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Tour report of Shri Satyabrata Sahu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to Andhra Pradesh from 22nd to 23rd Dec'2013

(A) 22-12-2013 - Field Visit to Ranga Reddy District.

Officers accompanied:

Sri.Vikas Raj, IAS, Secretary, RWS&S, AP

Sri. R. Chakrapani, Engineer-in-Chief, RWS&S

Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer, RWS&S, Rangareddy District.

- I reviewed the Water Quality testing mechanism with the Chemists of the lab and also enquired about proper collection of samples from habitations. One field Assistant, Sri. Ram Reddy is working under this lab for Ibrahimpatnam sub-division which covers 4 Mandals - Ibrahimpatnam, yacharam, Hayatnagar and Manchal. The lab chemist informed that about 300 water samples are being received from the villages per month and all are being tested in the lab and the results are being uploaded to 'Watersoft' application. The field Assistant has informed that he is getting Rs 35.00 per sample including transportation for collection of sample and testing at field level which amounts to an average of Rs 9000/- per month. I also verified the asset register.
- It was explained that tests for nine physio-chemical parameters and two bacteriological parameters are being done in the lab.
- I also verified status of collection of samples and reporting system of results to the concerned Officers and suggested to mark the quality affected sources suitably which are not potable and create awareness among the people that the water from that source is not for drinking and can be used for other needs.
- The Secretary RWS&S explained in detail about the instructions issued to field officers on collection and testing of samples and reporting system. The initiatives of the State are appreciated by the Joint Secretary, GOI and informed that it will be replicated in other States. One Chemist, one microbiologist, one helper and one field assistant are working in the lab.
- During the review meeting it was observed that the FTK with Resin bag being used in the state is cost effective and portable and opined that this may be replicated in other states also.

- Team then proceeded to CPWSS Gungal and other 133 habitations in Rangareddy District. Hyderabad Metro Water and Sewerage Board (HMWSB) is providing treated water to this MVS against payment of Rs 10/- per KL.
- I emphasized the need of VWSCs in GPs and suggested to Constitute VWSCs with 50% women members wherever they are not existing. VWSC is responsible for monitoring and effective implementation of Drinking Water Systems. The Joint Secretary has also reviewed the progress with AEE's of the area and suggested to create awareness in the village on need of safe drinking water through women groups. I expressed that the NRDWP guidelines booklet shall be communicated to Mandal level in the state.
- I then visited the Gungal village of Yacharam Mandal. MDO, EO Panchayat, village sarpanch, ASHA & AW workers, women groups, GP members have participated in the meeting conducted. This village is covered with MVS Gungal and only 20% households are given tap connections and the joint secretary felt that the number is to be increased. The HHC tariff is only Rs 15/- per month. The Joint Secretary has suggested the sarpanch, GP Gungal to increase monthly tariff to at least Rs 30/- so that the Gram Panchayat will become self sustenance to attend day to day scheme maintenance and other urgent needs of the intra village net work.
- I also suggested the ASHA and Anganwadi workers of the village to motivate people to have tap connection and toilet. The incentive of Rs 75/- per tap connection and Rs 75/- per toilet construction will be paid to ASHA workers. This will lead to good health of people and hence healthy village.
- Later, I alongwith State Govt. officials visited Injapur of Ibrahimpatnam Mandal, which is an NGP village. The MDO, Sarpanch, ASHA & AW workers, women groups, GP members have participated in the meeting conducted. This village is also covered under Gungal MVS. About 95% households are given tap connections. The monthly tariff is Rs.50/- per household. The Joint Secretary has suggested to complete the remaining household connections and increase monthly tariff to Rs.100/- so that the Gram Panchayat can meet certain urgent nature of scheme maintenance. It was also suggested to collect reduced monthly tariff from poor households and higher rate from APL/rich people.

- In the evening I proceeded to Hyderabad for attending review meeting with NRSC officials.

(B) 22.12.2013 (Evening) - Meeting at National Remote Sensing Centre Hydrogeology Group / RSAA

- I had an interface meeting with the officials of NRSC and RWS, AP at Hyderabad. NRSC was represented by Dr. P.G. Diwakar, Deputy Director, RSAA; Dr. S.K. Subramanian, Group Director, Hydrogeology Group and Scientists of Hydrogeology; viz., Mr. K. Seshadri, Dr. Iswar Chandra Das, Mr. G. Sreenivasa Reddy & Mr. J. Chandra Mohan. Mr. Vikas Raj, Secretary, RWS, Government of Andhra Pradesh and all the Chief Engineers of RWS, Andhra Pradesh were also present in this meeting.
- At the outset, I welcomed all the participants. After the self introduction of the participants, I initiated the discussion. Dr. P.G. Diwakar, Deputy Director, RSAA and Dr. S.K. Subramanian, Group Director, NRSC made necessary presentation and briefing.
- Dr. P.G. Diwakar briefed on the status of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) project especially Phase-IV. He emphasised the activities involved under Phase-IV as per the sanction order of DDWS (No. 10 dated 30.11.2010) and informed that the Ground Water Prospect Mapping (HGM Maps) for all the states of the country except the Union Territories & Islands (37 maps) have been completed as per the project target schedule.
- While dwelling on the Ground Water Quality (GWQ) status, DD, RSAA mentioned that there are issues in receiving the water quality data from PHE Departments and hence the Ground Water Quality mapping is getting delayed and NRSC is expected to complete this aspect by December, 2013.
- It was also highlighted that about 9 states, namely, Karnataka, Goa, Tamilnadu, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, J&K and Uttar Pradesh have progressed reasonably well in GWQ Mapping and all required data preparation will be completed within six months i.e. by June, 2014 for these states. Joint Secretary, MDWS assured to look into this problem for rest of the states in the country and based on that, the work will be completed in phased manner. He specifically put an action on the Andhra Pradesh team to provide the GWQ data to NRSC immediately and also identified specific action on Mr. Narsing Rao, Consultant of RWS, Government of Andhra Pradesh.