

W-11020/17/2014-NRDWP-(Water)
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

9th floor, Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi 110003
Dated: //April, 2014


To,
Shri P. W. Ingty
Commissioner and Secretary
Public Health Engineering Department
Government of Meghalaya
Raitong Building, Secretariat Hill
Shillong 793 001

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held on 6/3/2014 at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss NRDWP Annual Action Plan- 2014-15 in respect of Meghalaya

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to send a copy of minutes of the meeting held to discuss NRDWP Annual Action Plan- 2014-15 in respect of Meghalaya on 6/3/2014 at Nirman Bhawan, 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.

Minutes of the Meeting to discuss the NRDWP Annual Action Plan 2014-15 of Meghalaya State

1. A meeting to discuss NRDWP Annual Action Plan (2014-15) of Meghalaya State was held on March 06, 2014 in the Office of Secretary-Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (GoI), Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary-Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (GoI). The list of the participants is annexed.
2. It was informed to the State of Meghalaya that keeping in view the presently communicated allocation for NRDWP during 2014-15 to the Ministry, the State will have a tentative allocation of Rs. 74.43 crore (based on the criteria prescribed in NRDWP guidelines). This allocation excludes Management Devolution Index based on Incentive funding and the same will be communicated after evaluation. The exact allocation will be communicated to the State in the month of April 2014.
3. The gist of the discussion is as follows:
 - I. Secretary-MDWS advised the officials of Meghalaya State to obtain latest copy of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) issued by Election Commission of India and the State Government, for Lok Sabha elections-2014 and, should ensure that implementation of NRDWP is not hampered due to this reason and all those activities, which don't require clearance from Election Commission, are implemented in time.
 - II. Secretary (MDWS) also enquired about the pesticide testing facilities in Meghalaya State and whether the testing is being conducted for pesticides. Shri R.K. Pandey, Addl. Chief Engineer, Meghalaya, informed that the State has all the facilities for pesticide testing and the tests for the same are also being conducted. Secretary-MDWS directed the officials to send a copy of test reports of Pesticides to the Ministry. During the course of discussions, it emerged that there is no separate State level drinking water analysis laboratory in Meghalaya for rural areas and the laboratory actually belongs to Urban water supply Department. Secretary-MDWS directed the officials of the Ministry to work in the area of pesticide analysis in States in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture and suggested to explore accreditation of laboratories in consultation with Quality Council of India.
 - III. It emerged during the course of discussions that about 50-100 villages / habitations in Jaintia Hills District are facing acute drinking water shortage in their areas due to acid rock drainage and other water quality problems and therefore bringing

drinking water through tankers from sources which are far away, say, about 10 kilometers. It was given to understand that the local people are willing to pay for household service connection and monthly water tariff, provided they get individual household connection, hence PHE Department should plan to go for surface water based drinking water supply schemes providing household service connections. These have to be taken up on priority basis during 2014-15. Jaintia Hills is bestowed with good coal reserves but illegal / rat-hole mining are posing threat to drinking water sources due to acid rock drainage. PHE-Meghalaya should accelerate testing of drinking water quality in these areas by establishing fully functional District and Sub-Divisional laboratories. Apart from construction of building, all equipment, chemicals, hiring of manpower etc. is fully funded under the NRDWP-WQMS component. JS (Water), observed that it is ironical that in era of high technological advancement in the country, people are still compelled to travel long distance to access drinking water. Officers from the State informed that the people residing in these areas are generally well-off and they can pay for household connection and water tariff. Also, there are ongoing schemes for 25 such rural habitations. **JS (Water) said that State must provide drinking water in all these rural habitations in 2014-15. State should also verify and categorize the status of Partially Covered (PC), Fully Covered (FC) and Quality Affected habitations properly as per guidelines of NRDWP.**

- IV. It is a known fact that Cherrapunji is one of the wettest areas in the world with an annual rainfall of more than 10,000mm. However, the slope and aspect of the local topography are so steep that rain water is lost in surface run-off very quickly. It was informed that about 100 villages, in these areas are facing acute drinking water problems. A proposal for construction of an arch/masonry dam and providing drinking water through piped water scheme have been given in-principle clearance by the State level scheme Sanctioning Committee. Yet, factors like construction of dam by the Water Resources Department, seeking environment, forests and other clearances, getting permission from various headmen of villages for laying of pipelines in villages etc. are yet to be done. In case controlling flow of surface water which is otherwise flowing to a neighboring country is involved, PHE-Meghalaya is required to take approval/clearance of Ministry of Water Resources. State may like to take a review of this project and probably like to send a proposal to this Ministry for any external funding, if desired so & after preliminary clearances, especially from Ministry of Water Resources. Otherwise, State may also like to provide funds for this scheme from the State resources as the annual allocation of Central share of Meghalaya state under NRDWP is only about Rs.70 crore.

- V. Secretary-MDWS, observed that he would take up implementation of important issues of NRDWP (such as water quality problems linked to mining activities, incomplete schemes due to political reasons etc) in the State with Chief Secretary of the State. He directed the officials of the Ministry to put up the file immediately.
- VI. Physical and Financial progress of the State in utilizing NRDWP Support funds, and WQMS is low (< 60 %). Officials from the State said that the State would definitely utilize NRDWP-WQMS funds till 31st March 2014.
- VII. Secretary-MDWS enquired about the activities of the State in conducting IEC activities. Shri R.K. Pandey, Addl. Chief Engineer, PHED-Meghalaya informed that IEC activities were conducted using TV, Video etc in local and English language. Secretary-MDWS directed the officials to give a copy of all audio-visual spots developed and disseminated during 2013-14.
- VIII. As per the information available in the Ministry, ST and SC percentage population in Meghalaya State is 90.20 % and 0.48 % respectively. Ministry also advised the State to obtain complete latest information of Minority status from Ministry of Minority Affairs. State was also advised to indicate targets and revise the AAP Format for the same accordingly for 2014-15.
- IX. JS (Water), MDWS, observed that the State should give equal focus on all components of NRDWP and not only to the NRDWP-Programme Funds. He said that funds would not be released to the State from next year onwards if they do not perform satisfactory on other components apart from Coverage.
- X. State shall follow NRDWP Guidelines in letter & Spirit and shall not violate any provision of the Guideline. This was made clear to the State as the Ministry has observed that some of the States have taken fully covered habitations as a target in 2013-14 and, are not giving priority to partially covered habitations and water quality affected habitations.
- XI. State should ensure that NRDWP Sustainability Funds are spent on sustainability of sources, and not on supply/procurement of pipes and pumps which are not permissible under Sustainability component.
- XII. There are 4 major parameters in terms of which the Ministry would like to measure the impact of NRDWP in all States. These are: 1). Coverage of Partially Covered habitations (giving top priority to 0-25 % coverage followed by 25-50 % coverage

and so on), 2). Enhancement of PWS schemes 3). Enhancement of Household tap connections and 4). Coverage of water quality affected habitations. All these parameters inevitably cover the other soft components of NRDWP which includes institutional arrangements like WSSO/DWSM/BRC etc, Training, HRD Activities, MIS, Laboratory setting/upgradation etc.

- XIII. From now onwards, NRDWP Funds for 2014-15 and for subsequent years would be released and deposited in State Government account and not to the Authority, Board, Jal Nigam etc. Hence, officials from the State should work closely with the State Government Finance Department in order to timely avail the funds and utilize it.
- XIV. State should plan AAP for 2014-15 based on total tentative allocation of Rs 74.43 crore in 2014-15 (as Central share) plus unspent balance as on 1/4/2014. The State should plan NRDWP activities for 2014-15 accordingly, adhering to the AAP meeting discussions, recast the AAP and resubmit the same, in 4 copies, to the Ministry at the earliest for approval.
- XV. State should make its best effort to reduce its high O.B. so that the NRDWP fund utilization reaches to a satisfactory level till 31/03/2014. AAP for 2014-15 should also reflect expenditure on SC and ST concentrated habitations on IMIS of the Ministry from Central and State share.
- XVI. After due deliberation and review of the targeted habitations proposed by the State during 2014-15, it was decided that State should reduce the proposed target of 490 rural habitations. However, State should target all uncovered habitations and 39 Iron affected habitations. Target for Partially covered habitations was left to the State. Since it has informed that there are nearly 50 uncovered habitations and schemes for nearly 25 uncovered habitations have already been approved, it should target all remaining 25 uncovered habitations during 2014-15. State should decide the target after careful review of habitations. Iron affected habitations may also be targeted enroute to covering partially affected habitations apart from targeting them under water quality affected habitations. AAP should be submitted in Quadruplets. All targets should be marked clearly on IMIS after approval of the Ministry.
- XVII. There are overall 2305 incomplete water supply schemes in Meghalaya (1877 schemes pending from 3 to 5 years, 421 schemes with 5 years to 10 years and 7 schemes with more than 10 years). State should complete all incomplete schemes on priority and avoid taking up new water supply schemes. If there are any cost overruns during these years for these incomplete schemes, State shall

have to complete all schemes pending for more than 5 years using its own resources. NRDWP Funds shall not be used for any cost overrun over the delayed years for any incomplete schemes. State officials informed that since most of the land belongs to the people and barely 4 % of the land is Government land, there are always issues of convincing people regarding implementation of NRDWP. Secretary-MDWS suggested that this is an important issue and this may also be brought on paper for Activity Mapping.

- XVIII. Performance of State in providing Piped Water Supply and individual household connections is very low. As per available information, present status of coverage of population with PWS in Meghalaya is 49.8 %. Individual households covered by PWS till 2014-15 should be atleast 84,650 rural households in order to meet the Planning Commission targets. State should increase the targets regarding providing PWS and individual household connections as the proposed targets for 2014-15 is low.
- XIX. State should provide authentic data, which should be updated atleast upto 2012-13, regarding the number of Rural population covered with Piped Water Supply (PWS) and also the number of household tap connections in the State. The information should be provided district-wise to the Ministry in both hard copy and in soft copy in positively, one month timeframe. To begin with, data should be collected from each GP by Junior Engineer and should be processed through Assistant Engineer and Executive Engineer for block level and district level respectively before reaching to Chief Engineer and finally to the Secretary-in-charge of RWS of the State.
- XX. Providing water tap connections should not be restricted to new/ongoing schemes only. State may provide tap connections in old schemes as being done in Odisha State.
- XXI. Training Calendar for 2014-15 should be prepared at the earliest, shared with the Ministry and should be implemented. State should be undertaken in such a way that all officers are included but not at same time especially JE/AE/EE/Chemists/Hydrogeologist/IEC coordinators are included. Also, 2-3 VWSC members should be trained in 2014-15, either as initial or as refresher training. Exposure visits/Workshops etc on important and relevant issues should be conducted. State should also submit TNA requirements and plan for TNA Workshop as well.
- XXII. Performance of State in covering schools with drinking water facilities are very unsatisfactory. State has covered only 139 rural schools against a target of 705 schools. State should cover all Government rural schools as per directions of

the Supreme Court. As per information available in the Ministry (DISE data), there were 5270 schools in the State without drinking water facilities, of which, State has covered only 1136 rural schools till March 05, 2014. There are still 4134 schools in State which have to be provided drinking water facilities. Hence, State should set a higher target for 2014-15.

- XXIII. All public Anganwadis in Public/Government buildings, if not covered previously, should be provided drinking water. As per data provided by Ministry of Women & Child Development, there were 565 Anganwadis in State of which only 258 have been covered. State has yet to cover remaining 307 Anganwadis with drinking water facilities and hence, should take a higher target for 2014-15.
- XXIV. State should mark all targeted habitations and other targets on the IMIS by 25th March 2014 after approval from the Ministry. **First installment in 2014-15 would be released only after marking is completed.**
- XXV. State should involve ASHA workers extensively for promoting household tap connections and use of toilets. This should be taken as a campaign and should also be widely publicized across the State. The ASHA workers should be informed about the Rs 75 available as decided by the Ministry for promoting tap connection in each household in addition to Rs Rs 75 for toilet construction and usage.
- XXVI. The process of taking GPS coordinates of all drinking water sources in the State may be expedited.
- XXVII. State may try to cover institutional buildings like schools, health centres, Panchayat offices etc with roof rain water harvesting in 2014-15 under NRDWP (Sustainability).
- XXVIII. All drinking water sources should be tested at least once every year for chemical constituents & twice for bacteriological contamination. State should also strengthen laboratory facilities and infrastructure as mentioned in Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol released by the Ministry.
- XXIX. State has not set up BRCs, CRCs till date. State should complete recruiting professionals in WSSO/CCDU, DWSM, BRC etc at the earliest.
- XXX. State should recharge those borewells which have gone dry/ get dry during summer, using NRDWP Sustainability funds. Appropriate technology may be used for getting borewells recharged.

XXXI. State is advised to **organize "World Water Week" on every 22nd March**. The Ministry is going to start **organizing** the event from this year onwards. State may like to take up activities like **organizing workshops/conferences/jingles etc** on the occasion of World Water Week.

XXXII. State may like to shift 5 % funds from Sustainability to Coverage, if it intends to do so. However, while shifting the funds from Sustainability (which is provided on 100 % Central Sharing basis), State would have to provide equal matching share i.e. 50:50 for coverage or O & M. **The State would require to submit the rainfall data and also request the Ministry in writing to the Ministry for formal approval.**

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

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Annexure

Participating Officials to discuss Annual Action Plan (2014-15) for Meghalaya State

Date of Meeting: 06/03/2014

Venue: Office of Secretary, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi

S. No.	Name	Designation
Officials from Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation		
1.	Shri Pankaj Jain	Secretary (MDWS) (in the Chair)
2.	Shri Satyabrata Sahu	Joint Secretary (Water), MDWS
3.	Dr. Dineshchand	Addl. Advisor (Water), MDWS
4.	Shri M.M. Singh	Director (Water), MDWS
5.	Shri D. Rajasekhar	Deputy Advisor (WQ), MDWS
6.	Shri G. Zargar	Sr. Consultant, MDWS
7.	Dr. T.K. Das	Consultant-NRC
8.	Shri A. K. Shrivastava	Under Secretary (Water), MDWS
7.	Dr. Brajesh K. Shrivastava	Consultant (WQ), MDWS
8.	Shri Jaimon	Consultant (M & E), MDWS
Officials from Government of Meghalaya		
1	Shri R.K. Pandey,	Addl. Chief Engineer-PHE, Meghalaya
2.	Y.K. B. Singh	Exe. Engineer-PHE, Meghalaya