

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Drinking Water Supply

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Office Memorandum

Subject: Visit of Secretary, DWS&S to the State of Maharashtra from 6.10.2010 to 10.10.2010
- Tour Report

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a report on the visit of Shri Anil Kumar Misra, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India to the State of Maharashtra from 6th October to 9th October, 2010, for further necessary action.


[Sujoy Mojud]
Director

Smt. Malini V. Shankar
Principal Secretary
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Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032

Copy to:

1. ✓ Shri Dheeraj Kumar, Project Manager, WS&S Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
2. ✓ Technical Director, NIC for uploading the tour report on the website.

Visit to Maharashtra of Sh. Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary, Department of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Rural Development, GOI
(6th Oct-9th Oct 2010)

Shri Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary, Department of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Rural Development, GOI made an official visit to Maharashtra from 6th Oct to 9th Oct 2010. He was accompanied during the visit by Sh. Sujoy Mojumdar, Director, NRDWP (DDW&S). During the tour, Secretary visited various Gram Panchayats in the districts of Pune, Ahmednagar and Nashik. He also visited to the Ground Water & Survey Development Agency (GSDA), Pune.

On the 9th of October, Secretary held a meeting in Mumbai with officers of the State government, to review the progress made by the Maharashtra under the NRDWP, TSC and other water supply & sanitation programs. The main points that arose arising during his visit are as follows:-

A) Field Visit (7th. and 8th. October 2010)

- 1) Secretary GOI, visited the GSDA on 7th Oct 2010. The GSDA is a State Government Directorate governed by the WSSD, Maharashtra, funded through budgeetary allocation, which is tasked with of Monitoring, developing and managing ground water resources in the State. The Addl. Director, GSDA & other officers and staff of GSDA welcomed the Secretary to the campus. The Secretary perused an exhibition organised by the GSDA, highlighting the activities that have been taken up by the GSDA in various districts of Maharashtra. Sh. Shashank Deshpande, Sr. Geologist made a short presentation on the functions of the GSDA and the current initiatives taken by the organisation. Particular emphasis was paid to the new *Ground Water (regulation & management) bill 2009*, which the GSDA formulated for introduction in the Maharashtra Assembly, to amend the existing Ground Water Act 1993, making it more Community oriented. During the discussions with the GSDA officers, Secretary GOI raised the issue of the various works taken up under the sustainability component of the NRDWP. He was particularly interested to know that how the annual action plan has been prepared especially with respect to the sustainability component. He opined that instead of utilising the available funds under this component all across the state, it would be more rational if the same is utilised for treating the over-exploited/critical watersheds, which have already been identified, by adopting the cluster approach. **In this regard he requested GSDA to prepare a concept note on the Sustainability component of the NRDWP. He informed the officers that DDW&S is proposing to organize a national seminar on the issues of sustainability. He expected**

Maharashtra to contribute a concept note on how to best utilise the 20% sustainability fund under NRDWP. Further he directed that the state should share its best practices, which could be replicated in the other parts of the country also.

- 2) Secretary GOI visited the Gram Panchayat Shirsawadi, Taluka Haveli, Pune. There he inspected the village water supply scheme implemented under the *Aple Pani* project. This scheme is a KfW assisted village water supply project implemented by the Government of Maharashtra. The project was implemented in the village in 2008-09. Secretary discussed in detail with the villagers present about how they are carrying out the O&M of the scheme. He also enquired about the collection of user charges. He particularly drew the attention of the villagers to the various housing development projects now under construction, in the vicinity of the village, and wanted to know if the newly constructed scheme would be able to satisfy the needs of newer colonies in near time to come, and how the villagers proposed to incorporate their needs with the available water in the village. The villagers provided the Secretary with their views, and averred that collection of user charges will improve from the current status on installation of more house hold connections.
- 3) Secretary GOI, next visited Hivare Bazar Panchayat, in Ahmednagar district. Sh. Popat Rao Pawar, Sarpanch welcomed the delegation and presented a summary of the achievements of the Panchayat. He narrated about how bad the conditions were in the Hivare Bazar some 15 years ago, and how the villagers, through their sheer determination have now developed the Panchayat as an 'Adarsh Gram Panchayat'. Secretary visited a hillock near the village which was forest area, where tree plantation work and water harvesting structures were constructed by the villagers under various schemes of the Forest and Agriculture departments. Secretary was particularly impressed with achievements in the ground water retention and the fact that village which was once a chronic 'tanker fed' village, is now exporting onions worth 3 Crores a year. **He asked the GSDA to study the soil and moisture conservation works of the Panchayat, especially the 'Deep Continuous Contour' technique and how it could be implemented/replicated in other parts of the state/country. He also opined that since Hivare Bazar has already been notified as the key resource centre by the Government of the Maharashtra, some support can be given to facilitate teams coming from other villages/districts/states to stay in the village itself and learn about the work done in the village. A good audio-video learning centre could also be constructed in the village.**
- 4) On 8th Oct 2010, Secretary GOI visited Gram Panchayat Thergaon in Nashik district, to inspect the water supply scheme implemented under the World Bank supported *Jal Swarajya* scheme. Thergaon is tribal dominated village. The village earlier had

an old existing well in the village which was not sufficient to fulfill the summer water demand. The village Gram Sabha opted to take part in the Jal Swarajya project, in which the above existing well and a new production well were taken as sources. Switch rooms were constructed and pumping machine were erected on both wells. Rising mains were laid to ESR. Distribution network was set up, and waste water disposal soak pit was constructed. Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) chairman informed the Secretary that although the water supply scheme PROJECT was for Rs. 17 Lakhs, the VWSC completed all the works within Rs. 4 5514 Lakhs only. This was duly appreciated by him. Secretary enquired about the 'Nirmal' status of the village and appreciated the fact that village has already received 'Nirmal' award. The village was accorded NGP status in 2005. However, he also about the toilet facility available in the village in case of any events like marriage etc. **He suggested that State could consider Public toilets facility to such village which are already 'Nirmal'. He suggested that a 4-6 seat toilet facility be conceived and implemented as a pilot in some of the villages.**

- 5) In Nashik, Secretary GOI also saw a presentation made by the SE (training), NRTC, on the courses and the facilities offered by the Nashik Research & Training Centre (NRTC). The NRTC is a training centre of the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran established in the year 1985, with an objective to improve performance through Research and Training. While appreciating the efforts taken by the NRTC in imparting the core trainings to the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP), he opined that NRTC must also align itself to the training requirements of the NRDWP program. **He also stressed on the need to increase the strength of faculty members and the spectrum of the training courses offered, before the NRTC could be considered for being selected as a national level Key Resource Centre (KRC).**

B) Meeting with State Government officials (9th. October 2010)

A review meeting with Maharashtra Government officials was held at Sahayadri Rest House, Mumbai under the chairmanship of Hon' Secretary, Government of India Sh. Arun Kumar Misra. The minutes of the meeting is enclosed.

**Minutes of the Meeting with Maharashtra State Government Officials held on
09th October 2010 at Mumbai.**

On 09/10/2010, a review meeting was held at Sahayadri Rest House, Mumbai under the chairmanship of Secretary, Government of India, Sh. Arun Kumar Misra. The following officers were present at the meeting:

- 1) Shri Sujoy Mojumdar, Director, Dept. of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt. of India
- 2) Smt. Prajakta Lavangare, Deputy Secretary and Project Director (Jal Swarajya Project), Water Supply and Sanitation Department (WSSD), Mantralaya, Mumbai
- 3) Shri Dheeraj Kumar, Project Manager, Jal Swarajaya Project, Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai
- 4) Shri Narayane, Superintending Engineer, Bharat Nirman Cell
- 5) Shri Sudhakar Shinde, Director of C.C.D.U.
- 6) Shri Khandale, Add. Director of G.S.D.A., Pune
- 7) Shri Ajay Singh, Executive Engineer, M.J.P.
- 8) Shri Chankar, Under Secretary, RSPMU, Jal Swarajaya Project
- 9) Shri Ganesh Bhalerao, Executive Engineer, RSPMU, Jal Swarajaya Project.

At the outset the Dy. Secretary WSSD, Government of Maharashtra, Smt. Prajakta Lavangare Verma welcomed Sh. Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary DDW&S, GOI and Sh. Sujoy Mojumdar, Director NRDWP, (DDWS). Sh. Dheeraj Kumar, Project Manager, Jal Swarajya made a brief presentation on the overall scenario about the water supply & sanitation sectors in Maharashtra. This was followed by presentations on the progress made under the National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). After the presentations, detailed discussions on both the programmes commenced. The main points discussed are as follows:

- a. Secretary GOI appreciated the progress made by the state under the TSC; however he opined that target set by the state of Maharashtra to achieve total 'Nirmal' status by the end of 2012 seemed to be too optimistic. The state coverage has reached about 60% and there is still a huge gap of around 40 Lakhs Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL) which has to be covered. Further out of nearly 27000 GPs in the state, only around 8500 have achieved 'Nirmal' status. However there are still nearly 2/3rd of GPs left, to be covered, which in the remaining 2 year period seems a bit too high. In addition to this, there are also questions of slip back of 'Nirmal' villages which is observed all

across the country. Accordingly, Secretary GOI, suggested that the state should adopt a more realistic target, like 2015 by which Maharashtra can strive to achieve 100% coverage under the programme.

- b. To tackle the slippage of 'Nirmal' villages, Secretary GOI enquired about the strategy which Maharashtra is following. CCDU Director Sh. Shinde, explained about the recent initiative of imparting behavioral change training to the population across the state. In addition, he explained the concept of 'Good Morning' squads used for checking open defecation and also the use of preventive clauses under the Mumbai Police Act to deter the villagers from the same. Secretary GOI suggested that state should use public media effectively by publishing the names of those GPs who have slipped back in this regard. This would induce some sense of shame among the PRI members and make them strive to maintain the 'Nirmal' status of their Panchayat.
- c. On being informed of the initiative of the Maharashtra Government in the Sant Gadge Baba Campaign, the Secretary GOI asked for details regarding this scheme which the state is implementing so successfully. He expressed a desire to modify the guidelines of the 'Nirmal Gram Puruskar' awarded by the DDW&S, on the lines of Sant Gadge Baba Abhiyan as this was more comprehensive and dealt with wide ranging issues including sanitation. Accordingly he directed the TSC Coordinator, to prepare a concept note on how 'Nirmal Gram' process could be remoulded and make a presentation on the same on 28th October during the States Ministers' conference to be held in New Delhi.
- d. Secretary GOI appreciated the comprehensive and combined IEC plan which the state has prepared. However, instead of implementing it as a 2 year plan he opined that it could be a three year plan with a detailed review mechanism with reference to Outcomes Indicators. This would provide sufficient time to the districts and the state to adapt and rectify the campaign wherever necessary.
- e. Secretary GOI sought information from Maharashtra about how to make best use of 10% incentive grant scheme so as to facilitate the handing over of the water supply schemes to the PRIs. He appreciated the fact that in Maharashtra most individual rural water supply schemes are run by the Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSC). However at the same time he pointed out that as per the facts presented in the meeting, around 20% of these schemes are non-regular or currently non functional. He opined that the 10% incentive grant, can be given as onetime temporary support to these villages to enable them to run of the schemes. He wanted the Water Supply & Sanitation Department (WSSD), GOM to study and suggest to the GoI, guidelines regarding the incentive fund.

- f. Secretary GOI, also enquired about the per capita cost for water supply schemes under the NRDWP as against schemes under other projects, like the Jal Swarajya of the 'Aple Pani' Project. It was felt that under these projects, the cost per capita was coming less as compared to the schemes under the NRDWP.
- g. Jal Swarajya has in their Village Action Plan (VAP) schemes, included the cost of hand holding support (ADD-I) for the capacity building of the VWSC in their estimates. This has been highly successful in the implementation of the scheme. The matter was discussed about whether this can be done for the NRDWP schemes also.
- h. Discussions were held about the fact that under the support fund, how much the state is spending for the water quality related issues like FTKs, setting up of labs, etc and whether it is adequate as per the requirements. It was also deliberated that whether there should be a separate head under the support fund for WQ issues. Project Manager expressed his views that success of Jal Swarajya has shown that pre and post hand holding support to the VWSC is very important and such facility should be included in the VAP prepared under the NRDWP also. It was also suggested that GoI should suggest to States to contribute some funds under the support fund also, as the present 5% allocation limit under the NRDWP will not be sufficient to support all the activities proposed to be undertaken under the support fund.
- i. Secretary also mentioned about the observation made during his field visit to the Shirsawadi Gram Panchayat in Pune district regarding the large number of housing societies that are coming up close to the village that will result in a sudden increase in the demand for water & sanitation services. He opined since Maharashtra is having a very high degree of urbanization it would be more prudent to have a pragmatic peri-urban policy, which will help the state in better planning. He also suggested that, once it is finalised, the state may share the policy with the GoI for the benefit of other states also.
- j. Secretary suggested that the State should look in to ways of better monitoring of NRDWP/TSC programmes, particularly in light of fact that there are so many nodes involved in the implementation process. He opined that the physical and financial performance of the programmes, should be monitored simultaneously and updated detailed information of each single scheme is needed for effective monitoring. Computerisation of systems till an appropriate level, setting up and proper utilisation of BRCs, development and use of appropriate village level accounting software, etc are some of the key ingredients which could be looked into for improved performance.
- k. Secretary lauded the efforts of the Maharashtra Government in setting up of the online complaint redressal system, 'e-Pani'. He directed that the

modalities of E-governance practices such as e-Pani and online scarcity prediction/monitoring software may be shared with other states, DDWS also.

- l. Secretary GOI directed that Maharashtra draft a suitable concept note on effective utilisation of the 20% sustainability fund available under the NRDWP. This can be shared with the GoI, which would help the DDWS in the formulation of national guidelines on sustainability issues, in respect of rural drinking water sources.
- m. Secretary asked the state to step up the financial expenditure under the NRDWP for the year 2010-11, as the State has only spent 35% of the available funds, till October 2011 and remaining amount of the fund has to be spent by the end of March. Accordingly, the State may devise an appropriate strategy so that the 2nd installment under the NRDWP could be availed to by the States on time.
- n. Director (Water) DDWS, Sh. Sujoy Mojumdar asked the State to provide the DDWS with documents required for the release of Support Fund under NRDWP for 2010-11 so that the fund could be released immediately to the state.. These include UCs and ASA for funds released for 2009-10.
- o. While discussing the progress under the NRDWP for the current year, Director pointed out that some of the districts like Pune, Jalgaon, Osmanabad and Jalna are showing very little financial progress. Special efforts should be made to accelerate implementation in these districts..
- p. He reiterated that progress under 'Jalmani' is very slow. The allotted fund has to be utilised in a time bound manner. Project Manager informed that the under the Jalmani programme the contract given in the State has a 5 years O&M clause in the agreement. Thus the available funds will be fully utilised only over after the 5 year period. However it was clarified that the entire grant has to be utilized within this plan period. Therefore the state may call a meeting at their own level and decide this matter. Director also informed that DDWS will be organizing a video-conference on 21st October to review the progress made under the 'Jalmani' scheme.
- q. Director also asked the State to complete the process of setting up of the SWSM, DWSM, and BRCs etc. in a time bound manner, so that necessary 'software' support can be given to the GPs as envisaged. Project Manager apprised the Director, that the State will make all efforts to complete the setting up of SWSM and DWSM by end of Dec 2010. He also suggested out that just like for the SWSM executive committee, there should also be a DWSM executive committee under the chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Zilla Parishad, to carry out day today functions and also the recruitment/appointment at the district level, as the state feels that the present

structure at the level of the CEO is competent enough to recruit the good personnel for the DWSM.

- r. Director informed the gathering that an All India State Sanitation Ministers Conference has been organised in New Delhi on 28 October 2010. The Hon' Minister from Maharashtra may find it convenient to join the meeting.

Concluding the meeting, Smt. Prajakta Lavangre Verma, Deputy Secretary & Project Director RSPMU, GOM, said that the Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Government of Maharashtra, has benefited immensely from the visit of Hon' Secretary GoI, Sh. Arun Kumar Misra and Director NRDWP, Sh. Sujoy Mojumdar and WSSD will continue to strive hard so as to achieve the high expectations of the DDWS, GoI.

The meeting ended on a formal note of thanks.



Discussion with Villagers - Shri Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary DDW&S GOI, visit to Gram Panchayat Shirsawadi, Pune, Maharashtra - 'Aple Pani' Project 8.10.2010



Planting a Sapling at the Gram Panchayat - Shri Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary DDW&S GOI, visit to Gram Panchayat Shirsawadi, Pune, Maharashtra - 'Aple Pani' Project site 8.10.2010



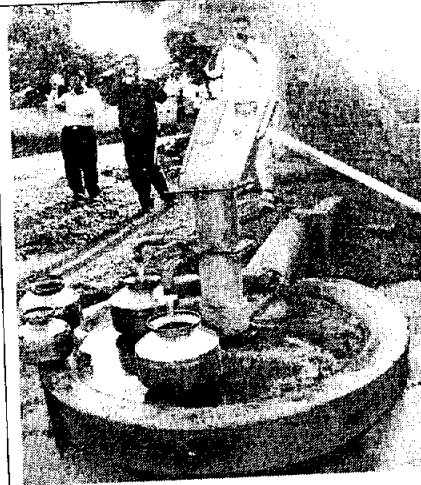
Discussion regarding drinking water source - Secretary DDW&S GOI, visit to Gram Panchayat Shirsawadi, Pune, Maharashtra - 'Aple Pani' Project 8.10.2010



Inspecting a school - Shri Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary DDW&S GOI, visit to Gram Panchayat Hivare bazar, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra - 'Model Village for water and soil conservation works and social development 8.10.2010



Solar based Handpump - Gram Panchayat Hivare bazar, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra 8.10.2010



Dual powered(Solar + Manual) Handpump - Gram Panchayat Hivare bazar, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra 8.10.2010