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Government of Odisha
PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT

**TOP PRIORITY
DRINKING WATER**

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From:

Shri Deorajan Kumar Singh, IAS
Commissioner-cum-Secretary

To

All Revenue Divisional Commissioners
All Collectors/ All Project Directors, DRDAs
All Block Development Officers

Sub: **Taking over operation and maintenance of Rural Piped Water Supply Systems (PWSSs) and tubewells and sinking of new tubewells by Grama Panchayats out of CFC and SFC Grants.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to say that Government has been pleased to decide that operation and maintenance of Rural PWSSs & Tubewells and sinking of new Tubewells in rural areas of the State will be the responsibility of Panchayati Raj Department. Therefore, in view of coming summer season, preventive maintenance of PWSSs and tubewells shall be taken up on priority basis and 100% check-up to be conducted by the Sarpanch and PE() at G.P. level as well as the Extension Officer who is the Nodal Officer of the concerned G.P. and verification to be conducted by the BDO. The entire process is to be completed by **31.03.2017**.

Since drinking water is one of the top priority area among the Basic Civic Services provided to the citizens, Grama Panchayats have the clear cut responsibility to ensure that it is reaching to the last corner of the village and the hamlet and people. For this purpose, necessary advisory has already been issued with the provision that atleast 30% of CFC and SFC Devolution Grant shall be utilised for providing safe drinking water to the rural people.

In order to ensure full proof mechanism for its implementation, the chain of commands, responsibility and accountability is fixed from G.P. level up to District level in the following manner.

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- Sarpanch and PEO at the G.P. level to ensure 100% check up of all tubewells and PWSSs for taking preventive maintenance.
- Nodal Jr.Engineer/ GPTA and the Nodal officer (Extension Officer) of the concerned G.P. to review on daily basis about the drinking water problem in the area and ensure that repair and maintenance of tubewells and PWSSs are taken up on priority basis. They will be personally responsible for availability of drinking water to people.
- The telephone number of the Jr.Engineer/ GPTA, PEO and SEMs of the G.P. are to be painted on the wall of the G.P. office for registering complaint on tubewell and PWSSs.
- A Control Room is to be made functional at each G.P. and Block from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. to register complaint on tubewells and PWSSs and the **Complaint Register** to be updated daily basis.
- At G.P. level, Sarpanch will hold a weekly meeting on every Friday to review and monitor the situation where the concerned G.P. Extension Officer, PEO, GRS must remain present. Wherever necessary, the assistance of Asha and AWW may also be taken by the G.P. to track the situation.
- At the Block level, the BDO will hold weekly meeting on every Saturday to review and monitor the situation.
- At the District level, the Collector will also hold weekly meeting on every Monday to review and monitor the situation to ensure that there is availability of drinking water in all habitations. The Project Director, DRDA will act as member convener in the meeting. The district level officers like Addl.PD (Tech.), DPO, Executive Engineer, RWS&S should be invited to the meeting.
- Weekly monitoring format prepared and enclosed shall be filled up and reported at every level. G.P. will send weekly report to BDO, BDO will send weekly report to Project Director, DRDA and the Project Director, DRDA will in turn send the weekly report to MIS wing of Panchayati Raj Department on every Tuesday by e.mail only at e.mail I.D. ddmispr@gmail.com.

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- Mobile van shall be used and Mobile Team shall be formed by the BDO to attend the complaint on tubewells and PWSSs immediately during March to June 2017. In case of larger Blocks having more numbers of Grama panchayats and Blocks having inaccessible areas, additional Mobile Van shall be hired by the BDO and the cost of hire charges and POL to be borne by the Block out of the funds pulled from the G.Ps. The Log Book of the Mobile van shall be properly verified before release of payment.
- While attending the complaint at the spot, the signature of the concerned Ward Member/ AWC worker/ Asha Karmee or two other signatories shall be recorded in the register/ Log Book maintained by the Mobile Team or the SEM visiting the site.

For smoothening the process of repair and maintenance of tubewells, PWSSs and also for sinking of tubewells, Govt. have been pleased to take the following decisions :

- The Jr.Engineer/ GPTA in charge of the G.P. shall prepare plan and estimate for sinking of new tubewells and render technical advice for execution of the project as per RWS&S / OPWD/ OGP Rules/ Odisha Panchayat Samiti Accounting Procedure Rules under the supervision of Asst.Executive Engineer/ Addl.PD (Tech.) whenever necessary.
- Due precaution shall be taken while sinking new tubewells in the saline and fluoride affected areas in consultation with the RWS&S Organisation.
- The measurement, check measurement, technical sanction and administrative approval of the project shall be taken up by following due procedure as laid down in OGP Rules/ Odisha Panchayat Samiti Accounting Procedure Rules and OPWD Code.
- Addl. Project Directors (Tech.), DRDAs shall have the responsibility for proper monitoring and supervision of drinking water projects in the rural areas under their jurisdiction where it is executed. Sinking of tubewells by the G.Ps shall be done following the norms of RWS&S/ OPWD Deptt. only in uncovered and partially covered habitations. In case fully covered habitations, sinking of new tubewells are allowed against the tubewells declared defunct.

