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

Empowered Group 5 for facilitating supply chain and logistics management for availability of necessary items such as food and medicines

The Empowered Group 5 has been constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 29th March vide MHA order no 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) for facilitating supply chain and logistics management for availability of necessary items such as food and medicines.

The Empowered Group met via video conference on daily basis and held several consultations with stakeholders including transport associations, industry bodies, ministries and states and other stakeholders. Based on these consultations, the group made policy recommendations to Ministry of Home Affairs to ease the flow of essentials. Additionally, the group also attempted to troubleshoot specific supply bottlenecks on the ground.

Advisories to State Governments

A Joint advisory from Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Secretary, Panchayati Raj to Chief Secretaries in all States/UTs was issued on 8.4.2020 asking them to ensure the safety of frontline workers involved in sanitation activities through providing them with the necessary protective gear.

Additional advisories from this Department to ACS/Principal Secretary/Secretary in-charge of Rural Sanitation in all States/UTs were also issued on 13.04.2020 and 18.4.2020 regarding continuing sanitation and hygiene activities during the lockdown and ensuring adequate health and safety protocol including the use of protective gear and practice of social distancing by all involved workers.

Under JJM programme in order to create awareness and bring together all stakeholders in a mass movement to conserve water and in the context of the impending monsoon and the need for preparations to be done for Water Conservation and Recharge an advisory from DDWS along with DoRD, DoWR, RD&GR, and DoLR to ensure use of available resources to optimally deploy to catch the rain during the monsoon by converging WDC-PMKSY, JIM, MNREGA and MGNREGS has been issued on 24 April 2020.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

Video Conference with ACS/Principal Secretary/Secretary and Mission Directors in-charge of Rural Sanitation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh was organized on 09.04.2020 at New Delhi to review status.

Another Video Conference with ACS/Principal Secretary/Secretary and Mission Directors in-charge of Rural Sanitation in the States of A & N Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, D & N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim,
Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal was organized on 21.04.2020 at New Delhi to review status.

**Jal Jeevan Mission**

The Annual Action Plans for the Jal Jeevan Mission of Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Manipur, Ladakh, Puducherry, Tripura, Goa, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Kerala and J&K were discussed from 7th April to 26th April 2020 with the Principal Secretary/Secretary in charge of water of the respective States through Video Conferencing.