

No. W-11042/02/2013-Water-II(Pt)
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation

8th Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110 003

Dated the 10 May, 2013

To,

Principal Secretary/Secretary
In-charge of Rural Water Supply in the States.


Subject: Minutes of National Consultations with State Ministers and Secretaries in charge on Rural Drinking Water Supply on 18th & 19th February, 2013 at Vigyan Bhawan.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose herewith the Minutes of National Consultations with State Ministers and Secretaries in charge on Rural Drinking Water Supply on 18th & 19th February, 2013 at Vigyan Bhawan.

Encl. : as above.

Yours faithfully


19.5.13
(A.K. Srivastava)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

✓ Copy to : TD (NIC) for hosting on Website.

**MINUTES OF NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH STATE
MINISTERS AND SECRETARIES IN CHARGE ON RURAL DRINKING
WATER SUPPLY ON 18th and 19th FEBRUARY 2013 AT
VIGYAN BHAWAN**

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1. The National Consultation with State Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Rural Drinking Water Supply was held on 18th & 19th February, 2013 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The main objective of the consultation was to review the progress of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and rural drinking water supply, discuss the various related issues and to obtain feedback on the same from all the States. The Consultation was attended by the Hon'ble Ministers of State Governments in charge of Rural Drinking Water supply, Secretaries and officials of State Governments, representatives of Ministries of Central Government, of multilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations.
Joint Secretary (Water) delivered the welcome address by expressing gratitude to the States' representatives for attending the National Consultation despite the on-going Assembly sessions in many of the States and the rush of financial year end work.
2. **Proceedings on 18th February, 2013 started with** Secretary-DWS delivering his address in which he placed emphasis on providing drinking water supply in rural areas taking the following parameters into consideration:
 - Adequate quantity
 - Safe quality
 - Availability within a reasonable distance
3. He said that from time to time the importance of safe and adequate drinking water supply in rural areas have been raised by policy makers on various platforms like the National Development Council meeting held in December-2011 or the State Governors Conference. He said that State Governments must strive to enhance rural drinking water supply norm from 40 lpcd to 55 lpcd. States must moreover accord the greatest priority to coverage of habitations with low percentage of coverage, i.e. wherever habitations getting less than 40 lpcd.
4. Secretary said out of the 85 crore rural population of the country, about 5 crore people are still at risk of using quality affected sources for drinking purposes, i.e. about 1.04 lakh habitations still utilize unsafe drinking water sources. He

reiterated that depletion of ground water is a major issue hence as a policy switching to use of surface water to the extent possible should be resorted to. He emphasized the need for more piped water supply schemes (pwss) in rural areas.

5. Secretary informed that out of the total allocation under NRDWP, 5% is earmarked for tackling water quality issues in habitations affected by chemical contamination and with those affected by JE/AES diseases. Allocation for O&M of water supply schemes has been increased to 15% from 2012-13. He requested State representatives to adopt conjoint approach for rural water supply and sanitation by covering villages with drinking water supply and achieving ODF status simultaneously. On the issue of Capacity Building and the efforts being made by Key Resource Centres, he said that services of KRCs must also be utilized for IEC and advocacy works, besides KRCs should develop sanitation demonstration policy with typical design and castings, and also help promote Rural Sanitary Marts for which guidelines for KRCs will be got amended.
6. Secretary expressed concern over the slow response by States in preparing Project Reports in the context of the World Bank assisted project. He mentioned the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. He informed that out of Support Funds available with States, ASHA workers can now be given an incentive of Rs.75/- per household, for encouraging households for taking tap connection.
7. Secretary mentioned that Opening Balances at the beginning of the year under NRDWP are increasing every year and State's absorption capacity is proving to be low, which is a matter of serious concern. There might be some institutional issues, but States must adopt a war room approach for timely completion of projects. He said that if States are not able to utilize allocated funds, Finance Ministry may cut allocations of MoDWS.
8. Referring to the Management Devolution Index (MDI), efforts made by MDWS in the area of "MDI" have been appreciated by Cabinet Secretariat. 10% of the total allocations have been earmarked for MDI. He asked the States to pay attention as to how this fund would be utilized.
9. **JS (W) made a Power point presentation on the agenda issues in which the following points were mainly covered :-**
 - New Developments and Initiatives taken by the Ministry in the recent past
 - Review of performance of the States/ UTs on different indicators:

10. After the presentation, State representatives were invited to share their feedback. Following are the details of feedback given by representatives of the States:-

(a) Assam

- Against the 7230 habitations targeted for coverage, State expects to cover 6500 habitations by the end of the year
- For tackling water quality issues, assistance of IIT Guwahati is being taken.

During discussions, on the issue of need of Consultants for IEC/HRD raised by States, Secretary said that States may hire Consultants for the said purpose. The State requested MDWS to empanel agencies for IEC& Training.

(b) Arunachal Pradesh

- Out of 5612 rural habitations in the State, 95% use surface water sources like streams and spring etc for drinking water purposes.
- Water quality problems like Arsenic & Fluoride do not exist in the State. However, Turbidity is a major water quality problem, and requested that MDWS recognize it. Shri D. Rajasekhar, Dy. Adviser said that turbidity problem is a temporary or seasonal problem and can be effectively tackled by sedimentation.

For information of the participants, he said that NRSA maps may be used for locating aquifers. These maps are available and are in public domain. States expressed problems in interpreting these maps because of non-availability of experts at local level. JS(W) suggested that States may hire hydrologists for short periods on contract basis from Support funds. It was decided to set up a Panel of hydrogeologists for NE States.

In response to a query from an official from Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India about what kind of support is being provided to Panchayat Raj Institutions for O&M purposes it was mentioned that NRDWP guidelines encourage States to give O&M funds to PRIs and also incentivise it by MDI allocation.

(c) Andhra Pradesh

State representative explained that because of various reasons including Panchayat elections, progress under NRDWP so far is sluggish and will be improved. Outsourcing of IEC and HRD is being done by the State.

(d) Bihar

- Only 56% NQA and 34% QA habitations have been covered because of procurement problems.

- Under WQMS component of NRDWP, utilization is zero, which will be expedited.
 - Experts may be empanelled at national level for IEC.
- JS (W) said that for World Bank assisted project, Social; Environmental assessment needs to be done, which the State should take up.

(e) Chhattisgarh

- Iron and Fluoride are major water quality problems. State officials raised the issue of cost variations in available technologies for tackling water quality problems. Dy. Adviser said that IMMT Bhubaneswar has developed low cost terracotta technology, which does not require electricity and reduces iron level in water upto 0.3 mg/l. It is very easy to maintain. IMMT has transferred this technology to almost 200 agencies.

(f) Madhya Pradesh

Secretary, PHED said that physical target should be reduced because less funds have been received. For management of multi village schemes, at State level Madhya Pradesh Jal Nigam has been constituted. Negotiations with NABARD are in progress for availing loan for major water supply schemes

(g) Punjab

- All schools have been provided with drinking water and sanitation facilities.
- Heavy metals and Uranium are major water contaminants.
- 5% allocation for WQ is not sufficient for the State because it wants to set up RO plants in more than 860 villages and wants to purchase more mobile water quality testing labs.

(h) Haryana

- Target for Water Quality Testing need to be reduced as per present lab capacity is not sufficient.
- Similar to NGP, State awards have been instituted for 100% tap connections in GPs in the State to felicitate GPs which have performed well.

Himachal Pradesh

- State wanted to replace target habitations. It was informed that this is possible within the same category or lower coverage category.

(i) Jharkhand

- Household connection is only 3%. In 12th Five Year Plan, State plans to enhance it to 25%.
- DPRs worth Rs.700 Crore are being prepared. State requires additional funds.
- BRC Consultants remuneration is lower than the remuneration of daily wage workers. It needs to be revised.
- Live Phone-in programme is being broadcast for water and sanitation issues.

State official said that since water works take place at division level, provision for entering same on IMIS must be made. NIC official replied that at present IMIS is having provision for district level entry only, but next year onwards provision will be made for division level entry.

Karnataka - Only 1500 QA hubs would be covered this year.

(j) Kerala

- 5 mega water supply schemes have been held up because National Highway Authority do not permit pipes to cross highways. State officials requested that MDWS must intervene in the matter, so that schemes could be completed soon.

(k) J&K

- Progress under Support Component is lagging in the State.
- Targets for Water Quality Tests need to be made reasonable.
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(l) Manipur

- Physical target should be reduced because allocation has been reduced.
- For NE States, target of 3000 lab tests per lab should be reduced.
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(m) Mizoram

- Progress is low in the State, because funds were used for spillover schemes instead of taking up new ones. State requires additional funds
- Depletion of water sources in dry season during May-June is a major issue.

(n) Rajasthan

- The financial progress did not match with IMIS figures, hence State officials were requested to correct IMIS figures.
- State officials also requested that MDWS coordinate with other concerned Ministries for integrated water resource management

(o) Nagaland

- Since Assembly elections is to be held on 23rd February, 2013, progress is low.

- State officials said that in IMIS there is no provision for entering interest amount, so space should be created for the same. It was clarified that this is already there.
- Because of paucity of time, it has not been possible to comply with Supreme Court's order on schools. State was told that they have to comply with the order by 31st March.
- State requires 2nd instalment of WQMS and Support funds

(p) Odisha

- It has been difficult to provide Audited Statement of Accounts for year 2011-12.
- NGOs are demanding subsidized electricity for Swajaldhara drinking water supply schemes

(q) Tamil Nadu

- State officials demanded more funds for creation of Sustainability structures and for O&M. State was advised to utilize Coverage funds or State funds.

(r) Uttar Pradesh

- State is lagging behind in FTKs tests, but since labs have been strengthened, progress will be made in laboratory testing.

11. **Presentation on best practices in Rural Water Supply** - Shri S.K. Bansal, Engineer-in-Chief, PHED Haryana presented a case study of Mewat area on the adoption of Ranney Well Technology (Radial Collector Well). He provided detailed information on the technology and drawings. Officials from States of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand expressed their interest in adoption of the technology.

12. **Gujarat representative** stated that it is facing various administrative issues in installing water supply schemes in areas where pipe lines cross railway lines. State requested MDWS to request Railway Ministry to put in place a timebound system for giving permissions. 34 permissions were pending for more than 1 year. Additional funds are required for scarcity.

Secretary, DWS said that an institutional mechanism may be put in place at State level for Inter-agency coordination required in such Projects. He also said MDWS would take up the matter with M/o Railways.

13. **Presentation on "Gadag Model – Any Time Water"** by Shri H.K. Patil, Former Minister of Water Resources, Karnataka.

On the line of ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines) dispensing cash on demand 24x7, Shri Patil presented the "Gadag Model – Any Time Water". This model provides water on Pay and Use basis. Continuous water supply is maintained through a RO plant. Participants were curious to know whether any provision has been made in the unit for recycling of waste water generating from RO plants.

A discussion was held on the efficacy of R.O. technology. It was felt that selection of only those villages with contamination problems and lack of any other alternative source was important.

Shri Rajendra, Collector of Rajkot said that around 250 RO units have been installed in Rajkot district. Experts emphasized on avoiding the use of RO plants for providing drinking water in rural areas. Official from Andhra Pradesh said that RO plants have many side effects like environmental degradation and low plant growth etc apart from high cost of O&M.

14. Presentation on Water Safety Plan with Card System by Shri B.K. Sawai, Director – CCDU Maharashtra

With the help of various colored cards, a sanitary surveillance system for periodic inspection of drinking water supply facilities, operations and record keeping has been developed by CCDU, Maharashtra. In this system, Red, Green, Yellow & Silver cards are issued to GPs on the basis of conditions prevailing in that particular GP, which may pose risk to public health.

Dy. Adviser, WQ suggested that formats in the above card system need to be more objective than subjective. He also provided information on Accreditation System (Blue/Green drop Certification) adopted by Government of South Africa.

JS, Water said that the system was good and can be tried out by other States. A suggestion was made to set up an inter Ministerial Committee on Water Quality, Sanitation and Health linkages especially to promote better monitoring. This was agreed to by Secy, DWS.

15. Presentation by Water and Sanitation Programme – World Bank on Models for O&M of Small Piped Water Supply Schemes .

A representative of WSP-World Bank made a presentation on various models for operation and maintenance of small piped water supply schemes in rural areas. On the basis of field studies, following 03 models were suggested:-

1. Entrusting O&M to CBO's through an MoU
2. Establishing a Society dedicated to water supply services
3. Contracting a service provider for cluster of schemes

The appropriate model may vary with each context and will have to be assessed accordingly.

According to WSP, the following issues are faced by stakeholders in O&M of small PWSS:-

- Stakeholders coordination
- Sustainability at large scale
- Political issues
- Involvement of Buffer agency – disconnection in case of non-payment of tariff

As per the findings of studies conducted by WSP, 2-3 options should be given to PRIs and they should be free to adopt any of the options as per the local prevailing conditions and requirements. Participants requested that a compilation of models for O&M models and agreements be published by MDWS. JS, Water said that MDWS would request WSP to prepare the compendium.

16. Presentation on Sub-divisional labs by Shri R. Chakrapani, Engineer-in-Chief, Andhra Pradesh

Shri Chakrapani in his presentation on Sub-divisional labs, provided information on the following points:-

- Key Functions of Sub-division Level Laboratories
- Staffing Pattern
- Procurement Methodology
- Provision of Instruments for Sub - Divisional Labs

JS, Water suggested that States that are setting up new sub-divisional labs can learn from the AP experience.

17. Presentation on Planning & implementation – Rethinking our IEC Campaign for RDW by Ms. Sue Coates, UNICEF

Ms. Sue Coates made a presentation on a IEC campaign for rural drinking water sector. In her presentation, she said that because of inadequate WASH facilities, chances of child survival, growth and development are less, which poses risk to national economic growth and social development. She emphasized on the shifting approach to communication for changing the rural drinking water and sanitation scenario. MDWS with UNICEF support has developed the Sanitation and Hygiene Advocacy and Communication Strategy Framework 2012-2017. On the same line a framework is being developed for drinking water supply also. Ms.

Bhamathi, AS&FA said that the presentation emphasized on interpersonal communication, but a mixed approach must be taken into consideration.

18. Presentation on Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol by Shri D. Rajasekhar, Dy. Adviser, MDWS

Shri D. Rajasekhar, in his presentation said that the number of habitations with chemical and bacteriological contamination is increasing day by day. The erstwhile issued Operational and Executive guidelines on setting up District Water Quality Testing Laboratories did not fully cover the actual methodology and instrumentation required. The Uniform Water Quality Monitoring Protocol notified in 2005 by the Water Quality Assessment Authority also did not focus on drinking water. There was a need to standardize the requirements for setting up and functioning of laboratories at various levels. This protocol serves the same purpose.

Secretary, DWS clarified that protocols are not law, but are important guiding principles. 3% funds earmarked for WQMS may be utilized for water quality testing. He added that the life span of instruments must also form part of protocol.

Day II -19.2.2013

The second day of the Consultation was Chaired by Shri Bharatsinh Solanki, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and was attended by Hon. Ministers Incharge of Rural Drinking Water Supply from 18 States.

19. Secretary, MoDWS said in his opening remarks briefed participants on the recommendations made in the Consultation with State Secretaries on Day-1:-
- ✓ States should consider adopting Ranney Well technology wherever feasible so as to ensure sustainability of groundwater based water supply system.
 - ✓ All States should plan to and shift to surface water use as drinking water source. Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand have expressed willingness to try the technology.
 - ✓ Time bound system has to be put in place for obtaining permission from Railways and National Highways for water pipe lines crossing rural lines and roads. Gujarat and Kerala should write to MDWS regarding this to enable us to take it up with the concerned Ministries.
 - ✓ Inter-Ministerial coordination is required for the use of water resources by Agriculture and Industry handled by various other Ministries so as to protect the provision for drinking water supply.
 - ✓ A discussion was held on the use of R.O plants and in addition to trainings they are doing, the concept of ATW (ATW) plants in villages. R O plants can be set up where alternative safe surface water sources are not available like in Arsenic/Fluoride and Salinity affected habitations. Selection of the villages is important and environmental issues should be considered looking into the problem of reject management.
 - ✓ The card system for sanitary surveillance of drinking water pioneered by Maharashtra can be adopted by States with suitable modifications to make it more practical and make the assessment process more reliable.
 - ✓ IMMT Bhubaneswar has transferred terafil technologies to 200 agencies which may be used for tackling iron contamination.
 - ✓ O & M model report of WSP-World Bank can be studied. State can adapt the available models to suit specific requirement of schemes and the State context.

- ✓ Further a study of different O & M models followed in the country needs to be done and a report prepared to guide States.
- ✓ States should comply with Supreme Court's order regarding coverage of schools with Water Supply and send reports on 1st March, 15th March and 31st March 2013 so that States achieve compliance with the Supreme Court orders by 31.3.2013.
- ✓ A panel of hydro-geologists to be prepared by MDWS for use by any States who are unable to obtain services of hydro-geologists on hire.
- ✓ Discussion was held on the role of Key Resource Centers and the need to involve them in IEC activities and in practical demonstrations of models and good practices, through inter-alia water and sanitation demonstration policy. Also KRCs lead to encourage promotion and setting up of Rural Sanitary Marts.
- ✓ The health consequences of the quality problems of drinking water need to be monitored. Therefore the profiling of diseases and its geographical distribution needs to be linked with quality testing results. The MDWS should set up a Committee to strengthen the monitoring of health impacts of drinking water and its linkage with water quality monitoring.
- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh model of sub divisional labs is a cost effective one and can be considered by other States for adoption.
- ✓ It was observed that many States have not utilized the funds available especially the Support Fund and the Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Fund. States need to look at those activities urgently.
- ✓ States have suggested that the Ministry should empanel agencies/experts for taking up IEC activities at the State level.
- ✓ There is a need for a Communication Strategy for Rural Drinking Water Supply, similar to the Advocacy and Communication Strategy finalized for Sanitation last year. The methodology of use of messages including publicity as well as inter-personal communication mechanism has to be clearly spelt out.

20. Inaugural Speech by Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) , MDWS

- (i) Shri Bharatsinh Solanki, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation addressed the National Consultations

with State Ministers in charge of Rural Drinking Water Supply. In his address, Shri Solanki said that provision of adequate and safe drinking water supply in rural areas is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Governments, both at the State as well as the Central levels.

(ii) He said that the Census 2011 figures indicate that nearly 85% of the rural population get drinking water from safe sources like hand pumps, tap water and covered wells. But about 22% of rural households have to fetch drinking water from sources that are more than 500 meters away from their premises.

(iii) Honb'le Minister said that it is a matter of concern that only 30.80% of rural households have access to tap water. Major States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh lag behind in the coverage with tap water supply.

It is also a fact that about 85% of all drinking water sources in the rural areas of the country are based on underground sources. In many areas, cases of chemical contamination of drinking water supply with contaminants like Arsenic, Fluoride and Uranium and in recent times, man-made pollution with heavy metals and pesticides is coming to the fore. After trying various treatment technologies, it is increasingly clear that the safest and most durable long term solution is to provide the affected population with piped water supply from uncontaminated sources even if distant.

(iv) In the 12th Five Year Plan, he emphasized on ensuring satisfactory service delivery. He said that commissioned schemes slip back to nonfunctional status due to poor Operation and Maintenance of water supply systems, non availability of affordable and dependable power supply with many States charging commercial rates for rural pumping stations and fluctuations in voltage and frequency. These need urgent attention at the State level. He requested the States to provide electricity for rural drinking water supply schemes at least those run by Gram Panchayats at domestic rates, if not at agricultural rates.

(v) He suggested that States adopt an Operation and Maintenance policy laying down the provisions for ensuring continuous operation and maintenance of rural drinking water supply schemes. States should take up water audits (including such audits for water being used for agriculture and industry), install bulk and individual water meters and mandate installation of water efficient fixtures.

(vi) The Government of India is bringing about a major paradigm shift in the National Rural Drinking Water Programme in the XIIth Five Year plan period. This shift includes:-

- Increase the service levels of providing drinking water supply to rural areas from 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) to 55 lpcd.

- To shift the focus away from ground water to surface water.

(vii) The performance of States in utilizing the Support and the Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Funds is not satisfactory. He urged the States to plan to optimally utilize allocations under these components.

(viii) Awareness generation about protecting drinking water sources from contamination, regular testing of drinking water sources, conserving rainwater in tanks and ponds, water recharge, water saving devices, all have to be increased.

(ix) Hon'ble Minister also requested States to depute their engineers, PRI representatives and other participants to the KRC training programmes and make full use of them. He also requested States to identify their own State Key Resource Centres at State and district level to give training at district and block levels.

He informed that recently States have been permitted to give an incentive of Rs.75 per connection to ASHA workers for motivating households to take household tap connections.

(x) MDWS is also preparing a World Bank assisted rural drinking water supply and sanitation project with an outlay of more than Rs. 5000 cr for promoting piped water supply and strengthen institutions and systems in this sector in the States of Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand and Eastern UP.

(xi) An important initiative is the Project of setting up of a solar powered Dual pump based water supply scheme in 10,000 habitations in 82 Integrated Action Plan districts in 9 States. Some States are yet to send their proposals in this regard. He requested concerned States to send proposals immediately.

(x) The Management Devolution Index (MDI) developed by the Ministry to measure the depth of devolution of functions, funds and functionaries in rural drinking water sector to Panchayats has now become a best practice and an example to different Ministries of Govt of India for their own developmental programmes. States which have devolved authority to the PRIs shall get higher allocation. He urged States to devolve more funds and functions to PRIs so that they can play a greater role in managing their own drinking water supply.

(xi) He requested States to utilise the available funds expeditiously and submit the required audit certificates and documents without delay.

Hon'ble Minister invited State Ministers to provide inputs and suggestions that can improve the way the drinking water programme is administered.

(xii) Hon'ble Minister then released the following publications/ books:-

1. Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol
2. 2nd Edition of Drinking Water Treatment Technologies
3. Atlas of Krishnagiri District, Tamilnadu showing ground water prospect and water quality Maps
4. Standard Operating Procedure during Natural Calamities
5. Engaging Non State Providers in Rural Water Supply –WSP-SA.

21. INTERACTION WITH STATE MINISTERS

- (i) **Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Rural Water Supply, Bihar** stated that PRIs are not capable of O&M of water supply schemes neither has department got sufficient staff. Hence State Government has decided to recruit a cadre of O&M Staff. Government of India share must be increased from 50% to 75%. He also said that water quality maps for South Bihar are not available with NRSC, Hyderabad.
- (ii) **Hon'ble Minister in -charge of Rural Water Supply, Chhattisgarh** stated that Ground water based water supply schemes worth Rs.317 Crore have been prepared. Hilly area funds should be provided to Chhattisgarh also.
- (iii) **Hon'ble Minister in -charge of Rural Water Supply Kerala** stated that because of 25% shortage in rainfall, sources have dried up. A comprehensive plan for creating check dams and other sustainability structures is being prepared. State requires funds to replace old AC pipes.
- (iv) **Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Rural Water Supply Goa** stated that by 2015, whole population will be provided with 24x7 piped water supply. Since urbanization is taking place at a fast pace, Hon'ble Minister requested that drinking water supply norm should be enhanced to 100 lpcd.
- (v) **Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Rural Water Supply Haryana** stated that Water Conservation Awards have been institutionalized in the State of Haryana. Till date 522 GPs have been honored with this award. In rural areas, people are resisting use of metered water. State Minister requested for an additional grant of Rs.200 cr to the State and to include Haryana in the World Bank Assisted project. MDWS should assist in awareness generation programmes.

- (vi) **Hon'ble Minister in –charge of Rural Water Supply, West Bengal** requested Govt. of India to release funds on 90:10 basis instead of 50:50 basis especially for Arsenic affected areas. He said Rs.3000 cr projects for arsenic areas have been prepared and wanted Rs. 500 cr additional funds. He also suggested giving flexibility in using Sustainability funds for arsenic coverage.
- (vii) **Hon'ble Minister in–charge of Rural Water Supply, Himachal Pradesh** informed that Rainwater Harvesting has been made mandatory for Schools and Anganwadi in government buildings. She said the State required Rs.195 cr additional funds and wanted HP to be clubbed with J&K and NE States as a special category state.
- (viii) **Hon'ble Minister in–charge of Rural Water Supply, J&K** said that such National Consultations should be organized every 03 months.
- (ix) **Hon'ble Minister in–charge of Rural Water Supply, Manipur** said that because of procedural issues, ASA could not be produced by the State. He requested that in the current year, GoI should not cut the funds due to the State. Talking about piped water supply schemes, he said that in State because of shifting (Jhoom) cultivation, PVC pipes get damaged. Department is making efforts to install GI pipes, but because of tendering issues, this gets delayed.
- (x) **Hon'ble Minister in –charge of Rural Water Supply Mizoram** said that State's topographical requirements should be considered in allocation of funds to the State.
- Hon'ble Minister in –charge of Rural Water Supply ,Madhya Pradesh** said that percentage of household tap connections is very low in the State. He said that for management of multi village schemes, Madhya Pradesh Jal Nigam has been constituted. State wanted more number of solar powered schemes on 100% grant basis.
- Hon'ble Minister in–charge of Rural Water Supply, Odisha** informed that in the State, toll free Public Grievance System has been made functional. Audio and video campaign for public participation has been launched.
- (xi) **Hon'ble Minister in–charge of Rural Water Supply Rajasthan** stated that State has Rs.20,000 cr worth of projects underway. He said that salinity and Fluoride are major water quality problems. Because of the water stress faced by Rajasthan, it must be provided a special package.
- (xii) **Hon'ble Minister in–charge of Rural Water Supply, Uttarakhand** requested that 1st installment must be released at an early date. He said that

instead of organizing consultation on national level, it should be organized on a regional level, so that policy makers know about ground realities. NRDWP guidelines should be changed taking into account scattered population residing in hilly areas.

- (xiii) **On behalf of Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Rural Water Supply, Punjab** State Secretary informed that though at present 93% habitations have been provided with water supply, water quality is an issue. 1800 RO plants have been installed in the State. State has also adopted full water cycle management. He said that 15% fund is not sufficient for carrying out O & M of schemes. Punjab gets very low allocation hence additional allocation is needed.
- (xiv) **Hon'ble Minister in -charge of Rural Water Supply, Jharkhand** said that electricity is the main component of water supply schemes. In his State, electricity tariff has been reduced from Rs.4.40/- to Rs.1.10/- per unit.

Hon. MoS(IC), DWS said that the suggestions given by the Hon. Ministers would be considered and appropriate action taken.

The National Consultation ended with vote of thanks from JS (W).
