

File No.WQ-11031/60/2016-WQ-Part(1)/220
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
(Water Quality Section)

4th Floor, Pt. Deendayal
'Antyodaya Bhawan',
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110003.


Dated, the 18th June, 2018

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of meeting held on 14th May, 2018 under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (DWS).

The minutes of the meeting held on 14-05-2018 under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (Water), MDWS, GoI regarding UNICEF support in strengthening the Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratories in the States is forwarded herewith for kind information and necessary action/compliance by all the concerned.

Encl: as above


18/6/18

(D. Rajasekhar)

Dy. Adviser (WQ)

Tel No: 011-24361656

To

1. All officers who attended the meeting
2. Water-II Section and IEC Cell
3. Shri. Shiv Kumar, Programmer, NIC Cell. (for uploading minutes on to website)

Minutes of the meeting held on 14-05-2018 under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (Water), MDWS, GoI regarding UNICEF support in strengthening the Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratories in the States

A meeting was organized on 14-05-2018 under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (Water), Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, GoI regarding discussions on UNICEF, India support in strengthening of Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratories in the States. The meeting was attended by the followings:

1. Mr. Nicolas Osbert, Chief WASH, UNICEF India, New Delhi
2. Mr. D. Rajasekhar, Deputy Advisor (WQ), MDWS, New Delhi
3. Mr. A. Murlidharan, Deputy Advisor (PHE), MDWS, New Delhi
4. Ms. Marije Broekhuijsen, WASH Specialist, UNICEF India, New Delhi
5. Mr. Manish Wasuja, WASH Specialist, UNICEF India, New Delhi
6. Dr. Anil Kumar, Technical Officer (WQM), ICDWQ, New Delhi

The discussion held and decisions taken are as under:

1. Standard bid document on procurement of instruments, chemicals and glassware's and Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC)

The Chairperson explained that as desired by States in the National workshop on **drinking water quality testing laboratories** held on 10/05/2018, there is need to develop standard bid documents each on procurement of instruments, chemicals & glassware's and Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for equipment(s) being used in water quality testing laboratories including their specifications & requirement at different levels.

2. Development of ranking system for drinking water quality testing laboratories

It was discussed that Ministry is in the process of developing a ranking system for drinking water quality testing laboratories based on major selected parameters. UNICEF being an International organization may provide its technical support in developing the same.

3. Development of national guidelines on water safety plans (WSP)

The Chairperson illustrated that water safety planning is an important step to ensure water quality & water security. The Ministry has also launched "Swajal Project" covering the aspirational districts declared by NITI Aayog and water safety plans may be an integral part of the project. It was decided to develop draft national guidelines on WSP.

4. Support in capacity building of water quality professionals

It was explained that as reported by the States on 10/05/2018, capacity building of water quality professionals is one of the main issues in water quality monitoring and surveillance in various States. It was decided that sufficient capacity building of water quality professionals at national and state level would be provided. The capacity building plan shall be identified by organizing a training needs assessment workshop preferably in New Delhi. UNICEF proposed to strengthen the decentralized water quality monitoring system at Gram Panchayat level both for chemical and bacteriological parameters based on field conditions. The Chairperson agreed to the proposal and it was decided that scope may be explored for National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) certification of grass-root level workers in water quality monitoring at Gram Panchayat level.

5. Development of mobile app for water quality monitoring complaint redressal system for instrument maintenance

The UNICEF explained that PHED, Government of West Bengal has developed a mobile based water quality monitoring system which may be replicated in other Indian states. The Chairperson agreed to the proposal.

6. IEC activities under "Swajal Project"

The Chairperson requested Sh. A. Murlidharan, Deputy Advisor (PHE) to review the IEC strategy adopted under Swachh Bharat Mission by the Ministry with the objective to explore the applicability under "Swajal Project" on same grounds. Related to this, the existing drinking water advocacy and communication strategy framework was developed in 2013 (along the same lines as the sanitation and hygiene advocacy and communication strategy framework that is currently used for SBM) but operationalization of the strategy at the state and district levels is still pending and needs to be taken up by IEC division of the Ministry.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair and to Chief, WASH, UNICEF.