

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Subject: Monthly summary for the month of March, 2020 in respect of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Empowered Group -5 for COVID-19 response

The Empowered Group chaired by the Secretary (DWS) was constituted for facilitating supply chain and logistics management for availability of necessary items such as food and medicines was set up on 29th March vide MHA order no 40-3/2020-DM-I(A).

The Empowered Group holds a daily video conference meeting under Secy., DWS convenorship. The group has also held several consultations with various stakeholders including other Ministries, industry associations and States. Based on these consultations, the group has come up various recommendations to ease the supply bottlenecks during the lockdown period which have been communicated with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Empowered Group has so far made following recommendations for implementation:-

- Orders to facilitate smooth functioning of supply chains and movement of commodities for food, pharma and hygiene sectors
- Rs. 5 lakh per person ex-gratia package for all workers for covid related deaths
- Provision of food packets at all (drivers, helpers etc) fuel pumps and highways
- Facilitate optimum functioning of Azadpur mandi with all social distancing norms
- Lifting of food grains under PMGKAY by states through regular review meeting with RCs
- Linkage between excess fruits and vegetables and food processing industries through MoFPI, DACFW and RCs
- Movement of trucks and unloading of rakes across the country, particularly in N.E. states
- Movement of pharma items across all modes of transport

National Workshop on SBM-G Phase II

National Dissemination and Consultation Workshop on SBM(G) Phase-II was organized on 4th March, 2020 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Hon'ble Minister, Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase 2 in the presence of Hon'ble MoS, Jal Shakti and other senior officials. More than 80 State Secretaries in charge of Rural Sanitation and Mission Directors of all States/UTs participated the workshop.

Special screening of Swachh Bharat – India's Sanitation Revolution

A special screening of "Swachh Bharat – India's Sanitation Revolution", a short film on the Swachh Bharat Mission by National Geographic India was held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 8th March, on the occasion of International Women's Day. Hon'ble President of India attended the screening, along with Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry for

Women and Child Development Smt Smriti Irani, and Ministers of State for both ministries, among senior officials of the Government of India.

The national premiere of the film was telecast on the National Geographic Channel later in the evening of the same day.

Monitoring of SBM and JJM

Secretary (DWS) undertook field visits to the state of Bihar on 6th March and then again on 13-15th March. During these visits, Secretary (DWS) traveled to 17 districts in the State and also reviewed the implementation of the SBM-G with the Chief Secretary, with a strong focus on ensuring that no one is left behind.

Jal Jeevan Mission

The meeting of the Apex Committee on the National Water Quality Sub-Mission was held on 3rd March 2020. The participants discussed integration of water quality as a part of the design of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

On 7th March 2020, the 7th meeting of the Task Force set up under JJM to review and work out the structure and framework of the Report for implementation of the rural water supply programme was held at New Delhi.