Minutes of the meeting of State Directors of WSSO and CCDU State Coordinators

A meeting of State Directors of WSSOs and CCDU State Coordinators was held on 3rd February, 2012 at Paryavaran Bhawan. Ms. Vilasini Ramachandran, Secretary (MDWS) chaired the meeting. Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, JS (W) and Shri J.S. Mathur, JS (S&A) were also present in the meeting. The list of participants is annexed.

The meeting began with the introduction of representatives of different States. Joint Secretary (Water) explained the following agenda items of the meeting:-

- 1. Setting up of WSSO, DWSM, BRCs
- 2. Recruitment of staffs to WSSO, DWSM, BRC.
- 3. Induction training to newly recruited staffs.
- 4. TNA workshops by States
- 5. Training Calendar Status
- 6. Training Modules -for each stakeholders
- 7. Deputation of Engineers / Managers for training to KRCs
- 8. Refresher training of 1 or 2 grass root workers in every Panchayat on Field Test Kits
- 9. Setting up of District level KRCs
- 10. Training by NIC
- 11. Development of State wise IEC programmes Status.
- 12. Uploading the data on the IMIS regarding community involvement, formation of www.
- 13. Submission of reconciled ASAs and UCs on Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance, MIS, CCDU, Support activities fund.

At the start, Joint Secretary (Water) reiterated that provision of Support fund was made since 2009-10 to improve the quality of NRDWP implementation. He said that almost 03 years have passed but utilization of Support funds by States and physical progress was not satisfactory. He requested States to share problems therein and solutions to improve progress.

Secretary (MDWS) desired that State representatives present the action taken report on the discussion held in previous WSSO/CCDU meeting dated 9th June, 2011. She desired to obtain State wise feedback on the following points also:

- 1. No. of State KRCs identified for helping the State in capacity building of water and sanitation
- 2. No. of IEC activities conducted in the States for water and sanitation
- 3. Computerization of subdivision Nos. covered

- 4. Whether Extension Training Centre and state Institute of Rural Development support are taken for capacity building programmes
- 5. Whether Toll free number based Grievance Redressal System is in place

State wise information on the above points is at Annexure. The information presented in Annexure is on the basis of information given by States on iMiS and in hard copies in the meeting.

State specific issues:-

- 1. Haryana State officials said that 01 person alone is not sufficient at BRC level. There is a need to induct more persons at BRC.
- 2. Himachai Pradesh Secretary DWS appreciated the effort being made by the State in the field of sanitation.
- 3. Uttarakhand Lab work for water quality testing is being outsourced. State officials expressed concern on Uranium contamination in ground water. DA (DR) informed that BARC (Mumbai) can be requested to conduct studies in this regard.
- 4. Bihar For training of staff involved in water and sanitation sector, services of Bihar institute of Public Administration & Rural Development (BIPARD) may be utilized. By 10th February, 2012, data on IMIS will be updated.
- 5. Jammu & Kashmir Because of Panchayat elections, BRCs could not be established.
- 6. Kerala KRWSSA has been authorized as state level WSSO for Water & Sanitation sector.
- 7. Odisha Secretary DWS emphasized on imparting training on soft skills to Junior Engineers. This suggestion is applicable to all States.
- 8. West Bengal Secretary DWS expressed concern over sluggish progress in the State. A G.O. has been issued by State Government that VWSC is a part of Gram Panchayat.
- 9. Chhattisgarh Because of increase in number of district from 18 to 27, BRCs in all blocks could not be formed.
- 10. Sikkim Secretary DWS applauded the good work done by Sikkim in Sanitation and drinking water areas.
- 11. Andaman & Nicobar UTs are supported in the areas of water & sanitation by Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Additional funds above the UT allocation cannot be provided by MDWS.
- 12. Gujarat WASMO has a good network of mobilizers up to village level. This cadre should be used for both water & sanitation.

- 13. Maharashtra Extension Training Centres may be used for imparting trainings on Field
 Test Kits.
- 14. Assam Services & expertise of local theatrical groups are being hired for IEC campaign. Extensive IEC campaigns are undertaken among tea garden workers.
- 15. Rajasthan Staff is not commensurate with the quantum of work. JS (W) asked the State official to send proposal of water.

Action Points emerging from discussions

- 1. JS (W) cited an example of Karnataka State, where IEC funds available in all development programmes are being pooled at district level and are being utilized for an integrated IEC campaign. He emphasized on adopting this model by States for better utilization of IEC funds.
- 2. Secretary (MDWS) suggested that the States where water and sanitation are being dealt by two different departments/agencies, a lot of synergy is required in order to achieve desired results. She also said that block is crucial unit for implementation of NRDWP. Training efforts in all the States must be focused at Block level especially on communication area. Communication strategy must be evolved for achieving desired impact. She emphasized on training technical staff especially Junior Engineers on soft skills.
- 3. Secretary DWS expressed concern over low utilization of Support funds by States. It was learnt from the discussion that lack of clarity on guidelines on use of support funds is one of the reasons thereof. JS (W) clarified that Support fund may be utilized for various activities related to CCDU, MIS, WQM&S, setting up of labs, trainings of VWSCs/Engineers/Masons/PRI members etc. It may also be used for recruitment of staff and their induction training.
- 4. IS (W) pointed out State's poor performance as regards to data entry on IMIS. He emphasized on regularly updating data on IMIS by States.
- 5. JS (W) informed that very soon training of Chemists organized by NEERI, Nagpur will commence. Secretary DWS suggested that this training should be on regional/State basis.
- 6. Secretary DWS said that in 11 States, different agencies/departments are working parallel to water & sanitation sectors. She said that these agencies/departments may continue their work with existing structure. There is no need of merging, but some sort of coordination mechanism may be put in place.

information, Education & Communication (IEC)

- 7. Secretary DWS said that in Annual Action Plan, focus should be on IEC activities. She observed that where good IEC campaigns are undertaken by different agencies, programmes have produced better results. She emphasized on undertaking only IEC work in the first 3-4 months prior to actual programme implementation. Commissioner, RD Gujarat stated that in the IEC campaign undertaken by Gujarat State the following activities are undertaken:-
- Award for Cleanliness
- Organizing School Courts
- Parivartan Programme
- Good Villages Film produced
- Pad Yatra / Nirmai Doot

Such activities may be adopted by States for better results. Secretary DWS suggested that periodic studies may be undertaken for assessing the impact of IEC work.

8. Status of ASA, UC and Audit Report in respect of Support Fund released to States

Director (Water) presented Status of ASA, UCs and Audit Report in respect of Support Fund for reconciliation of Accounts from the year 2005-06 to 2009-10 (As on 2.02.2012).

List of States, from which statement with supporting documents are received

1. Andhra Pradesh	12. Meghalaya
2. Arunachal Pradesh	13. Mizoram
3. Assam	14. Nagaland
4. Gujarat	15. Odisha
5. Haryana	16. Punjab
6. Himachal Pradesh	17. Rajasthan
7. Jharkhand	18. Sikkim
8. Karnataka	19. Tamilnadu
9. Kerala	20. Tripura
10. Maharashtra	21. Uttarakhand
11. Manipur	22. Uttar Pradesh

Out of these 22 States, only 02 States namely Jharkhand & Karnataka produced reconciled statement. Letters were sent to the remaining 20 States for sending revised reconciled statements. In response, replies from Andhra Pradesh, Himachai Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura have been received and documents are under scrutiny. Other States were requested to send revised statements by the 1st week of March.

Presentation on Community involvement in NRDWP

A Presentation on Community involvement in NRDWP was made by Director (Water). This presentation was made on the basis of information fed by States in IMIS. As per the information available in IMIS, performance of States was found to be poor. Only 03 States namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir & Rajasthan have performed fairly well in achieving target under community involvement in NRDWP.

Ranking of States on the basis of performance in data entry on IMIS

A ranking of States on the basis of performance in data entry on IMIS was presented by Technical Director (NIC). States of Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka topped the list.

Other Action Points

- Institutional set up needs to be strengthened in all States
- All the water quality labs must have internet connectivity.
- FTK refresher trainings are to be organized in all the States.
- For capacity building, SIRD and ETC support may be obtained.
- Training of Staff as well as officers of line departments especially on soft skills is of utmost importance.
- State/area specific IEC programmes for awareness generation are required.
- Staff recruitment for Laboratories can be done on outsourcing basis or contract basis.
- Induction training to newly recruited staff is necessary.
- Preparation of Training Calendar and uploading on MDWS website is urgently needed.
- Uploading data on IMIS has to be regularly done by the States.
- UCs have to be completed and submitted on time.
- Successful models in water and sanitation programmes have to be replicated.
- Field visits of the State staff have to be conducted.

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

Point No. 01 to 08

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^{*} States are undertaking various kinds of IEC activities in their respective States. All the activities are not accommodated in the above table.

Abbreviation

Chem – Chemists, Engg – Engineer, Mgrs – Managers, PHE – Public Health Engineering, WS – Workshop

^{\$} Blank cells in the above table represent information not received on that particular issue from the State.