

**Minutes of the Conference of State Ministers and State Secretaries in charge of
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, 24th May – 25th May, 2012
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organized a conference of State Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 24th May – 25th May, 2012.

Day 1 - 24th May: Conference of State Secretaries

1. The Conference started with the welcome address by Secretary-MDWS. She said that though water and sanitation are essential for life, progress in both the sectors has not been very satisfactory and despite substantial outlays on rural Drinking Water and Sanitation in India, access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities remains a major challenge in rural areas. Even as drinking water is an issue that evokes strong response amongst the community and policy makers, sanitation has never been considered a priority by many. She pointed out that the National Conference is not a routine event, but is specifically meant to familiarize all participants with the paradigm shifts taking place in both the drinking water and sanitation sectors in the country. This paradigm shift is reflected in the new and innovative thinking proposed to be introduced in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). More specifically, this conference marks the launch of the new approach for the 12th Five Year Plan period in the rural drinking water and sanitation programmes. In the first year of the 12th Five Year Plan, a massive thrust has been given to enhance drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural areas. In the current year i.e. 2012-13, because of the policy focus and support from Planning Commission of India and Ministry of Finance, there has been a quantum rise in allocation for the rural drinking water and sanitation sectors. The total annual budget for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation has been hiked by 40% with significant hikes for the two programmes to Rs. 10500 cr. and Rs. 3500 cr. respectively. She added that the purpose of this conference is to bring all policy makers especially from States on a common platform, so that consensus could be attained on issues concerning rural drinking water and sanitation. She requested Hon Ministers and participants from States to share their views, issues and problems on the subjects under discussion. She reiterated that States must focus on water quality issues. A specific allocation of NRDWP funds is proposed to be earmarked for covering Water Quality affected habitations.

SANITATION

After the welcome address by Secretary, a presentation on Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) was made by Joint Secretary (Sanitation), followed by discussions.

Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water and Sanitation highlighted the key policy shifts in the sanitation programme as follows:

- Revamping the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) into the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA).
- Incentives to be more realistic
- Community Saturation approach in a phased manner:

- Conjoint planning & execution of Sanitation Water and housing schemes
- IEC: To operationalize the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan a paradigm shift is now being formalized for a five year Communication and Advocacy Strategy (2012-2017) focusing on creating community demand for basic sanitation and simple attractive messaging in a saturation mode. Among the new IEC approaches States must explore and initiate SMS based system looking to massive use of mobile phone in rural India. The recent initiatives undertaken by the Ministry Ms. Vidya Balan engaged as Brand Ambassador for Sanitation, Swachchhata Doots/Bharat Nirman Volunteers for sanitation, proposal for "Sanitation Day" each year., celebration of annual Swachchhata Utsav
- Capacity Building
- Prioritizing Solid and Liquid Waste Management
- Setting up appropriate convergence policy and mechanism for convergence with MGNREGS.
- Incentivizing ASHA workers for their role in creating demand for sanitation.

ISSUES

1. Fund Flow:

- 8 States viz, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand were given conditional release in 2011-12 due to minor observation of IFD in their UCs/ASAs. The States are requested to submit revised documents complying with IFD observations.
- 4 States, viz Manipur, Bihar, U.P., West Bengal were given adhoc release in 2011-12 due to major discrepancies observed in documents submitted. The States are requested to submit revised documents complying with IFD observations.
- 14 States/ UTs viz, Chhattisgarh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli , Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura did not draw 2nd Installments in 2011-12 as they did not submit the requisite documents. These States are requested to submit required UCs/ASAs to regularize earlier releases to make them eligible for fund release in 12-13.

2. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh in particular need to **address the gap in District-GP level reporting** on IMIS. **The Secretary informed that these States must urgently address this mismatch as now the progress on TSC would be monitored GP wise in 12th Plan period. The other States should also take measures to update GP wise data on the IMIS.**

3. **Keeping in view the high opening balance the States must accelerate expenditure, give UCs/ASAs on time latest by May and December each year so as to enable the Ministry to get the 1st and 2nd installments released in time.**

4. **All issues raised by IFD in conditional releases must be addressed immediately by States.**

6. **The NGP needs to be evaluated and revamped.** It was becoming difficult for the Centre to handle effectively the large number of NGP Applications (16000 in the last year). Issues with respect to credibility, familiarity of language, evaluation process followed by survey agency were raised by the States. Hon'ble Minister urged that NGP at the GP level now should be the

responsibility of the State Governments as many of the States like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Haryana have already instituted their own State awards. The Centre may support the States with financial support to organize the NGP process including selection and evaluation at State level. The Centre may only give awards to the District and States for becoming 'Nirmal'.

STATE WISE REVIEW

UP ranks lowest amongst the States on various components of TSC viz; the largest share in balance targets of IHHL, School and Anganwadi Sanitation, Opening Balance. As regards the gap in the IHHL figures reported in the Census and the TSC, *State* was of the view that the Census figures may not be as accurate as the indicator used in the Census format was "Whether the toilet is located within the premises?" Many of the respondents to this question may have reported in the negative even though they had toilets as these may be located outside the house. UP Government was giving an additional amount of Rs. 2300/- per IHHL in the Ambedkar villages.

GUJARAT - Defunct/poorly constructed toilets being reported in the Online Monitoring system as the reason for the discrepancy in the census figures and the TSC figures reported by the State. States may be over reporting or wrongly reporting as there would be the pressure of meeting the targets and showing expenditure for being eligible for the next installment. The State Government raised the issue of quality of material being used for construction of toilets. Capacity building of masons for making of good quality and functional toilets needs to be undertaken on a large scale either by NGOs or institutions specializing in this area. **Hon'ble Minister emphasized that States must build partnerships with various technical agencies, NGOs, Corporate sector for providing with financial and technical support to the sanitation programme. States may also coordinate with NRLM for capacity building.**

TAMIL NADU - The performance of Tamil Nadu in the last financial year has not been upto the mark. Tamil Nadu has the large share in balance objectives of IHHL, and a huge Opening Balance. Difference in census figures (26%) for IHHL coverage and the IHHL coverage reported under TSC by state (79%) was due to the fact the disused and defunct toilets also have been included. Although it is a good step to move towards GP level monitoring of the programme, the capability of the Gram Panchayat in this regard needs to be assessed. **Hon'ble Minister emphasized that for better outcomes, the responsibility of implementing and monitoring the programme should lie with the Gram Panchayat.**

HARYANA - The reason for the commendable achievement made by the State in IHHL coverage in a short period of time was because TSC was implemented in a mission mode and an intensive IEC and capacity building programme was initiated highlighting women's dignity Community Led Sanitation approach for IEC. The problem of open defecation by the migrant population being reflected in the census data was raised. The discrepancy in the census data was also due to the fact the census was conducted in 2010 while TSC coverage

on the online monitoring system is real time. Provision of toilets in peri urban areas was becoming a problem. **Hon'ble Minister informed that funding support is being provided under Providing Urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) to address issues of peri-urban areas, States may submit their expression of interest for the same.**

KERALA - State representative from Kerala reported that one of the reasons for the discrepancy in the census data and data reported by the State on online monitoring system was that there were a **large number of migrants and their families which were also reported.** The State is on the verge of becoming a “Nirmal State” with only 19 GPs, remaining to be made into Nirmal GPs. The State raised the issue of ground water contamination due to high density of toilets in certain areas. **The Hon'ble Minister stated that the State should now focus on second generation sanitation activities like Solid and Liquid Waste Management.**

JAMMU AND KASHMIR - State representative from Jammu and Kashmir reported that due to floating population and the fact that TSC was initiated very late in the State; the progress under TSC has been poor. **Hon'ble Minister stated that the census has reported the existence of manual scavenging in the State. The state need to take care of the issue quickly, along with other States where these have been reported.**

MAHARASHTRA - State has regional variations with most of the NGPs being in Western Maharashtra, wherein particular regions of concern are Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. **Hon'ble Minister stated that to address the issue of regional variations within each State, an incentive package and IEC strategy region wise should be worked out under the NBA.**

SIKKIM -Sikkim has become the first Open Defecation Free “Nirmal” State in 2008. The State requested for funds under TSC for the sustainability of the Sanitation programme particularly in the areas of Solid and Liquid Waste Management, for construction of toilets destroyed due to the recent earthquake in the State. **Hon'ble Minister opined that the NGP component of TSC programme should have some funds allocated for sustainability.**

PUNJAB - Punjab reported that it would take 5 years to become Nirmal. Despite being a progressive State, the sanitation scenario of Punjab needs improvement. Funds were required for SLWM. **Hon'ble Minister opined that because of non-utilization of available funds, the State will have difficulty in accessing funds under TSC even in the current financial year.**

HIMACHAL PRADESH - The State tops the list in the ranking of the States in terms of % achievement in IHHLs against AIP objectives of 2011-2012. Community led approaches by HP has led to this success. SLWM remains a challenge

ANDHRA PRADESH - The State shows a huge gap in the figures on IHHL coverage reported by census and as reported by State on the online monitoring system under TSC. The State suggested that a fund may be earmarked for operation and maintenance of toilet facilities.

The Government may move towards formulating a Right to Sanitation Act. **Hon'ble Minister MRD urged the State Government to utilize the vibrant Women's Self Help Groups in the State for sanitation promotion particularly for income generating activities for making rural pans, sanitary production units and for IEC. He informed that priority sector loan as per the RBI guidelines upto Rs. 50,000/- can be taken for various activities including construction of toilets.**

ASSAM - The State reported that the Districts under the Autonomous District Council would take much longer to attain NGP status. State reported that there was a difference in cost of toilets in TSC and SSA. **It was clarified that the toilet under SSA was part of the school building the incentive provided under TSC was for school toilet block which consisted of one toilet and two urinals. Under TSC an incentive of Rs. 38500/- is given for construction of toilets block in rural Government Schools. The State, if required may leverage additional resources from other schemes viz, 13th finance Commission.**

ARUNACHAL PRADESH - The State has reported a good performance in terms of IHHL coverage of 84.25% against AIP objective of 2011-2012.

GOA- The State ranks amongst the lowest in the ranking system developed by States to assess the comparative performance of States in implementing TSC based on overall performance including physical and financial performance. The state has not drawn any Installments in 2011-12 as they did not submit the requisite documents. State needs higher standards of toilet which costs approximately Rs. 18000- 20,000/- in Goa. **One of the major problems reported by the State is the open defecation by the large migratory and tourist population.**

MIZORAM - The State is requested to submit required UCs/ASAs to regularize earlier release in 2011-12 and for the release of 1st installment for 2012-2013. The state suggested that the NGP team should not visit during monsoon also to assess the sanitation status of the Gram Panchayat.

MANIPUR - The State reported that it would take 5 years to become Nirmal.

TRIPURA- State reported it would take 3-5 yrs to become Open defecation free. **Hon'ble Minister observed that in the North East States, sanitation is part of the culture. However, it was more a matter of changing from the traditional sanitation practices to safe and sustainable sanitation and this would require lesser time to achieve Opening Defecation Free Status.**

ORISSA - The Hon'ble Minister stated that the State has NGOs doing excellent work. These should be showcased through exposure visits and the *State* must accelerate its efforts for sensitization.

BIHAR - Incentive under TSC should be given as advance for construction of toilets under Indira Awas Yojana and other housing scheme. The State raised the issue of lack of water supply in schools which was leading to disuse of these toilets due to problems of maintenance and cleaning of toilets. Incentive for construction of toilet for hilly and difficult areas must be as per IAY.

CHATTISGARH - State reported it would take 10 yrs to become Open defecation free. The State was requested to submit required UCs/ASAs to regularize early release in 2012-13.

KARNATAKA -State reported it would take 5 yrs to become Open defecation free. The State was requested to submit required UCs/ASAs to regularize early release in 2012-13.

M.P. - State has prepared solar energy based water supply programme proposal to ensure water for both drinking water and sanitation purposes.

JHARKHAND -Suggestion was made regarding strengthening of delivery mechanism for implementation of TSC involvement of experts at District level for sanitation promotion.

NAGALAND -The State suggested that the Centre: State share of incentives under TSC should be in the ratio of 90:10.

Post Lunch Session - NRDWP

2. Mr. T. M. Vijay Bhaskar, JS (Water), MDWS made a presentation on the performance of the States in implementing NRDWP. (Copy of AAP progress attached). During the presentation, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water & Sanitation, reviewed the performance of the States on various indicators. Officials of the States also apprised the Hon Minister of RD and DWS of the progress of their States on the above issues.

3. Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water & Sanitation informed the States that the total budget of the two Ministries (i.e. MRD and MDWS) is approx Rs 99,000 Cr. and it is planned to provide 1 % of this total budget, which is approx. Rs 990 cr., to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Gol, in order to supplement the budget of that Ministry in their efforts to strengthen panchayati raj institutions. **Hon'ble Minister said that during the past, the Ministry has been liberal in release of funds, but this year the 2nd installment would be released only if the expenditure is more than 60% of available funds. He said that the States should follow the Tamil Nadu model in accounting and auditing that was found to be in compliance of the norms of the GOI in the previous years.** Secretary MDWS said that for the year 2011-12, no CAG report was required. Audited Statement of Accounts from a CAG empanelled CA shall suffice, so delay in submission of audit reports should not occur. The Ministry has already prepared model audit formats along with a checklist of documents that shall be required to be submitted by the States along with the request for release of the 2nd installment and the same have been circulated to all States and also placed on the Ministry website.

With regard to the release of 1st installment under NRDWP for 2012-13, Hon'ble Minister expressed that, States should not be held responsible for NRDWP funds released at the fag end of the earlier financial year, resulting in higher Opening Balance in current year. He directed the officials of the Ministry to rationalize the release based on the duration and the amount of the funds held by the States. Hon'ble Minister further emphasized that wherever substantial amounts have been utilized by the State, release of subsequent funds should not be withheld. Minister directed that the first installment should be released to all eligible States by 5th June 2012. **He requested the States to inform the Ministry immediately about the tentative expenditure State would incur as on 31st May 2012.**

4. Hon'ble Minister highlighted the following proposed changes in NRDWP guidelines:-

(A) **He emphasized that States must attend to the water quality problems in their rural areas. For the year 2012-13, 5% of NRDWP allocation (Rs.525 Cr.) is proposed to be earmarked for States with water quality affected habitations and States with JE/AES affected high priority districts. This is in addition to the 62% of total NRDWP funds that States can already spend to tackle water quality problems.**

(B) Under this water quality earmarking habitations affected with Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron & Salinity and JE/JES districts would be given weightage. Steps will be taken to look at Uranium contamination too if data on this was reported on IMIS by States.

(C) **For the States, which make efforts to transfer O&M of drinking water supply schemes to PRIs, 10% of total allocation will be released as MDI grant.** This is not an entitlement of the States, but should be looked upon as an incentive for those States, which involve PRIs in management of schemes. Allocation for MDI is based on a formula, and is not an ad-hoc release. This fund is likely to benefit those states which have transferred RWS schemes to PRIs and have held elections to elect PRIs. During 2012-13, NRDWP funds to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore shall be provided to the States as Incentive Funds. JS (W) added that ranking of the States on MDI for 2011-12, is available on the website of the Ministry and the States can also see the scores obtained by them on various indicators.

(D) Hon'ble Minister said that about 19% of the total allocation goes to the 223 desert blocks of the country. During the discussion, Karnataka requested that some more blocks of their States be declared as DDP blocks. Other State representatives suggested that the DDP blocks should be updated. It was clarified that identification of any area as DDP area is done by Department of Land Resources (DoLR), MoRD, for which States must send their proposals to DoLR.

Participants were informed about proposal to establish O2 centres for tackling water quality problems. These are:-

1. **International Centre for Arsenic Mitigation at Kolkata** for which an initial allocation of Rs 50.00 Crore has been made.
2. **Regional Centre for Fluoride mitigation in Gujarat** with assistance of NEERI-Nagpur.

(E) It was also informed that the Ministry is in preliminary discussions with Min of Finance and the **World Bank for a loan for 8 States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,**

Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam), which are lagging in terms of piped water supply in rural areas, and which so far, have not availed of World Bank support in rural water supply. The agreement for an amount of 500 million dollar is likely to be entered into by the end of 2012-13.

(F) Some States also requested to provide funds for water supply in peri-urban areas. Minister informed that revised PURA projects, also known as **PURA 2.0**, may be taken up by more States to address these so called Trishanku areas. Currently, PURA in its revised form is being implemented in 5 States. Fresh EOI would be advertised in leading News papers within 2-3 days calling for new proposals. He said that if more States intend to implement the PURA projects, they can submit their proposals and Ministry of Rural Development would consider awarding PURA projects to such States.

(G) **Hon. Minister sought the opinion of States on stipulating a condition that hand pumps should not be taken up under NRDWP funds any more.** He said that the major concern of the Ministry is the insignificant progress in piped water supply schemes by some States (like Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P., M.P., Chhattisgarh, Odisha etc) where drinking water is based mostly on hand pumps and the percentage of PWS schemes are very low. He said that Bihar is the one of the biggest concerns as it has repeatedly been unable to take 2nd installment of NRDWP and only during last year could it succeed in taking the 2nd installment. **He requested the States to focus on financial performance with all seriousness.**

(H) **Hon. Minister announced that 10,000 Solar energy based water supply schemes intended to primarily cover 78 naxal affected LWE districts in the country, where electricity is not available, would be taken up.** This scheme is intended for habitations with a population of approx 250 with a capacity of 4 hrs/day. The cost of each solar energy based (dual powered) water supply scheme is approx Rs.6.00 Lakh. This type of scheme has successfully been implemented in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra. He said that user charges can also be levied to sustain these water supply projects. Besides providing drinking water without use of grid electricity, this scheme can also generate revenue for Gram Panchayats. Officials of various state governments like Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and MP informed that in their States also, solar power based water supply schemes are being set up.

(I) On a request from some States regarding **additional funds for water supply schemes in border blocks**, Hon. Minister said that the Ministry would examine it. However he also mentioned that funds are already provided to the States by Ministry of Home Affairs for such Border Areas that should be leveraged for drinking water supply. This will benefit States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Punjab and the North Eastern States.

(J) Secy, RWSS Punjab requested for special measures for the water logged areas in the State. **Hon'ble Minister replied that an expert group has been formulated under the Chairpersonship of Shri Mihir Shah to look into the issue. The group will visit the concerned areas and will submit its report.**

(K) **JS (Water) informed that only 5 states have submitted reconciled UCs and AG audit certificates and ASA from CAG empanelled CAs regarding NRDWP for the period 2008-9 to**

2010-11 to the Ministry. 21 States are still required to submit these reconciled UC and ASA. These have to be expedited.

(L) Hon Minister directed the Ministry officials to also see why his promise made to the CM of Himachal Pradesh regarding onetime condonation of diversion of DDP funds was not complied to.

(M) **Minister also reviewed the ranking of the States based on achievement of the reported RFD targets on IMIS and observed that many States which have actually performed well were not ranked well possibly due to the non reporting of their physical achievements on the IMIS.** He directed the Ministry to cross check the data and the ranking methodology based on feedback from States. He requested the States to report all progress on IMIS.

5. State Specific Discussions:

Uttarakhand: The State did not take 2nd installment last year (2011-12). It was informed that this was due to the sector wide reforms which have taken time. Good practices were brought in. **Hon'ble Minister said that the State should not lose its 2nd installment this year.**

Tamil Nadu: Ms Sheela Balakrishnan, Principal Secretary informed that the State received funds in March 2012 which is the major reason of the high Opening Balance as on 1.4.2012. She said that the State would be able to reduce the O.B. soon by expediting expenditure. She requested the Ministry to provide funds to villages which have recently been classified as small townships - these are neither under Municipal control nor are they classified in "rural areas".

Bihar: The State received the 2nd installment for the first time in the last 3-4 years in 2011-12. **Minister asked the state to ensure that it does not lose the 2nd instalment this year.**

Andhra Pradesh: The state would be having approx Rs. 944 crore available in 2012-13, which the State said it would be able to absorb.

West Bengal: State government officials informed that a mega project in South Parganas district which is an arsenic affected district is likely to use up a major part of the NRDWP fund in 2012-13. State informed that it would utilise reduce its OB soon.

Punjab: Official from WSSD-Punjab asked whether MDWS can provide a panel of NGO's for activities under NRDWP Support fund. He also asked whether a provision can be made to select NGOs without floating tenders. **Secretary (MDWS) said that it is upto the States to select the NGOs, if NGOs are required. MDWS does not intend to empanel NGOs for any purpose.**

6. Jalmani

JS (W) informed that the Jalmani programme has continued since the last 4 years, but there are still some States that have not completed the targets. Sikkim informed that it has completed 419 against target of 440. However, this was not reported on IMIS. West Bengal assured that it will complete the target of installing 6082 units.

7. After the discussion, following persons/officials made PowerPoint presentations:-

- a) Joe Madiath – 3 Taps, Metering and induced springs in Odisha
- b) CEO, ZP, DK – Karnataka – 24x7 Meter
- c) Secretary – Mizoram – Rooftop Harvesting
- d) Principal Secretary, West Bengal – Water Quality Monitoring through Sub-divisional labs and SMS

8. Concluding Remarks by Secretary – MDWS:-

In her concluding remarks Secretary DWS touched upon the following points.

Wrapping up the discussions, Secy, DWS highlighted the following action points:

- **There is a quantum increase in funding/expenditure under TSC and NRDWP**
- **High OBs should be liquidated to facilitate release of funds by Govt.**
- **Reconciliation of UCs and ASAs should be done by the remaining States**
- **Expenditure statements should be submitted by 30th May, 2012**
- **Special projects should be prepared for JE/AES high priority districts and for quality affected habitations. JE/AES proposals must reach MDWS latest by 10th June, 2012**
- **Highest priority should be given for coverage of 0-25% habitations and quality affected habitations**
- **Water quality testing should be done as per AAP targets**
- **Support fund utilisation has to improve in most States**
- **Regular, timely and complete data entry should be given more attention by Secretaries.**
- **Need for dovetailing of funds with MGNREGA**
- **WQ labs should be taken up as a special project by States**
- **Training of VWSC and BRC staff for both TSC and NRDWP is necessary and should be taken up by States**
- **States must initiate scheme wise online data entry on the IMIS from this year, so that they do not lose funds on account of non entry of information.**
- **States must follow the checklist, while sending demand for 2nd. installment of funds.**

Day 2 - 25th May: Conference of State Ministers

Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water and Sanitation initiated the Conference proceedings with a recapitulation of previous day's discussions. Among other issues, he highlighted the fact that the annual budget for water and sanitation has been increased by 40%. He said that States can spend 62% of total allocation for water quality affected areas, whereas at present only about 11% is actually being spent. States are requested to prepare projects to cover such water quality affected areas on priority. He also said that though demand for hand pumps is very high especially in northern India, States must make efforts for providing piped water in rural areas. Dependence on hand pumps must end. He informed the Conference that since Independence, the norm for rural drinking water has been fixed at 40 lpcd. In the 12th Five year plan, it is proposed to enhance this to 55 lpcd.

Hon. Ministers from the States raised various issues as listed below:

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Solar Power based Pumps

- **Ms. Kiran Chaudhary Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Haryana** requested Government of India to promote solar energy based systems for rural drinking water supply and requested more support from the Centre for installation of such systems in Haryana
- **Shri Hemant Soren, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Jharkhand** highlighted that 99% of the rural drinking water supply is based on hand pumps and with erratic electricity availability, support for solar powered pumps may be provided.
- **Minister, RD&DWS said that in power stressed States like Bihar, solar based water supply systems should be promoted. Solar power based water supply project would be implemented in around 10000 GPs of 78 Naxal affected districts, out of which 9 district fall in Bihar.**

Special Area supports (DDP, DPAP, Border areas, LWE, Coastal areas, Natural calamities, Special Status areas)

- **Shri Karikho Kri Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary (PHE & WS) Arunachal Pradesh** requested that a post of Chief Chemist needs to be created with NRDWP funds. Funds are needed for border blocks. It was informed that the proposal has been sent to Planning Commission.
- **Shri Kedar Kashyap, Hon'ble Minister PHED, Govt. of Chhattisgarh** requested to enhance GOI share to 90% in naxal affected areas.
- States pointed out that the drinking water demand from peri-urban areas is also met out by the rural water supply schemes and this should be given consideration. **Union Minister, RD&DWS informed about PURA 2.0 and that special proposals are being invited for outgrowth areas from the states.**
- Minister, Haryana which has a similar topography and geomorphology as Rajasthan requested to be considered for special provision under DDP. She further emphasized that the canal water system is not adequate and in such areas more support is needed for Rural Drinking Water Supply. **Responding to the demand, Hon'ble Union Minister explained that out of total allocation of 249 Cr. for Haryana, 119 Cr. is already for Desert Development Blocks.**
- A major problem faced by Jharkhand is that the agencies are not coming forward to work in LWE districts.
- **Shri P J Joseph, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Kerala, Water Resources Shri P J Joseph, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Kerala, Water Resources** requested that a special package may be granted for coastal areas on the lines similar to the special package for desert areas. Minister, RD&DWS informed him that this would be examined.
- **Shri C B Karki, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Management & Development Department, Govt. of Sikkim** emphasized on the natural calamities such as earthquakes and landslides faced by the State due to which existing projects were affected and new projects slowed down. Other problems faced by Sikkim are hilly terrain, topographic challenges and being landlocked by international boundary on three sides.

- **Shri Mantri Prasad Naithani, Hon'ble Minister for Water Supply & Sanitation, Govt. of Uttarakhand** stated that the State is affected by natural calamities like cloud burst, landslides, etc. He also requested based on the special category status accorded by the Planning Commission to the state, the State must be supported by Government of India on 90:10 ratio rather than current 50:50 ratio. **Union Minister, RD&DWS said that the request seemed to be justified and directed the Ministry to examine the request looking into provisions of other schemes.**

Water Quality issues

- Presently, under water quality component, funding is provided on 50:50 basis. States requested to increase GOI share upto 75%. Hon'ble Union Minister said he would consider the request.
- Minister, Haryana drew attention to the brackish water problem in the State and towards the divergent rainfall in the state with North Haryana receiving plenty of rainfall while South Haryana is rain deficient.
- **Shri Subrata Mukherjee Hon'ble Minister, PHE & Panchayat Raj & RD, Govt. of West Bengal** emphasized on Arsenic prone areas and requested Government of India support for Arsenic mitigation measures.
- **Shri Taj Mohiuddin, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of J & K** enquired whether turbidity can be considered a contamination issue and water quality funds can be utilized for mitigation of turbidity.
- Minister, Kerala stressed on the fact that 1/3rd of the population of Kerala lives near the about 550 K.M. long coast-line and therefore mobile desalination units may be approved for the State as special consideration.
- **Shri I. Hemochandra Singh, Hon'ble Minister, Govt of Manipur** said that iron contamination and zoom cultivation are some other major issues affecting rural drinking water supply in Manipur and the State requested special assistance for area specific projects.
- **Shri Bikram Keshari Arukha, Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development, Govt. of Odisha** requested to send a technical team to solve salinity issues.
- **JS (Water)** explained that turbidity can be tackled by setting up filtration plants utilizing Coverage component of NRDWP.
- **Union Minister commented that reporting of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in Jharkhand is not correct. Sahebgunj is extensively affected by arsenic but only a few habitations have been reported by the State resulting in lesser allocation for water quality measures. He further said that a separate team will be sent to Sahebganj, Palamu and other quality affected areas for a detailed assessment and for helping on preparation of DPRs for surface water reservoirs. He stressed on bi-lateral/multi-lateral assistance for quality affected areas in Jharkhand. He also suggested that Jharkhand should get much more allocation for water quality mitigation.**
- He emphasized that JE/AES must be given special attention with convergence with Ministry of Health. ASHA workers may be utilized for awareness. He informed that a project was being negotiated with World Bank for the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Very soon this project

would be finalized. He mentioned that a regional Fluoride mitigation centre would be set up in Gujarat. He agreed that States like Kerala, Gujarat, Goa, A.P., and Karnataka all have long coast-lines and the salinity problems being common must be addressed on a priority basis. He assured that a salinity expert team shall be set up to prepare a report for the entire country.

Water Supply Norms

- **Shri Nitinbhai Patel Minister, Water Supply Water Resources, Government of Gujarat requested** to enhance water supply norm from present 40 lpcd to 70 lpcd in DDP areas. He also pointed out that requirement of water for cattle in Dairy intensive areas should be considered while approving projects for Rural Water supply, and additional grants may be awarded for cattle water requirements in such areas. It was clarified that in DDP areas the minimum norm is 70lpcd.
- **Shri Gourishankar Bisen, Hon'ble Minister of Public Health Engineering Dept, Madhya Pradesh** stated that the requirement of the Government of India guidelines of 40 lpcd has been fulfilled in all the habitations and now the state is going ahead with provision of 55 lpcd.
- In Uttarakhand, migration of population from hills to plains has also increased the stress on rural drinking water supply.

Operation & Maintenance

- **Shri Gautam Roy, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Assam** and Ministers, Haryana, and Goa highlighted that after installation of water supply schemes, maintenance is a big issue, and MDWS, GOI must provide more funds for O&M.
- Electricity charges is a major issue for rural drinking water schemes and Minister, Madhya Pradesh requested to increase the O&M provision.

Groundwater Abstraction, Source Creation, and Sustainability

- Minister, Gujarat informed that the number of overexploited blocks have now been reduced due to better rainwater harvesting measures by the state.
- **Shri K Janarthan Reddy Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh** requested the permission for abstraction of groundwater in quality affected over exploited areas where ground water is having good quality.
- **Shri Chandra Mohan Rai, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Bihar** said that in Bihar big companies are involved in construction projects for Rural Drinking water Supply, but because of lack of expertise even with these construction companies, projects are delayed. He requested GOI to provide support on identification/empanelment of competent agencies.
- **Shri Arvind Kumar Singh Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development, Govt. of U.P** said that 90% of the population in U.P. is hand-pump dependent and falling ground water levels and deteriorating ground water quality has made hand-pumps ineffective. He requested more support from GOI for Surface water based projects
- **Shri Bharat Singh, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Rajasthan** emphasized on the dependence of the state on ground water in absence of surface water and requested Government of India to accord a separate status to the state for support in rural drinking water supply.

- Minister, J&K raised the issue of accessibility of rigs due to rugged terrain condition and also that ground water potential is low in majority of the state.
- **Dr. Ngangshi K. Ao, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Nagaland** stressed on ground water exploration, controlling surface run-off, and source sustainability.
- High altitude sources in Uttarakhand which are nearly 40% of all the sources are drying up and the discharge is reducing in most of the springs. Flowing water is available but off take mechanism is not available to utilize it. Lift schemes/hand-pumps and source protection/sustainability activities are required in Uttarakhand for improved rural drinking water supply.

New initiatives proposed by the States

- Minister, Bihar said that in layer of ground water is polluted, and to mitigate this situation Hydro geo morphologic study is requested to be taken up, which has not been taken up till now.
- **Minister, Chhattisgarh** said that in Abujmad area of Chhattisgarh State, no survey has been conducted till date. It is requested to be carried out.
- In Bundelkhand, where drought in absence of rains is affecting the rural drinking water supply the Government of U.P. is considering to establish a water supply grid.
- J&K has to depend on spring development but springs have also depleted after the earthquake in 2000 and the state is now shifting to major water supply schemes.
- **Shri R N Dharlikar, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Goa** informed that 90% population of Goa is being provided with filtered water and the state is aiming at 24x7 drinking water supply for the entire state.
- Minister, Jharkhand suggested that appointments of professionals at the district levels may be supported by Gol on the lines similar to the support made available by Ministry of Rural Development for appointment of MBAs at the district level.
- Minister, Haryana suggested building a corpus fund at the International level for drinking water needs.
- Minister, Madhya Pradesh informed that the state is now taking up group water supply schemes and such a scheme for 102 villages in Balaghat district is coming up. He added that the state is having a priority on restoring balance recoveries, water testing labs and IEC. Water testing labs are available in every district and a mobile laboratory has been set up.
- **Shri S.Hiato, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Mizoram** stated that habitations being located on hill-top, rain water harvesting is a solution which is being promoted. Forest/Environmental clearances hamper the progress of new projects in the absence of a co-ordination committee.
- **Hon'ble Union Minister agreed that the funding may not be sufficient for Rajasthan but with Japanese assistance for fluoride mitigation in Nagaur, and World Bank Assisted project for Bhilwara the state government can improve rural drinking water supply in a few areas. Responding to a query on foreign assistance Hon'ble Minister stated that exchange rate fluctuations in foreign currency are borne by Government of India.**

Utilisation of funds and Reporting

- Minister, J&K accepted that the online reporting by the state has been incomplete which shall be improved.
- On issue of additional allocation raised by Minister, Bihar, Union Minister, RD&DWS replied that though States with desert areas were prioritized by Ministry, annual allocation for State of Bihar has been increased from Rs.375 Crore to about Rs.500 Crore in the year 2012-13. **Minister, RD&DWS said that Bihar has lost Rs.300 Crore in last 03 years. Only in the last year, State received 2nd installment.**
- Minister, Nagaland informed that the expenses for the newly set up mobile laboratory have been put under administrative expenses and requested that the expenses may be put in support funds.
- The work of data entry was affected in Sikkim as the staff was deployed in relief measures.
- **Hon'ble Minister stressed on timely and accurate reporting by the states.**

IEC

- States demanded that extra support should be available for mass awareness programme on water conservations.

Convergence

- Minister, Manipur raised the issue of convergence and informed of the difficulties being faced in convergence.
- **Minister, DWS emphasized that JE/AES must be given special attention with convergence with Ministry of Health. ASHA workers may be utilized for awareness.**

SANITATION

An interactive discussion on the themes of the first session was followed by discussion by Hon'ble Ministers from the States. The brief summary of the discussions is as follows:

- **Shri Karikho Kri Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary (PHE & WS) Arunachal Pradesh:** Functionality of the programmes in the border areas particularly affected by political or civil unrest. A detailed meeting is being planned with MHA to tackle this issue. **Hon'ble MRD mentioned that there are 362 border blocks in the country and a concrete plan needs to be formulated to implement the scheme at grass root level.**
- **Shri Gautam Roy, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Assam:** Provision for Operation & Maintenance (O & M) of the IHHL constructed under TSC. Increase unit cost of School toilets. Repair and restoration of the old water supply schemes needs to be taken on a priority basis for the functionality of the IHHL.
- **Shri Chandra Mohan Rai, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Bihar:** IHHLs are constructed in the state with the help of NGOs who showed no commitment. Most of the toilets constructed through NGOs are not functional. There should be a separate incentive

pattern for hilly terrain in all the states as the construction cost of the toilet is higher. **MoRD mentioned that the issue of revision in incentives is already being taken care of.**

- **Shri Kedar Kashyap, Hon'ble Minister PHED, Govt. of Chhattisgarh:** Toilet constructed during the inception of the TSC need to be repaired or reconstructed due their poor condition now. Separate sharing pattern should be for Naxal affected areas. **MoRD mentioned that funds for repair are not possible. The state should carry out a fresh survey to identify the households without sanitation facilities and revise their project objectives.**
- **Shri K Janarthan Reddy Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh:** Gratitude was expressed to the union minister for revising the unit cost of toilets facility in rural area, which will accelerate the programme percolation at the grass root level.
- **Ms. Kiran Chaudhary Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Haryana:** Funds needed for the O & M of the toilet facilities provided in the rural areas. ASHA's are banked upon to pass on the message of Sanitation. Steps taken by the Ministry to incentivize ASHA for creating demand for sanitation facilities was appreciated by the State.
- **Shri Subrata Mukherjee Hon'ble Minister, PHE & Panchayat Raj & RD, Govt. of West Bengal:** All the modes of communication are utilized to pass the message at grass root level to generate demand for the toilet. Progress under Anganwadi Toilet is lagging behind and needs to be accelerated. The programme is being personally monitored by the Hon'ble chief minister of the state.
- **Shri Arvind Kumar Singh Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development, Govt. of U.P.:** The State is performing poorly on the TSC programme. The entire programme would have to be revamped in the State as per the new strategy to enhance the sanitation coverage. **Hon'ble MRD suggested Asha should be used in TSC programme.**
- **Shri Bharat Singh, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Rajasthan:** The State is providing sanitation facilities to Houses constructed through Hudco under State housing scheme. The State also has undertaken convergence of TSC with MNREGA.
- **Shri Taj Mohiuddin, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of J & K:** Despite the late start and difficult circumstances the state has been able to propagate the sanitation programme at the grass root level to some extent. However the programme needs strengthening. Over reporting by the States does not give the authentic picture of the programme. State is now focusing on defunct toilets with the convergence of MNREGA. Priority to sanitation facilities in all religious institutions in the state. While construction has been initiated by the state, maintenance of community toilets in these religious institutions is handled by the institutions themselves.

- **Shri R N Dharlikar, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Goa:** 80% of the state is covered under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Problem of floating population like tourists are now being targeted under TSC by provision of Community Sanitary Complexes on tourist spots. Cost of the CSC is more due to hilly terrain of some of the regions in the State. State has got a soft loan from JICA for upgrading the sanitation facilities in South Goa. State has stated that in a due course of 2 yrs time, it will become 'NIRMAL'.
- **Shri Hemant Soren, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Jharkhand:** The progress under TSC is not satisfactory. Block Resources Centres have been established. Due to high insurgency State should be given some special package and priority to expedite NRDWP & TSC in the state. State has roped in the involvement of NGO in the Sanitation sector but the results were not fruitful. 'JAL SAHIA's are being engaged to pass the message of sanitation at grass root level and to elicit community participation. State is providing a bathing unit attached with toilet under TSC to give boost to the programme implementation.
- **Shri P J Joseph, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Kerala, Water Resources:** Progress under TSC has been significant with 17 GPs are left to make the state 'NIRMAL RAJYA' status. State faced water scarcity problem and sanitation issues in coastal and Kuttanad regions of the State. Provision of sanitation facilities in coastal areas particularly in the monsoon. Allocation of more funds for SLWM.
- **Dr. Ngangshi K. Ao, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Nagaland:** Civil Society, Women Groups play in sanitation promotion. IEC is very crucial for the success of the programme.
- **Shri S.Pale, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Meghalaya:** Behavior change is very important in implementation of TSC. Last year 365 Gram Panchayats achieved Nirmal Gram Puraskar. There are regional achievement under TSC varies among the districts.
- **Shri S.Hiato, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Govt. of Mizoram:** Special package should be provided for the State. NGP inspection team must visit during the non-monsoon period.
- **Shri Bikram Keshari Arukha, Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development, Govt. of Orissa:** Involvement of PRIs in promotion of sustainable sanitation facilities is the focal point in the TSC. He assured that School and Anganwadi toilets will be completed by June 2012.
- **Shri C B Karki, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Management & Development Department, Govt. of Sikkim:** The State is the first State which has achieved the status of 'Nirmal Rajya'. No fund has been released to the state in last three years, which has crippled the states progress for sustaining the status. State needs funds for constructing toilets in the new households and toilets damaged during the recent earthquake. The focus of the State is also on Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) for which additional funds are

required. SLWM activities have been taken up with the help of Exnora Green. State is focusing on Sustainability of Sanitation Facilities created. Sulabh International is imparting training on school sanitation. WSP is supporting the State in training. Hon'ble Minister (RD) has assured that the *issue of allocation of special funds for taking up second generation activities in the State shall be examined.*

- **Shri Mantri Prasad Naithani, Hon'ble Minister for Water Supply & Sanitation, Govt. of Uttarakhand:** State will achieve Nirmal State within 5 years. State should be treated as special category state owing to the hilly region.
- **Shri Nitinbhai Patel Minister, Water Supply Water Resources, Government of Gujarat** said that Water and Sanitation management Organization (WASMO) model is being implemented in Gujarat with the involvement of local community. **Hon'ble MRD informed that a new program Providing Urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is being launched for semi-urban areas. The state should address the gap of reported sanitation coverage under TSC with that of Census 2011 figures.**

SANITATION: AGREED ACTION POINTS

(i) Strong political support by the Minister in charge of sanitation and personal and regular monitoring of the programme would certainly facilitate the goal of G.O.I. to make an Open Defecation Free India through the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan.

(ii) All States must make detailed, time bound State Action Plans based on the revised budget and set up robust monitoring mechanisms based on the new strategy proposed in this Conference to declare themselves as Nirmal Rajya. These plans must reflect effective and timely utilization of funds through planned project management for each of the components of the schemes being implemented by the States.

(iii) State must make State/Block/District level IEC plans for behavior change. The IEC strategy should be based on the renewed approach towards IEC by focusing on behavior change aiming not only for complete total coverage but also ensuring usage and sustainability. The Centre has appointed Vidya Balan, film star as the Brand Ambassador for sanitation promotion. **States may also identify local influential celebrities and religious leaders for upscaling sanitation. States must explore and initiate SMS based system looking to massive use of mobile phone in rural India.**

(iv) Increased focus on Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in view of the separate allocation to SLWM under TSC and issuing of detailed guidelines for implementation of SLWM projects. Preparation of GP level SLWM plans

(v) Prioritize construction of Anganwadi toilets in Government buildings in 200 high focused Districts to assist in tackling the issue of mal-nutrition and AES/JE affected GPs, and Minority concentrated Districts.

(vi) Revamp NGP programme. Examine NGP process and planning and implementation *and responsibility* to move from the Centre to the States. Sustainability of the NGP Panchayats remains a challenge and need to be addressed by the States.

(vii) As regards non-sustainability of toilet usage leading to infrastructure decay and disuse the States must ensure that good quality toilets are not only constructed but used. The availability of water in the toilets would ensure usage.

(viii) Annual identification of proposed Nirmal Grams for saturation in a phased mode based on defined criteria. These include provision of sanitation facilities, safe and adequate water and sustainable and affordable housing through **convergence of schemes of TSC, IAY and NRDWP and State Schemes.**

(ix) Transforming TSC programme in a mission mode. State should rope in **SHG's, ASHA's and Anganwadi workers as torchbearers of Sanitation at the grass root level.** Convergence with the other line Departments for leveraging financial and technical resources. An important step should be taken to make the District Collector as the nodal person to take ownership of the programme.

(x) Strengthen Convergence of TSC with MNREGA in view of the revised guidelines.

A Joint Letter from JS MGNREGA and JS Sanitation on the mechanism of convergence of MGNREGA and TSC may be issued for greater clarity on the implementation of the programme.

(xi) Conversion of Insanitary latrines to sanitary ones. It was agreed that priority action shall be taken by respective state Governments and Project districts to convert 12.76 lakh dry latrines in rural areas as reported by the census into sanitary ones on topmost priority.

(xii) To address the regional variations within each State, an incentive package and IEC strategy region wise can be worked out.

(xiii) Partnership with experts and influential stakeholders like the educational institutions, technical organizations, NGOS, CBOs and the corporate sector for up scaling TSC.

(xiv) Financial Discipline: Keeping in view the high opening balance the States must accelerate expenditure; give UCs/ASAs on time latest by May and December each year so as to enable the Ministry to get the 1st and 2nd installments released in time.

All issues raised by IFD in conditional releases must be addressed immediately by States.

Hon Minister, RD&DWS concluded the proceedings after the discussions. A vote of thanks was proposed by JS, DWS.