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सत्यमेव जयते

सचिव
भारत सरकार
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मंत्रालय
Secretary

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No.W-11042/15/2013-NRDWP(Water-I)
Dated : 02nd July, 2014

Dear Shri Chakarverty,

Subject: Operation and Maintenance for drought contingency

As you are aware, under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme 15% of the allocation to the States is meant for O&M for the already existing water supply schemes. In the country as a whole, we are releasing approximately ₹1650 crore every year for O&M activities. A similar amount is also available from the State Government (90:10 for NE and J&K and 50:50 for other States as Centre : State ratio). In spite of such huge allocation for O&M activity, reports are being received in the Ministry that a huge number of the water supply schemes are defunct/non-functional. This Ministry would like to draw attention of the State Governments that this O&M funds should be utilized for restoration and repair of the damaged water supply systems along with day to day repair and maintenance of the systems. It appears that State functionaries are concentrating on starting new schemes every year ignoring the O&M of existing schemes. As on 30.6.2014, ₹762.279 crores is available exclusively for O&M [maintenance] under 15% of NRDWP allocation for all over the country. Similar matching funds are also available from the States for this purpose taking total availability for maintenance for the entire country to approximately ₹1400 to 1500 crores. This money can be utilized to keep in good repair borewells, tubewells, handpumps, pipes and other water assets to face any drought like situation prevailing in different parts of your State.

2. This money can also be utilized for carrying out drought mitigation activities like deepening of tube wells/bore wells, replacement of pumping machinery, augmentation of drinking water sources as per NRDWP guidelines. For providing drinking water through water tankers (which is not covered under the guidelines) to habitations which are facing drought like conditions and scarcity of drinking water. You may spend funds for tankers out of this 15% O&M which can later be recouped from releases by NDRF/Calamity funds of this Ministry or be met by State fund.

3. It is seen that States like Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are involving PRIs to the maximum whereas States like Bihar, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Odisha are not involving PRIs to the extent desired. Your personal attention is drawn for involvement of PRIs for O&M as stipulated in para 9.7 of NRDWP guidelines which reads as follows:

- Up to 15% of NRDWP fund can be utilised by States/ UTs for O&M and States/ UTs will make matching contribution, which along with funds provided under the Finance Commission's recommendations as grants to PRIs will be used to meet the O&M expenditure on drinking water supply schemes. States should devolve the requirement O&M funds to the PRIs for O&M schemes managed by them.

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- All water supply schemes within the GP shall be maintained by the GP. For multi-village or bulk water supply schemes the source, treatment plants, rising mains etc. shall be maintained by the PHED or the concerned agency while the distribution and other components within the village are to be maintained by the GP. State Governments shall endeavour to develop sustainable sources of funding for maintenance of RWS schemes and shall ensure that the Central and State Finance Commission and O&M funds released by MDWS are released to Panchayats.

4. All the above points may kindly be monitored at your level so that there is no disruption of drinking water supply system in any drought like situation in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,


(Pankaj Jain)

Shri Sajal Chakarverty, IAS
Chief Secretary
Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand, Ranchi

To All Chief Secretaries of States (By Name)

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