

Minutes of Review Meeting of IPH Zone Mandi held on 21/4/2016 under the Chairpersonship of Mrs. Anuradha Thakur, Secretary (IPH) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh to review the Status of Drinking Water Supply Schemes.

A meeting was held on 21/4/2016 under the Chairpersonship of Mrs. Anuradha Thakur, Secretary (IPH) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh to review the Status of Drinking Water Supply Schemes of IPH Zone Mandi .

List of participants attached as per Annexure-A.

At the outset, Engineer-in-Chief, IPH welcomed Secretary (IPH) to GoHP and all the participants. This was followed by a round of brief introduction by all the participants. The Secretary (IPH) to GoHP emphasized on the need of institutionalizing review of the activities of IPH department to make the department more focused towards delivery of services and stressed upon the issues to be discussed in the review meeting i.e. performance of the department, issues raised during current Vidhan Sabha session, non completion of water supply schemes for years together, status, issues and performance of STPs in the Zone. Thereafter head-wise discussion on agenda items was taken as under:

1. Ongoing Drinking Water Supply Schemes:

Chief Engineer Mandi Zone stated that 321 water supply schemes are being executed under Mandi zone. Out of which 180 schemes are under jurisdiction of Sundernagar circle and 141 schemes are under Kullu Circle. He further stated that 149 schemes (87 in Sundernagar Circle & 62 in Kullu Circle) can be completed during current financial year with existing budget provision if a sum of Rs. 25 crore is allocated under NRDWP head. Engineer-in-Chief, I&PH ensured that efforts will be made to provide funds demanded. He further stated that as per online entries of the expenditure on IMIS portal of Ministry of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation only 77.16% expenditure has been depicted against Central release and 24.21% under State release. He stated that this year data entry was closed on 16.04.2016 and Executive Engineers closed their accounts on 15.04.2016. Therefore online entries could not be uploaded on the site. Secretary (IPH) asked Superintending Engineer (P&I)-1 to get the site un-locked for data entry from the Ministry in Delhi. It was decided that data regarding full expenditure should be uploaded on the site which will be opened for limited period only.

Thereafter, discussion on the schemes under SCSP head was also undertaken. The Secretary (IPH) observed that many schemes are being executed under this head with meager budget provision leading to non-completion of schemes. Chief Engineer (MZ) stated that 15 schemes can be completed with existing budget provision. The status of ongoing schemes was

discussed in detail with the concerned CE/SEs/EEs and the completion schedule of these schemes was finalized. **The Chairman directed the participants to ensure the completion of ongoing schemes of their respective jurisdiction in time bound manner and the schemes which are in advance stage of completion should be completed on priority basis & the available budget should be utilized to complete such schemes, keeping in view the allocation of budget.**

2. **Status of NABARD Projects (WSS & Irrigation):**

Review of RIDF schemes under NABARD was undertaken. After detailed discussion **Secretary (IPH) asked Chief Engineer (D&M) to evolve Project Readiness Checklist which will incorporate parameters right from conception, preparation of DPRs, its approval and further execution involving tendering process, execution and completion.** It was also decided that matter regarding DPRs pending with Planning Department/ NABARD will also be taken up keeping in view the fact that 111 DPRs amounting to Rs. 313 crore are pending with Planning Department/NABARD and department is hard pressed to frame new DPRs as Hon'ble MLAs are time and again raising the issue of non-framing of DPRs at different forums especially meeting of Planning under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister and Vidhan Sabha.

Chairman further directed that issue of 15 mm dia pipe which is basically being used for house connections to individuals needs to be regulated as there is lot of loopholes in present system. **Engineer-in-Chief I&PH was directed to send a note in this regard which will be taken up with the Planning department or if need be placed before Cabinet.**

The chairperson directed the concerned SEs and EEs to take immediate necessary action to get the projects out of non starter category before 31/5/2016. The Chairperson directed the concerned SEs/EEs to accelerate the pace of work and file the reimbursement claims so as to get the project out of the slow moving project category before 31/5/2016. Further, it was noticed that, there are some PCR's which are pending in respect of Mandi Zone. **It was further desired to submit the PCR's of schemes of all closed tranches which have not been submitted so far in respect of water supply as well as MIS without further delay.**

3. **Review of MLA Priority schemes (2013-14 to 2015-16)**

Chief Engineer (MZ) stated that 138 schemes under Irrigation & Water Supply heads were required to be prepared as per priorities given by Hon'ble MLAs from the year 2013-14 to 2015-16 in Mandi Zone. Out of these 138 schemes, 25 schemes were either infeasible or not required. As such 113 DPRs were supposed to be prepared out of which 101 DPRs have been prepared. Out of these 101 DPRs, 29 DPRs have been approved under NABARD or other heads and only 11 DPRs remain to be prepared. Chief Engineer Mandi zone stated that out of these prepared DPR's only 8 DPRs have been approved by NABARD. Under irrigation head most of the

DPRs prepared during last three years have been re-prioritized under AIBP and as such only 2 irrigation schemes have been sanctioned under RIDF during last three years. The position regarding resubmission of DPRs after attending to the observations raised by the NABARD was reviewed and the concerned SEs/ EEs were directed to attend to the observations of NABARD latest by 15/5/2016 and also get the schemes deleted which are either infeasible or approved under other heads & update the DPRs status accordingly.

The Chairperson directed that Engineer-in-Chief (IPH) would take up the case of pending DPRs with NABARD authorities / Planning Department as already discussed.

4. Status of 512 treatment units:

Chief Engineer (MZ) intimated that there are 191 water supply schemes in which either treatment units are nonexistent or need improvement. There was target to complete 56 treatment units during current financial year which has been achieved. He further stated that remaining treatment units will be completed in phased manner in two years. Engineer-in-Chief (IPH) stated that there is no shortage of funds during the current financial year under this head and efforts should be made to complete all remaining schemes during current financial year. Chief Engineer Mandi Zone stated that as per action plan already submitted 93 treatment units (80 in Sundernagar and 13 in Kullu) are supposed to be completed during current financial year. It was directed that serious efforts be made to complete most of the remaining works during current financial year. It was decided that the targets for 2016-17 must be achieved by December, 2016 as; there is no dearth of funds for this activity.

5. Water Quality:

During the discussion, it was felt that the water quality monitoring system has to be institutionalised & the water testing laboratories need to be inspected regularly by all the concerned officers (AE to CE level) and should take immediate necessary action if any shortcoming is noticed by them and **minimum numbers of surprise checks during each water testing labs be set by the Consultants engaged by the WSSO and, a consolidated report of every Zone would be shared with the AD quarterly.** It was further stressed upon to maintain the record of labs as per the standing instructions and online result of water sample tests conducted in the labs should be updated on GOI web site. The Chief Engineer (HZ) suggested that surprise inspection of water testing labs as well as STP labs w.r.t. sampling, testing, availability of required chemicals, reagents as well as functionality of equipments besides maintenance of test records in labs be got done through consultant engaged by WSSO in addition to inspections by concerned field officers.

It was also decided that the gap in difference of ongoing schemes as per online entry to the list supplied in hard copy be reconciled/ abridged within 10 days. **The chairman advised to find the reason and correct the actual figure. All the SEs/EEs were asked to upload the**

inspection notes on the departmental website without fail and the report will be sent by all field agencies as per the devised format covering all the important aspects during inspection circulated in due course of time.

6. O&M of Water Supply Schemes:

The field officers explained difficulties in management of schemes on account of fewer budgets & inadequate department labour/ staff as every year workers are retiring & there is either no recruitment of staff or ban on fresh recruitments. The details of expenditure on O&M for last three years would be submitted to Engineer-in-Chief (IPH) to assess the imbalance therein. It was decided that a criterion for outsourcing the schemes for O&M would be devised by the E-in-C, IPH within 2 weeks so that there is objectivity in decision making about outsourcing the schemes for O&M. The criteria for the staff required by Contractor/firm may be standardised.

7. Sewerage Scheme:

Chief Engineer Mandi Zone stated that there are 11 STPs under jurisdiction of Mandi Zone. Chairman asked about present status of working of these STPs especially keeping in view failure of samples if any. In this regard Chief Engineer Mandi zone stated that results of few samples as taken by HPPCB failed on account of one or another parameter i.e. BOD and suspended solids. The preventive actions are being taken by respective Executive Engineers and in all cases the subsequent results have shown substantial improvement and also later on found to be in conformity with HPPSCB norms. Frequency of failure has also decreased now. He further stated that it has been observed that septic conditions have developed in most of the STPs. Thus these STPs need to be disinfected by emptying Aeration Units, Clarifiers and even Chlorine Contact tanks. This task can only be undertaken during monsoon season as this will necessitate disposal of raw sewage into river during high flood by shutting off the STPs. Nine sewerage treatment plants under the jurisdiction of Mandi Zone have disposal of treated effluent into river Beas. All these treatment plants are located at a safe distance from nearest water supply schemes. Thus during high flood river Beas can safely digest the effluent. Additional vigil will be undertaken for disinfection/treatment of raw water being lifted from river Beas during intervening period. Similar process will be followed for Sundernagar and Jogindernagar STPs for which treated effluent is being disposed into local streams. Secretary (IPH) asked the department to send a proposal to Pollution Control Board so that codal formalities and permission for this process is taken with in 15 days.

The issue of STP at Manali was also discussed in detail. It was stated by Chief Engineer Mandi Zone that STP at Manali is designed for 1.82 MLD but during peak tourist season in the month of May and June the capacity utilization is to the extent of 137%. Also 1083 connections

have already been released out of sanctioned figure of 1000 connections. Executive Engineer, IPH Division No.I, Kullu stated that at present the STP is located in thickly populated area and is surrounded by hotel at one side and judicial complex on other side. During peak load the STP is unable to fully treat the effluent and thus there is nuisance of bad smell in the surrounding areas. This treatment plant is also under review by NGT. He further stated that as per CM's announcement DPR for providing Sewerage Scheme to rural area of Manali amounting to Rs. 100 crores has already been submitted to UD but it has been received back with observations that DPR be sponsored under JICA. Chief Engineer Mandi Zone added that during budget speech Hon'ble Chief Minister has stated that rural areas of the State will also be provided with sewerage connectivity and the scheme for providing sewerage to rural area of Manali has appeared in the budget with token budget provision of Rs. 1.00 lac. **In this regard Chairman pointed out that the estimate for Sewerage Scheme to rural area adjoining to Manali Town should be reframed by adding the provision of load of existing STP at Manali to new STP being proposed for rural areas and revised Project Report be submitted by 15th May,2016.** It was also reiterated by Chairman that solid waste management system is also an important component for water quality of rivers /streams from where drinking water supply schemes are being constructed and department needs to keep vigil on this aspect also and if any shortcomings are observed, these should be brought to the notice of ULBs.

Chief Engineer Mandi Zone further stated that for proper up keep of STPs it is very important that a Process Engineer having degree in Environmental Engineering is recruited. Responding to this aspect **Chairman asked that a proposal for recruitment of Process Engineer with further promotion avenues be prepared so that in case the subject (Sewerage) is transferred to some other department or carved out of the IPH department, whole structure is transferred as such. R&P Rules for this post has to be also prepared by SE (P&I-II) and Registrar (IPH) and consolidated proposal of recruitment and R&P Rules of Process Engineer should be submitted to the AD within one month by the E-in-C, IPH.**

Chief Engineer Mandi Zone also raised the issue of revised norms of treated effluent as per letter circulated by HP Pollution Control Board. He stated that almost all STPs of Himachal Pradesh are based upon 'Extended Aeration System'. These plants have their own limitations for treating the effluent and there is little scope of improving their efficiency. It will be difficult to achieve the norms proposed to be followed for treated effluent with existing arrangement of Extended Aeration System. He further suggested that a State Level Consultant needs to be appointed who will suggest process /technology to be adopted for improving the efficiency of existing STPs. **On this Chairman asked Engineer-in-Chief (IPH) to initiate the process to have services of a Consultant who can suggest technological interventions required for this aspect. The process to engage Consultant/ Consulting Firm must be completed within two months.**

The Chairperson directed to take every possible corrective measures in r/o existing STPs to bring the parameters of discharge effluent within the prescribed limit and prepare the estimates for the same and submission of the consolidated requirement of the funds for improvement required especially in case of STPs immediately besides scheme wise fund requirement for O&M of sewerage schemes besides ensuring construction of STPs as per new norms/ standards. It was further stressed that the instructions circulated from time to time by the AD regarding monitoring of STPs at the level of EEs, SEs and CEs be religiously followed and Zonal report must be submitted to E-in-C,IPH by 20th of every month.

The CE/SEs/EEs should hold the review meetings at their level at regular intervals and, SE would hold a review meeting at Circle level once in a month and the outcomes of these meetings may be submitted to higher office. The CE would hold a meeting once in every quarter and E-in-C, IPH would hold at least once in every six months. A need was felt to evolve a calendar for monthly & quarterly review meetings and institutionalise the same.

8. Targets of habitation for NRDWP:

Chief Engineer Mandi zone stated that a target to cover 552 habitations has been assigned to Mandi Zone. Out of 552 habitations, 115 habitations are 0-25% category and 437 habitations are 25-50% category. He further stated that all 115 habitations under 0-25% category will be covered during current financial year; however, as per approval available only 386 habitations can be covered under 25-50% category. Intervening in the discussion, the Special Secretary (IPH) stated that remaining 2 habitations of Lahaul should also be covered during current financial year so that entire Lahaul Block is fully covered and no funds under NRDWP-DDP should be surrendered. Chief Engineer Mandi zone agreed to the proposal and thus the target of Mandi zone will be revised to 502 habitations. Special Secretary (IPH) also raised the issue of reviving the target sheet to have a system of regular/period monitoring of the activities of IPH department in place. **On this point Chairman asked Engineer-in-Chief (IPH) to fix the targets for current financial year for all the items/ activities in the Target Sheet. Chairperson asked to prepare month wise target for coverage of targeted habitations accordingly and data about coverage of habitations must be reconciled with the data maintained at the headquarter level in Shimla .**

Superintending Engineer (Works) raised the issue of submission of PCRs, slow moving projects and non starter projects. **It was decided that Superintending Engineers will pay special attention to this aspect and expedite submission of PCRs and increase pace of work of all RIDF schemes especially SMP's and NSP's.** Under Secretary (IPH) also raised the issue of non updation of replies to CM's announcements, Vidhan Sabha Assurances and Budget Assurances. He also stated that e-iph module be constantly updated and monitored at

Circle and Zone level by the SEs/ CE. Chairman asked respective Superintending Engineers to review and expedite the outstanding replies of audit paras by providing latest status and also state the efforts made till now.

In addition to above, it was also decided that, as per previous practices, month wise/ quarter wise 'Target Sheet' of all the important activities of each IPH division would be prepared by 7th June, 2016 for periodic review and monitoring and, the annual appraisal of the officers of the IPH department will purely depend on the achievements with reference to Target Sheets.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to all the participants.

