

## Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation

### Tour Report of Shri Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011 to Uttarakhand



On 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 I visited Sapea basti Bhaniyawala, a single village, deep borewell, pumping water supply scheme covering 8 habitations with approx. 313 households



constructed under the Swajal-II programme at a cost of approx. Rs. 49 lakhs. The planning phase of the scheme was completed in October 2008 and thereafter work was executed by the Upbhokta Sub-Committee of Peyjal and Swachhata with Smt. Sudesh Devi (S.C.) as Chairperson and 7 other members. I was given to understand that so far 5.8 Kms distribution lines have been completed and more than 200 families have taken household connections. The Treasurer of the Society informed us that every single household pays the monthly tariff as fixed by the Society regularly. People seemed very happy with the water supply.

Swajal-I had required a minimum contribution of 10% by the community. However, for Swajal-II, the Government of Uttarakhand has taken a decision

that per capita family contribution will be limited to Rs. 600/- and as such the response has been extremely encouraging. In the current scheme the community contribution has been Rs. 58,000/- which is slightly more than 1% of the project cost. But the community has been able to manage the scheme on its own and provide satisfactory service after commencement of the project. Now, I am told that they are going to take up a 100% metering programme in the village.

There were several other Pradhans from neighbouring Gram Panchayats who demanded that their village should also be taken up under the Swajal-II programme. Director (Swajal) Mr. Kapil Lal explained to them the procedure to be followed to include their village under Swajal-II programme and promised that as and when an application is received, suitable action will be taken according to the norms established.



The same day, I visited a gravity based scheme at Kandoli village, Sahaspur

Block of District Dehradun. The scheme covers 11 habitations and the present population of 1776 (348 households). The scheme is designed for a population of 2445. The scheme was started in 2007 and completed in 2009. Shri Megh Singh is the Chairman of UWSCC which has 12 other members. Under the scheme 180 private connections and 5 Stand Posts have been provided. The cost of the Scheme has been Rs. 84.86 lakhs of which the community contribution was only Rs. 80,000/- (approx. 1%). The scheme collects Rs. 60.00 per month from private connection users and being a gravity scheme the O&M expenses are minimal (approx. Rs. 44,000/0) and as such the UWSCC has a bank balance of about Rs. 1.6 lakh.

The UWSCC has been able to undertake the small repairs of damages caused by last year's severe rains and landslides, on its own.

As will be seen, the per capita expenditure was approx. Rs. 3,000.00 in case of Sapera Basti scheme whereas in the Kandoli scheme, according to the designed population it is about Rs. 3,500/-. Director (Swajal) informed me that their office maintains these details for every single scheme in the entire State. Kandoli village was awarded NGP status in 2008-09 and the villagers informed me that there has been no slip back of the same.

The same day I visited the Water Quality Testing facility at Dehradun which has recently been upgraded with installation of many new equipments. The laboratory among other things also has a Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS) with trained manpower and as such is capable of conducting a large range of tests. The officers informed me that they propose to undertake a complete test of



all parameters for all sources of Uttarakhand in a progressive manner. However, they pointed out that a complete test of all these parameters will cost approx. Rs. 6000/- per test. They were advised that the quality of water is not so bad in Uttarakhand that every source will require a complete test. In fact, there are a very few quality affected villages in Uttarakhand. It was suggested to them that after preliminary tests at the field and District Labs, further investigations should be taken up only for those where detailed investigations are needed. Merely, as a routine, conducting tests of all kinds of contamination may not be required. It was also suggested to them that this laboratory should be declared as a State level referral laboratory and facilities to general public should also be provided on payment basis for any sample testing they want to undertake.

The same day, I had a detailed discussion with the Chief Secretary,



Government of Uttarakhand and other officers of the State.

Unfortunately, Uttarakhand could not draw the

second instalment in 2010-11. This was primarily on account of the fact that Uttarakhand Government is committed to the Statewide Sector Reforms Agenda of the World Bank which requires a rigorous discipline of community participation and change in the mindset of both people and the implementing agencies. Uttarakhand also had to face severe landslides and heavy rains which damaged almost 6000 water supply schemes last year. However, this year the officers were confident that Sector Reforms process is well in place and the expenditure will go up and the State will be in a position to draw its full allotment. Managing

Director, Uttarakhand Jal Nigam pointed out to some difficulties in following the procurement guidelines of the World Bank.



However, Principal Secretary, Uttarakhand was confident that this issue can be sorted out at the State level. It was suggested to them that in case any intervention is required at the Gol level, we shall be very happy to provide the same. The officers were also informed of the fact that there is a wide discrepancy between the total coverage reported by the State and the NSSO Report (2008-09) of coverage under the TSC. This difference of almost 58% is huge by any standards. The State promised that they have taken up intensive IEC programme and both the coverage and usage will improve. Swajal has developed a very good network of support organizations, so it is hoped that the TSC programme will also be benefited by the contribution of these support organizations and the plan as finalized in consultation with the State Government this year will be implemented in real earnest.

### 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2011



On 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 I visited Makheli Water Supply Scheme in Bhatwari Block of District Uttarkashi. Makheli is a part of the Gram Panchayat Malla

which has several small habitation each with individual water supply scheme. Makheli is a gravity based Spring Source Scheme with a Discharge of 12 LPM. The source work and the supply work has been completed and the work of distribution main is in progress. The UWSCC has been formed and necessary accounts have been opened.

This was a NC habitation and people were found to be happy with the water supply scheme. While this seems to be a good programme but per capita expenditure of approx. Rs. 25000/- will continue to be a cause of concern, the Department should explore whether more people can be covered from such expensive projects.

I also visited the proposed site for Lalour Patti Water Supply Scheme. The scheme proposes to cover 48 number of habitations at an estimated cost of Rs. 14 crore. The scheme will have one intake well, one treatment plant, rising main – 8.33 Km. four pumping stations, staff quarters 12 and 10 Kms of transmission lines. The land for treatment plant has been acquired and the villagers seems very happy with the land acquisition process. The tenders for the scheme were to be opened during the next week and the officers in the field thought that they would be able to complete this scheme in a short period. This scheme will cover habitations and the borders of the Uttarkashi and Tehri districts where the water supply has been marginal and difficult.

The next day I visited NGP village Harshil which was en-route to



Gangotri. Every single household of the village had toilet coverage and the village roads were kept clean and tidy, as Harshil also happens to be

a place of tourist attraction. While sanitation coverage was satisfactory, there were some complaints by villagers regarding lack of proper water pressure in all the villages. Chief Engineer, Jal Sansthan, who was present with me during the village tour, assured that this being a simple matter, will be immediately attended to.

The issue of providing Solid Waste Management support to facilitate clean villages and habitations on the Yatra Routs was also discussed with the State Government officers. It was decided that since these routes receives thousands of people from outside, it is necessary that all important rural habitations on these routes should have proper sanitation and Solid Waste Management coverage. The Project Director, CCDU assured that the work will be taken up on selected important habitations with large habitations and large floating population.

During the visit at almost all the places, elected representatives of various Panchayats requested that Independent Stand Alone Single Village schemes on Swajal-II pattern be provided to them. Their argument was that the water being supplied through Jal Sansthan schemes is not sufficient and cannot be relied upon. The State, obviously, will have to take steps on this. The scheme priorities, of course will be to those Partially Covered Villages which have a larger population to be covered. According to the information supplied by the State, the work on 169 pipe water schemes was started from 2006-07 onwards of which

only 7 could be completed so far. Though the progress in approx. 95 schemes is more than 50%, the fact remains that a large number of schemes are yet to be completed which again will have to be a priority of the State Government. It is heartening to see that Swajal has developed a Management Information System which covers not only the Swajal programmes but also the Jal Nigam and Jal Sansthan projects. While data uploading for the Swajal programme is almost complete, the same for Jal Nigam and Jal Sansthan projects is at an advance stage. Once this data is entered into the Management Information System, allocation of resources and review of the programme will record a qualitative improvement. I was assured that the data updation will be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.



After the field visit and the discussion with the State Government officials one is hopeful that financial utilization and physical progress will show a substantial improvement in the current financial year in the State.

