



D.O. No. W-11042/70/2015-Water-II
Dated :- 15th June, 2017

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please refer to this Ministry's D.O. letter of even No. dated 18 October, 2016 (copy enclosed) regarding recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission on specified aspects of Centre-State fiscal relations for the period 2015-20. The FFC has awarded grants to the tune of Rs.2,00,292.20 crores to Gram Panchayats for the above period to support and strengthen the delivery of basic services including "water supply, sanitation including septic management, sewage and solid waste management, storm water drainage, maintenance of community assets etc." in rural areas of the country.

2. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has already written to Chief Secretary of your state on 27.09.2016 (copy enclosed) for utilizing funds for the above works under FFC and has requested the State Government to issue suitable instructions to Gram Panchayats according priority to various activities relating to the provision of safe drinking water.

3. The matter has further been consulted with Ministry of Panchayati Raj and as per their suggestions / observations the following further action is needed to be taken up at the State level in addition to what has been communicated in my DO letter dated 18th October, 2016. However, to re-emphasize the same it is again reiterated below:

- Providing pipe connections to rural households.
- Maintenance of damaged pipes, repair of tap connections, borewells, purchase of spare parts under the operation and maintenance component.
- Providing safe drinking water to schools and anganwadi alongwith their maintenance.
- Ensuring sustainability through construction and augmentation of recharge pits, trenches, check dams, dug wells, skimming wells, traditional water bodies.
- Constructing community drinking water facilities.
- Providing community water purification plants in areas suffering from chemical or bacteriological contamination.
- Capacity building of various village level institutions/functionaries.

- Payment of electricity charges for water supply schemes.
 - The States may ensure that water supply schemes should invariably be factored in the GPDP with the approval of Gram Sabha.
 - To sufficiently safeguard the interests of women, SHGs may be involved in the process of planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme.
 - Water Users Associations (WUAs), wherever these exist as Committee of Gram Panchayat, should also be involved in the scheme as far as possible.
 - Officers of concerned line departments may have periodic interface with the Gram Sabhas to share with them voluntary disclosures for wider interactions on these matters.
 - Grants provided are intended to be used to support and strengthen the delivery of basic services including water supply, sanitation- including septic management, sewage and solid waste management, storm water drainage, maintenance of community assets within the functions assigned to them under the relevant legislations.
 - These grants can only be used for maintenance and creation of community assets. The O&M Portion can be incurred only on items of work undertaken under these grants.
 - GPs being the final authority to decide about the proper utilisation of FFC grants, all expenditure incurred by GPs on basic services within the functions devolved to them under the State laws should be incurred after proper plans (GPDPs) are prepared as per requirement of the GPs.
 - State Governments may issue Advisories to GP on utilization of FFC grants for certain basic amenities like sanitation and drinking water.
4. I shall be grateful if you impress upon the Chief Secretary of the State to issue necessary guidelines / instructions with regard to allocation of suitable amount of funds for drinking water facilities, so that the rural drinking water infrastructure / assets could function smoothly and efficiently.

With regards.

Encl : As above

Yours sincerely,


15/6/17
(Satyabrata Sahu)

To

- 1) **Principal Secretary / Secretary in – charge of PHED / RWS of all States / UTs**
- 2) **Engineer –in-Chief of PHED / RWS of all States / UTs**

Copy to :

- (1) Shri K.S. Sethi, Joint Secretary, M/o Panchayati Raj, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi- for info w. r. to your DO No. M.1105/294/2016-CB dated 9th June 2016
- 2) NIC for web hosting.


(Satyabrata Sahu)