

No. WQ-11021/1/2020-WQ-Part(1)/220
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
National JalJeevanMission

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

Date 19 November, 2020

To

Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary
I/c of Rural Water Supply/Public Health Engineering Department
All States/UTs.

Subject: Opening water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of drinking water samples and fixing rates of testing – reg.

Madam/ Sir

I am directed to refer to this Department letter of even no. dated 15.09.2020 requesting all the States/ UTs to issue necessary notification/circular/order for opening up of water quality testing laboratories set up under erstwhile ARWSP, NRDWP and Jal Jeevan Mission(JJM) to general public for testing their drinking water samples at nominal rates, as envisaged in the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

2. It has been observed that in some of States/ UTs, where these labs are open to general public, rates for testing water samples varies widely across States for testing the same parameter. In some cases, prescribed rates appear to be on the higher side making it difficult for rural population to get their water samples tested.
3. In this context and with a view to have uniformity in the testing rates across the country and to make it within the reach of the rural population, a committee was constituted to study the existing rates and to make recommendation on the individual rates and package/bundling for testing of few basic parameters (as given in JJM guidelines) for testing water samples brought-in by general public. The Mission had also requested all States/ UTs for parameter-wise rate card and carried out analysis considering the instrument cost, manpower cost, recurring cost (electricity, consumables, calibration etc) to determine the rate of testing for these few parameters.
4. The Committee after detailed deliberations and studying testing rates being charged by various States/other Government agencies, has recommended rates for testing of different parameters at water quality testing laboratories, which is at Annex-I.
5. As you are aware, upto 2% of the annual JJM allocation can be utilized for carrying out various WQM&S activities, which *inter alia* includes (para 10.2 of JJM Guidelines) procurement

of equipment, instruments, chemicals/reagents, consumables, hiring of outsourced human resources, etc.

6. Keeping in view the fact, that substantial portion of the expenditure incurred on providing water sample testing facilities at laboratories is already being borne by the Govt. of India, it is advised to adopt the rates being suggested by the Mission, in order to encourage rural population to get their water samples tested at these laboratories. This will increase awareness about various aspects of water quality and borne diseases. This will also help in building confidence in the quality of water being supplied through their taps in their homes. This will also be helpful in taking remedial action to ensure that water supplied through taps conforms to the prescribed quality, which is the essence of Jal Jeevan Mission.

7. You are requested to give wide publicity in local vernacular language and also take necessary steps including IEC campaign so that public gets to know about this initiative and brings their drinking water samples for testing to these labs.

Yours sincerely,



(Ajay Kumar)
Director (WQ)

Encl: as above

Copy to Engineer-in-Chief/ Chief Engineer, Rural Water Supply/ PHE Department/ Water Boards, All States/ UTs for information and necessary action.

Annex

Suggested rates for drinking water testing for samples brought in by general public

(In Rupees)

S. No.	Parameter	Individual Rate	Package Rate
1.	Odour	1	50
2.	Color	1	
3.	pH	1	
4.	Total dissolved solids	1	
5.	Turbidity	5	
6.	Total alkalinity	20	
7.	Total hardness	20	
8.	Residual Chlorine	1	
9.	Chloride	50	50
10.	Sulphate	50	50
11.	Iron	50	50
12.	Total Arsenic	100	100
13.	Fluoride	50	50
14.	Nitrate	50	50
15.	Total coliform bacteria	100	100
16.	E.coli or thermo tolerant coliform bacteria	100	100
Total		600	600

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. WQ-11021/1/2020-WQ-DDWS – part(1)
 Government of India
 Ministry of Jal Shakti
 Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
 National Jal Jeevan Mission
 4th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,

New Delhi – 110003

Dated the 15 September, 2020

To,

Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary
 In-charge Rural Water Supply/ PHE Department,
 All States/ UTs

File No. WQ-11021/1/2020-WQ-DDWS-Part(1)

Subject: Opening up of water quality testing facilities for general public-regarding

Madam/Sir,

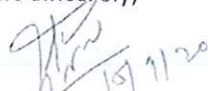
The Jal Jeevan Mission aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024 to every rural household to provide drinking water in adequate quantity (minimum 55 lpcd) of prescribed quality (BIS:10500) on regular basis. Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQM&S) has been accorded highest priority under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

2. Water testing is important for monitoring the operation of water supply, verification of safety of drinking water, investigation of disease outbreaks and preventive measures. At grassroots, water quality is usually ascertained only by colour, odour and taste of the water, irrespective of the fact that the presence of most of the chemical contaminants does not exhibits any change in terms of color, odour or taste in comparison to potable water. For creating awareness among communities about the kind of water they are consuming, there should be a mechanism for testing of drinking water samples collected by general public.

3. As per JJM operational guidelines "Supply of prescribed quality of water is crucial factor which decides functionality of household tap connections. For ensuring this, water quality testing laboratories established under erstwhile ARWSP, NRDWP and now JJM will also make provision for getting water samples collected by general public tested at nominal rate that may be fixed by the department. Wide publicity about this be given so that public gets to know about this initiative." (para 10.0 at page 62)

4. In view of this, it is advised to issue necessary notification/circular/order for opening up of water quality testing facilities to general public for drinking water testing sample collected by general public at all laboratories of the State at nominal rates under intimation to this office.

Yours sincerely,


 (Ajay Kumar)
 Director (WQ)

Copy to: Engineer-in-Chief/ Chief Engineer, Rural Water Supply/ PHE Department, All States/ UTs for information and necessary action.