

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
STATE GOVERNMENT OF _____
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is drawn on the _____ day of _____, 200_ between the State Government of _____ and the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for the Eleventh Plan Period.
Both the parties have carefully gone through the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and both have signed on the aforesaid MoU and agree to abide by the terms and conditions as laid down therein.
2. The State Government and the Panchayati Raj Institutions realize their Constitutional obligation to (i) provide access to safe drinking water to the rural population; and (ii) ensure that all segments of the rural society are imparted basic knowledge of the advantages of hygiene and environmental sanitation, and are supported in the use of this knowledge, for improving health and reducing poverty.
3. Government investments in rural water supply and sanitation aim to reduce the incidence of water and sanitation related diseases, by advancing the nation towards universal access to protected and sustainable drinking water supply, the use of sanitary toilets and sound personal, home and community hygiene behaviour.
4. The role of Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India would be to provide necessary support to the State Government in their efforts in this regard.
5. The State Government is committed to follow the parameters of Centrally Sponsored schemes in rural drinking water and sanitation sector, including the following priorities for coverage of rural habitations: -
 - (i) Meeting the Bharat Nirman targets by 2008-09 for:
 - a) Coverage of uncovered habitations of CAP 1999 with availability of safe water to meet drinking and cooking needs (40 lpcd).
 - b) Address all habitations that have water quality problems.
 - c) Covering 'slipped back' habitations as surveyed in 2003, as per norms prescribed by the Government of India.
 - (ii) Give priority to habitations inhabited exclusively by SC/ST or having large SC/ST population.
 - (iii) Coverage of schools and Anganwadis where safe drinking water sources could not be provided under outlays allocated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development or awards of Finance Commission.
 - (iv) After coverage of all the NC/PC rural habitations with the existing norm of 40 lpcd with a source within 1.6 km/100 meter elevation, cover with relaxed norm of 40 lpcd with a source within 0.5 km/50 metre elevation subject to beneficiaries sharing at least 10% of capital cost and shouldering full responsibility for O&M, or with relaxed norm of 55 lpcd with a source within 0.5 km/50 metres elevation with or without home connections, subject to beneficiary sharing at least 20% of capital cost and shouldering full responsibility for O&M.
6. The State Government commits to attain full sanitation coverage in the rural areas by the end of the XIth Plan. It is committed to allocate the funds required for its share of the projects and actively promote sanitation through appropriate IEC.

7. The State Government commits that the flow of funds to the rural drinking water and sanitation sector by it would not only be maintained at the Xth Plan levels but would also be appropriately enhanced over the period so as to attain the goals set by the Central and State Government by the stipulated dates. The State Government undertakes to make provision in its budget to provide its share, where required, of funding.
8. The State Government will ensure monitoring and surveillance of water quality involving Panchayats and in coordination with the State Health and Education Departments.
9. The State Government will ensure that each water supply scheme will incorporate source-strengthening conservation measures, rain water harvesting and ground water recharge systems for source sustainability. This would be achieved by integrating schemes of other Departments also.
10. The State Government shall enact and implement law for effective ground water extraction control, regulation and recharge. The State Government shall take steps to promote rooftop rainwater harvesting to meet the water needs in the lean season.
11. The State Government shall ensure integration of rural drinking water, sanitation, health, and hygiene programmes at the State, District, Block and GP levels.
12. The State Government will promote the principles of partial capital cost sharing in all new rural drinking water and sanitation schemes. This sharing may be in cash / kind/ labour or a combination of these.
13. The State Government will promote levying of user charges for operation and maintenance of drinking water supply systems, including charging for bulk supply of water, in a phased manner.
14. The State Government shall take steps to set up independent monitoring arrangements at the State and district levels to regularly assess, document and disseminate at periodic intervals (once a quarter) the manner in which the process project is being executed and the impact of these projects in terms of households using drinking water from protected sources, households using clean toilets, people washing hands before eating and after defecation, and households disposing the excreta of children in a safe manner. These will also serve to guide the implementing agencies at the village /Block /District levels in this regard. The State will ensure that the results of the monitoring will be disseminated and made available to the public, on a web-enabled system with on-line monitoring.
15. The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India will also constitute and send Review Mission /Independent Agencies at periodic intervals to make an assessment of the status and implementation of the water and sanitation programmes in districts. These Missions may comprise of sector experts and experienced officers/persons drawn from various organizations /institutions /agencies /NGO's.
16. The State Government shall set up a Communication and Capacity Development Unit (CCDU) at the State and district levels. Government of India will provide technical, financial and management support to such CCDUs at the state level. Expenditure on CCDUs at the district level will be borne by the State Government and the District Panchayats.
17. Government of India will support skill upgradation and capacity development programmes of engineers and other personnel of the Nodal Department and the CCDUs. This may involve bearing, in part or whole, expenditure incurred in this regard.

State Policy for Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector

18. The State Government would formulate a comprehensive policy for the drinking water and sanitation sector with a clear road map for involving PRIs and community participation in a phased manner during the XI Plan. (Action Plan framework to be prepared).
19. The State Government is committed to a timetable for promoting decentralization of service delivery for rural water supply and sanitation. (Timetable for XI Plan may be prepared in a phased manner and as considered feasible by the State Government).
- Putting in place an appropriate delivery structure at the district, Block and Gram Panchayat levels (DWSSM, VWSC under GP).
 - Empowering PRIs/ DWSSM/ VWSC / communities to have the choice to select and freedom implement rural water supply schemes and to take on the responsibility of operation and maintenance commensurate with their capacity to do so. Promote participation of women.
 - Providing technical, administrative support to the GPs/ DWSSM/ VWSCs. JE rank support for a group of GPs. DWSSM to be empowered and strengthened with technical and administrative support for functioning as an effective Agency for co-ordination and implementation and for providing backup support to Panchayats.
 - Handing over of existing stand alone / single village rural drinking water supply schemes and intra-village / habitation distribution of multi-village schemes to the Gram Panchayats / VWSC for operation and maintenance. The systems outside the village/habitation boundaries and trunk lines could continue to be the responsibility of the State and the States can decide about the appropriate level of devolution, depending on the nature of the scheme and capacity of PRIs in the State.
 - Empowering PRIs/ VWSCs to charge for the service provided.
 - Involving GPs in water demand management and conservation.
 - Creation of a Village O&M Fund.
 - Capacity building of all stakeholders.
20. Both the State Government and the Government of India would undertake R&D measures.

Note:

1. The MoU shall be approved by the State Government and shall be signed by the State Secretary on behalf of the State Government and the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development.
2. There shall be a review of achievements of the timetable mentioned in the MoU and the scope could be changed in a mutually agreed manner.
3. The State Government commits to set up a corpus fund for O&M at the Gram Panchayat level/VWSC where both Centre and State would contribute.
