



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING DT.13.12.2007,
CONDUCTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY,ORISSA IN
PRESENCE OF MRS. SANTHA SHEELA NAIR, SECRETARY,
DRINKING WATER, GOVT. OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT.**

List of members who attended the meeting is at Annexure-A.

Initiating the discussion, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, R.D.Department, Government of Orissa made a brief presentation regarding the status of programmes like ARWSP, Swajaladhara and Total Sanitation Campaign. It was highlighted that this year major emphasis has been made on pipe water supply schemes rather than sinking of tube wells. As on date we have already commissioned 86 schemes and another 170 are ready for commissioning. Secondly, it was highlighted that schemes worth Rs.250 crores will be submitted to Government of India under sub-mission to tackle water quality affected issues. It was brought to the notice of the Secretary, Government of India that in Orissa pioneering steps have been taken by transferring funds, functions and functionaries to the control of Panchayati Raj Institutions for operation and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes.

In course of discussion, Secretary, Government of India highlighted the following issues and requested the State for taking necessary action in the matter.

1. It was requested to submit proposal for release of 2nd instalment under ARWSP. She was informed that the State has already submitted the same.
2. The stress should be on the sustainability of the sources for drinking water supply and over exploitation of ground water should not be adhered to. It was brought to the notice of all the members that over exploitation of ground water and over dependence on the same has resulted in discovery of arsenic and other contaminants in many parts of the country.
3. Steps should be to utilise more surface water rather than the ground water because the contaminance in the surface water can be handled much

more easily and effectively compared to the ground water.

4. Rain water harvesting should be encouraged in the rural areas because rain water properly harvested can take care of the major demand of drinking water through - out the year.

5. While executing any drinking water supply scheme the recharging aspect should be kept in mind and every drinking water supply project should be accompanied with a provision of recharging.

A brief presentation was also made by her regarding the drinking water security plans of Gujarat, recharging structure and harvesting of excess run off in Tamil Nadu, roof-top rain water harvesting in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, back washing of contaminated wells and other open water sources in Kerala and recharging and rain water harvesting in Maharashtra.

6. On Total Sanitation Campaign she highlighted that we should go for sustainable sanitation options with simple solutions, cost effective, requiring less water and environmentally friendly.

7. On the issue of raising the subsidy she expressed that we need not go for very high quality construction of toilets but stress should be on construction of reasonable usable toilets and community should be encouraged to construct over-head structure of their choice.

8. For school toilets ,the same should be gender friendly and open to the sky so that foul smell does not remain.

9. To promote hygiene quality among the women, it was highlighted that more and more women self help groups should be encouraged to take up manufacturing and sale of sanitary napkins and in every village incinerator should be provided so that the disposal is proper.

10. The efforts should be to promote more and more Ecosan toilets which are ecologically friendly and provides good quality of manure.

She appreciated the efforts taken by the State Government and the achievements under rural drinking water supply and Total Sanitation Campaign and requested to give adequate priority to the sector for achieving further better results.

Concluding the discussion, Chief Secretary, Orissa assured that the sector will continue to get the important priority as it deserves and the various line departments will also cooperate and converge for better results.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and participants.

Annexure-A

List of Members present

1. D.C -cum-A.CS
2. Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt., R.D.Department.
3. Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt., Women & Child Development Deptt.

4. Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt., Panchayati Raj Deptt.
5. Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt., School & Mass Education Deptt.
6. Special Secretary to Govt. R.D.Department.
7. Director & Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to Govt., R.D.Department.
8. Project Director, OPEPA.
9. Chief Engineer, RWS&S, Orissa.
10. Chief Engineer, OSWSM.
11. Other officials of Government of Orissa.