

National Capital Region Planning Board

Minutes of follow-up meeting of the 50th PSMG –I meeting of the NCR Planning Board to discuss ground water extraction issues pertaining to water supply projects of PHED Rajasthan pertaining to the towns of Alwar, Tijara, Rajgarh, Behror and Bhiwadi

A follow up meeting of the 50th Meeting of the Project Sanctioning & Monitoring Group – I (PSMG-I) was held at 4.30 AM on 10.10.2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi. The list of the participants is enclosed as Annexure-I.

At the outset, Member Secretary, NCRPB briefed regarding the proposal for financial assistance to five water supply projects of PHED Rajasthan, covering Alwar, Tijara, Rajgarh, Behror and Bhiwadi towns in Alwar district which was taken up as part of the Agenda in the 50th PSMG-I meeting held in August 2013. Secretary (UD) as Chairman PSMG-I, had expressed reservations regarding extraction of ground water from water scarce areas for any water supply project and suggested that a separate meeting be convened with Principal Secretary, UD&H Rajasthan; Principal Secretary, PHED Rajasthan; concerned senior officers from Central Ground Water Board, State Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Central Pollution Control Board, etc.

Accordingly, this meeting is a follow up meeting wherein the representatives of suggested ministries and departments had been invited.

Presenting the water scenario of the state, Principal Secretary, UD&H, Rajasthan, along with Principal Secretary (PHED) Rajasthan, mentioned that Rajasthan State is dependent on ground water to meet more than 90% of its water requirement, and the State is making all possible efforts to gradually move away from ground water towards surface water sources. Informing the action taken in this direction, it was stated that more than 100 such projects are in the pipeline for supplying of surface water to 18,000 villages in the State. Specifically regarding these five water supply projects, Principal Secretary, PHED informed that out of the five projects, only two projects i.e. Water Supply project for Alwar and Bhiwadi involved boring of new tubewells which amount to less than 2% of the project cost in case of Alwar and less than 9% of project cost in case of Bhiwadi. More than 90% of the project cost is for improvement of distribution system so that the Unaccounted for

Water (UFW) goes down to 15% from the existing 40%. In addition, 100% billing had been proposed. Further, efforts are on to bring the Chambal water to the Alwar district and the State is already in the process of tapping the Chambal waters for Bharatpur district. Further explaining the Alwar project, Chief Engineer PHED informed that the proposed tubewells were planned at the base of the two dams in Alwar where the water table was not too deep after the good rainfall received last year.

The representative from M/o Water Resources and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), however, pointed out that generally, the locations of water extractions and recharge are different. Hence, due care needs to be taken while extracting water even if recharge activities are going on parallelly.

After detailed deliberations, Secretary (UD), GoI suggested that the Government of Rajasthan should make all possible efforts so that the boring of proposed new tubewells is avoided and even the water extraction from the existing tubewells is minimized. He cited the examples of Jaipur where the administration was able to close various borewells as they were able to meet the water requirement through reuse and recycling. He advised that as a policy and practice, States and its concerned departments should make serious efforts towards the following:

1. Decentralized treatment plants and introduce reuse & recycle of treated waste water as part of the project proposals
2. Replacement of broken / leaking distribution system
3. Saving water by improvement in irrigation system

He, accordingly directed that the financial assistance in the form of loans may be considered as approved under KfW Line of Credit through NCRPB for the five water supply projects of PHED Rajasthan with the condition that the components involving new tubewells, both incase of Alwar and Bhiwadi shall be excluded from the project cost and PHED Rajasthan would make all efforts to bring down the water requirement by way of recycling and reusing the existing water supply. The loan releases shall be subject to:-

- PHED, Rajasthan adhering to NCRPB's Environment and Social Management System (ESMS) requirements for the project as applicable.
- Budget Provision of state's contribution of 25% of project cost as well as the applicable supervision charges

The details of the loans approved after incorporating deductions in Alwar and Bhiwadi water supply projects are as presented below:-

(Rs. in Cr.)

Project Name	Estimated Cost	Loan Component
Alwar Water Supply Upgradation Project	174.86	131.14
Tijara Water Supply Upgradation Project	16.46	12.35
Rajgarh Water Supply Upgradation Project	20.24	15.18
Behror Water Supply Upgradation Project	26.02	19.51
Bhiwadi Water Supply Improvement Project (PHED Rajasthan)	40.69	30.52

The loan drawn schedule shall accordingly be revised and submitted to NCRPB prior to issue of sanction letters.

The Chairman directed that the minutes of this meeting be also circulated to the members of the PSMG-I in continuation of the minutes of the 50th PSMG-I meeting held on 7.8.2013.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Participants

1. Dr. Sudhir Krishna,
Secretary (UD), Ministry of Urban Development,
Govt of India
Nirman Bhawan New Delhi. Chairman
2. Shri G.S. Sandhu, Principal Secretary (Urban Development & Housing), Urban Development Department, Govt. of Rajasthan, Rajasthan Secretariat, Jaipur.
3. Shri Arun Kumar, Member, Central Ground Water Board, Faridabad.
4. Shri R.M. Bhardwaj, Sr. Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi.
5. Shri Rana Chatterjee, Scientist 'D', Western Region, Central Ground Water Board, Jaipur.
6. Shri Dinesh Chand, Addl. Advisor (PHE), Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
7. Shri G.R. Zavgor, Sr. Consultant (Water), Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation New Delhi.
8. Dr. Purushottam Agarwal, Principal Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Jaipur.
9. Shri Anil Kumar Bhargawa, Chief Engineer, PHED, Rajasthan
10. Shri H.C. Verma, Asstt. Chief Engineer, PHED, Alwar, Rajasthan
11. Shri Praveen Jain, CTP, NCR Planning & Monitoring Cell, Rajasthan.

NCRPB

1. Ms. Naini Jayaseelan, Member Secretary
2. Shri Rajeev Malhotra, Chief Regional Planner
3. Dr. Kavita Gotru, Director (A&F)
4. Shri P.K. Jain, FAO
5. Shri Abhijeet Samanta, Assistant Director (Tech), PMC

Others

1. Shri N.S. Shekhawat, Team Leader, PMCS
2. Shri Bhoominathan, Financial Expert, PMCS