. State was asked to conduct quality testing survey to determine extent of Manganese contamination of water affecting health. This could be done using WQMS activities fund.
- XX. State was requested to start an IEC campaign to inform ASHA workers about the Incentive of Rs. 75 for motivating people to take house connections
- XXI. State was suggested to transfer O&M funds to Block Panchayats.
- XXII. State should provide manpower support, trained pump mechanics and training to at least 2-3 people at the block level to facilitate participation.
- XXIII. State needs to update the figure of coverage of Minority concentrated districts on the IMIS and cover at least 50 per cent of the target in these districts (since they are 50 per cent total districts in State)
- XXIV. State should regularly conduct water tests to monitor water contamination.
- XXV. As per Census, 2011 Report in 20.4 % villages at least 10 households are situated more than 500 metres away from the drinking water source. JS Water asked Assam to look at the village wise figures. Census data also reported that 18 percent wells in the State are uncovered wells, which need to be covered.

XXVI. State should complete taking GPS Coordinates of all public sources in 2013-14.

**The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair**

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### List of Participants

S. No.	Name	Designation	Official Address	Email	Mobile/Telephone
1.	T.M. Vijay Bhaskar	Joint Secretary, Water	MDWS		+919436120036
2.	Sujoy Majumdar	Director, Water	MDWS		
3.	Dinesh Chand	Additional Advisor	MDWS	d.chand@nic.in	
4.	Sudhir Prasad	Additional C.S.	DWS, Guwahati		+919434316817
5.	B.H. Laskar	C.E. (PHE)	C.E. (PHE) Assam	asphe@rediffmail.com	+919435048903
6.	K.C. Sut	Additional C.E. (PHE)	CPHE, Assam	Kamal.sut11@gmail.com	+919435035265
7.	S.K. Barua	Deputy Secretary	Dispur, Guwahati		+919864097409
8.	R.K. Sarmah	C.E. (PHE) (B&S)	Guwahati, Assam		+919435064302
9.	P.P. Baruah	AE (PHE), WSSO	Director, WSSO, Guwahati-35	Pp_barua@yahoo.co.in	
10.	Anisur Rahman	NRC- Consultant	MDWS		+918882983667
11.	Gangadhar Murugan	NRC- Consultant	MDWS		
12.	S M Sharma	NRC- Consultant	MDWS		+919873230443
13.	Jyotsna	Gender Consultant	MDWS		
14.	Sandhya Singh	Joint Director, IEC	MDWS	sandhya.singh@nic.in	+917838115499
15.	R.L.Mathur	Assistant Advisor	MDWS	ram.lal.mathur@gmail.com	+919871036792