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Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

9th Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi road,
New Delhi – 110 003
Dated 21 September, 2012

To

All Participants of States/UTs
In Meeting of State Chief Chemists

Subject: Minutes of the Meeting of State Chief Chemists on Water Quality
Monitoring & Surveillance held on 11th September, 2012.

Dear Participant,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the minutes of the Meeting of State Chief Chemists on Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance held on 11th September, 2012 under the Chairmanship of Shri T.M.Vijay Bhaskar, Joint Secretary (Water), Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Govt. of India.

You are requested to go through the Minutes and take action on all action points (both general and State specific) as mentioned in the Minutes.

It is also requested that the Action Taken Note alongwith comments on the uniform drinking water quality monitoring protocol may be sent to this Ministry before 30th September, 2012.

Yours faithfully,



(P.N.Ashtamoorthy)
Consultant

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Encl: As above.

Copy to: -

- 1) PS to JS(Water)
- 2) Director (Water)
- 3) Addl. Adv.
- 4) Deputy Adv.(DR)
- 5) DS(WQ)

✓ Copy to TD(NIC) – for hosting on M/o DW&S website.

Minutes of Meeting of State Chief Chemists working in PHE/ Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department in States

A meeting of State Chief Chemists working in PHE/Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department in States was organized by Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation on 11th September 2012 in Conference Room (12th Floor-MDWS, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, New Delhi). The meeting was chaired by Shri T. M. Vijay Bhaskar , Joint Secretary (Water), Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, GoI. List of the participants is annexed.

Joint Secretary (Water), MDWS while welcoming all the participants, explained the objectives of convening the meeting of State Chief Chemists as follows:

JS (Water), while reviewing WQM & S activities in the State, also made following points which concerned States must take care of.

- 1. Status of testing of drinking water quality in laboratories (during 2012-13)**
 - 3 States Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Nagaland have not tested water samples in laboratories (as per online IMIS Report) .
 - Only 7 States have reported more than 10 % achievement of water testing in laboratories so far (during 2012-13).
 - Many States have not reported testing which is a reason of low average across the country.

- 2. Physical progress in testing drinking water using FTKs (Field Test Kits) during 2012-13.**
 - 8 States (Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram and Goa) have not reported their progress on FTK testing on online IMIS.
 - Punjab has reported highest number of FTK testing (11.2 % followed by Gujarat (9.75 %) and Tamil Nadu (8.73 %).
 - Amongst States which reported their progress on online IMIS on FTK testing, performance of Meghalaya and Manipur are lowest (0.02 and 0.06% respectively)

- 3. Status of states in providing training to VWSC/GP members during 2012-13.**
 - 11 States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim) have not provided training to VWSC members as per online IMIS Report.
 - Only 4 States (Punjab, Gujarat, Kerala and Jharkhand) have achieved more than 10 % achievement so far.
 - Jharkhand has achieved 100 % target of providing training for FTK testing.

4. Financial progress of States on WQM & S Activities in 2012-13

- Only 10 States (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura) have reported their financial progress on online IMIS in 2012-13.
- Tamil Nadu has reported highest expenditure (Rs 112 lakh) followed by Jharkhand (Rs 45.78 lakh) and Punjab (Rs 35.08 lakh).
- Amongst States which reported their progress on online IMIS on expenditure on WQM & S activities, performance of Tripura and Odisha is lowest (0.08 and 0.1 % respectively)

During discussions, State Chief Chemists provided feedback

1. Maharashtra:

1 Lab. Chemist and 1 Data Entry Operator (DEO) has been recruited recently for all laboratories.

2. Jharkhand:

- There are 24 district laboratories in the State. However, there are only 9 staff in 4 laboratories which are functional. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Jharkhand had initiated the process of recruiting regular chemists. Further, DDWS, Jharkhand has invited tender for recruitment of the lab staff through outsourcing.
- State has achieved target of providing refresher training to VWSC members. DDWS-Jharkhand provides Rs 15 per sample . Custodian of FTKs is Jal Saiya.

3.0 West Bengal

There are overall 120 laboratories. On an average, there is one laboratory for every 3 blocks. Most of the laboratories have been outsourced for carrying out analysis of drinking water.

4.0 Madhya Pradesh

- There is no problem of staff as such in laboratories now. Contractual staff has been recruited recently for 100 sub divisional laboratories.
- State representative informed that she is not aware about the expenditure on WQM & S activities.
- State PHED is considering to provide Spectrophotometers at sub divisional level. On a query from Ms. Rekha Kadam, PHED -M.P. , JS (W) advised that refresher training on testing with FTKs may be provided to hand pump mechanics also.

5.0 Assam

There is one State level laboratory and 27 district laboraotries in the State. Of this, 7 district laboratories and 20 sub divisional laboratories are not functional due to manpower problem. Recently , outsourcing process for providing manpower has been started and the procedure is likely to be over soon.

6.0 Punjab:

- Contractual staff has been provided to all the laboratories recently. State Government is also planning to set up 2 more laboratories apart from upgrading SAS Nagar laboratory for Uranium and toxic metals testing .
- Representative dealing with WQ activities informed that by the end of July 2012, Rs 35 lakh has already been spent on WQM & S activities and approximately Rs 70 lakh has been spent till now.

7.0 Odisha:

- There is 1 State level laboratory and 32 district laboratories and 44 Sub district laboratories in the State. There is 1 staff in district lab and 3 staff in each sub district lab.
- Low salary of the laboratory Staff is a major concern.
- Refresher training has been provided to VWSC members in 2012-13 but it is not reflecting on IMIS because it has not been entered online so far.

8.0 Manipur

- There is no problem concerning manpower in laboratories in the State. The concern is the proper and reliable sampling of drinking water sources because of the remoteness of the area.
- There is no facility for bacteriological testing in the laboratory.

9.0 Rajasthan:

- Drinking Water analysis laboratories in Rajasthan are managed by regular chemists of PHED mostly and there is no problem of manpower in laboratories as such in the State.
- CCDU monitors the distribution of FTKs to GPs.
PHED-Rajasthan, though not provided refresher training to VWSC so far during 2012-13 , has already devised the training programme/ schedule of the same.

10.0 Chhattisgarh:

- There are 28 districts in the State of which 8 districts have been carved out recently only. The number of functional laboratories in the State is 14.
- 16 Sub divisional laboratories have been planned in Annual Action Plan for 2012-13 and the work is under progress to set up these Sub district labs.

11.0 Arunachal Pradesh

- There are 16 district laboratories and 30 Sub district laboratories in the State. There is no lab chemist in laboratories, the work is done primarily by Lab Assistants.
- Remoteness and difficult access to the drinking water sources is a major concern for sampling. Junior Engineer deputed someone to bring the samples.

12.0 Uttarakhand:

- There are 13 district laboratories i. e one lab in each district in the State. 13 Sub divisional laboratories have been planned to be set up during 2012-13. The analysis is done by mostly outsourced staff.
- State is facing difficulty in data entry of expenditure on MDWS website as expenditure on WQM & S activities is not accepted by IMIS.

It was observed during review meeting that States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Gujarat have adequate staff in laboratories and their water quality activities are not affected as such by manpower shortage . However, No State was found satisfactory on entering data on IMIS on all aspect of WQM & S activities.

Shri D. Rajasekhar, Deputy Advisor-WQ, MDWS described the major contents of Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol and sought opinion of the all of State Chief Chemists.. In response , some the important issues raised by the State Chief Chemists are as below:

1. Bacteriological vials : All contents should be reviewed. Generally, these are not reliable.
2. Nitrate testing: Method should be reviewed. Only ion selective electrode method should be recommended. Sulphuric Acid method is obsolete.
3. Instead of the term " dissolved iron", only "iron" should be mentioned.
4. Number of the posts recommended in laboratories and designation should also be reviewed.
5. Remuneration proposed for the contractual laboratory staff may be reviewed. (Ms. Rekha Kadam from Madhya Pradesh PHED observed that the remuneration

is on higher side. However, most of the State Chief Chemists said that remuneration must be revised appropriately because lower salary is affecting the work of water testing).

6. Nitrite, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, Silica and Bromide may be removed from the recommended parameters for analysis.
7. It will require lot of efforts for setting up microbiological laboratories at State level to test V. Cholera, S. Typhi, S. Distentari etc. as it requires highly skilled manpower and very good facilities. This might not be practically feasible even at State level.

DA (WQ) requested the States to also send their comments by 30/09/2012.

Dr. Aidan Cronin, WASH Specialist –UNICEF described the objectives and importance of the NSSO 69th Round survey on Drinking Water quality, sanitation, hygiene and housing amenities to the State Chief chemists. He informed that the survey is being jointly conducted by MDWS, NSSO and UNICEF and requested all the State Chief Chemists to provide their complete support for proper sampling and analysis.

Shri Sujoy, Mojumdar, Director (Water), MDWS further elaborated the activities likely to be taken up by NSSO and desired that all States where sampling would be done, should have a Plan of Action ready with them so that the situation of where to send the sample for testing should not arise after collection of the samples if nearby laboratory is not functioning properly. He requested the State Chief Chemists to be ready for sampling in very remote and difficult terrain areas as well. He further said that the sampling location would be decided by NSSO and it would be conveyed to the States.

He also informed the State Chief Chemists that O.B., Releases and Expenditures etc are already available on MDWS website and this is just a matter of reviewing the MDWS website continuously which will make them familiar with financial progress of the concerned State.

Important observations:

1. Except for a few States like Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, that have such facility, the other States should set up bacteriological testing facility at district and sub district laboratories.

2. Most of the State Chemists informed that they are not aware about financial aspect of WQM & S activities. the views of State Chief Chemists are not taken into financial matter on WQM & S activities.
3. Low salary of the staff engaged in laboratories on contract is a major concern.
4. Proper and reliable sampling of drinking water sources and also bringing the samples to laboratories is an important issue.
5. **There was no representation from 11 States (U.P. , Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa , Himachal Pradesh & Arunachal Pradesh).**

JS (Water) advised that in those States, where there is manpower shortage in laboratories should go in for outsourcing immediately. For encouraging bringing water samples in the laboratory, States may provide some incentive to the Sampling Assistants.

Action Points :

1. Ensuring that bacteriological testing facilities are provided in all laboratories and to be maintained properly. (MDWS to write to States).
2. Staff, regular, contractual and/or outsourced should be available in all laboratories at the earliest . State may engage an outsourcing agency to recruit manpower (MDWS to write to States).
3. All State Chief Chemists should monitor the financial progress on WQM & S activities and expedite the financial progress . They should be made responsible for expenditure on WQM & S activities (MDWS to write to States).
4. A Committee comprising DA (WQ), Consultant (WQ) MDWS and Chief Chemists of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra, Assam and Andhra Pradesh should review the contents of Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol. The Committee would meet on 05/10/2012 in MDWS office in New Delhi.
5. All State Chief chemists should send their comments on Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol preferably in a track change mode by 30/09/2012.
6. FTKs should be made available to each GP. If FTKs are already provided, refills should also be provided.
7. State Chief Chemist may seek advise of district/State IMIS Coordinators in case of problem of data entry into IMIS. They may also give email to NIC-MDWS. Data entry can be done by Lab. Staff or by outsourcing.
8. States, where expenditure on WQM & S activities exceed 60 % of the total available amount (O.B + Release) in 2012-13, may send their request for release of 2nd installment immediately.

9. All States must enter the expenditure on WQM & S activities on IMIS . Other WQM & S related entries should also be entered and be kept updated on MDWS website.
10. TWAD Board, Tamil Nadu,s proposal to set up a virological laboratory in the Sate is good. Other States like U.P., Bihar, Assam, West Bengal with JE/AES should also consider setting up virological laboratory.

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

Meeting of State Chief Chemists working in PHE/Water & Sanitation Department in States 11th September 2012, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi

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