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Secretary
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



Sanjay Agarwal
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Rajesh Bhushan
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Pankaj Kumar
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Department of Water Resources, River
Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

Vini Mahajan
Secretary
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Nagendra Nath Sinha
Secretary
Department of Rural Development

Indevar Pandey
Secretary
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Ajay Tirkey
Secretary
Department of Land Resources

D.O. No. M-11015/124/2021-CB

Dated: 31st March, 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village

As you are aware, India is a signatory to United Nations 2030 Agenda for achieving inclusive, people-centric and holistic Sustainable Development through 17 identified Goals. To this extent, the Government of India is operating with strategic visioning, prioritization, and implementation methods to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the motto of "Leaving No One Behind", through "Whole of Government and Whole of Society" approach.

2. Basic to life for all People, Prosperity and Planet is water. No water, No life. No Blue planet, no Green planet. Recognizing how important this is to people and planet, the SDGs give immediate attention and set the target for 2020 itself:

Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

However, progress has been uneven and we are lagging behind.

3. You will appreciate the SDGs are cross cutting in nature and a particular SDG can be mapped to many Ministries which can be addressed through various schemes. Keeping this aspect in view, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated thematic approach through aggregating 17 SDG goals into 9 broad themes for localization of SDGs at grass-root level and their attainment through concerted and collaborative efforts of all concerned stakeholders. These themes again address more than one SDG, thus involving more than one Ministry/ Department. For instance, **Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village** addresses **SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15**.

4. If a Gram Panchayat (GP) resolves to transform itself into a **Water Sufficient Village**, it would envision, inter alia, striking a balance between availability and drawal of water and undertaking water conservation works on war footing especially in 'water stressed areas'. Source sustainability holds the key for ensuring comprehensive coverage of Functional Household Water Tap connections (FHTC) among all households, ensure coverage of Water supply in schools, Anganwadis and public institutions as per specified service standards. Thus adequate and regular supply of safe drinking water as per stipulated BIS parameters is contingent upon the GP being a Water Sufficient Village.

5. Thus, if a Gram Panchayat is to become a 'Water Sufficient Village', it would require full support of Departmental functionaries of Water Resources, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Rural Development, Land Resources, Health & Family Welfare, Women and Child Development and Panchayati Raj among others. In addition, if non-Governmental organizations, College students, Youth Organizations such as the NYKS & the NSS are also involved in the task of facilitating

the Gram Panchayat to become a 'Water Sufficient Village' by working with the local community to bring about behavioral changes, then the goal can be realized faster. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through a set of 25 Local Indicator Framework (LIF) identified by the Expert Committee in its report on 'Localization of SDGs in Panchayati Raj Institutions' which has already been shared with all States and stakeholders and is available on the web site of Ministry of Panchayati Raj: <https://www.panchayat.gov.in>.


6. It has been suggested to all States/UTs to organize meetings of all Gram Panchayats during the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)* iconic week allocated to Ministry of Panchayati Raj between April 11 to April 17, 2022 followed by meeting of Gram Sabha on 24th April, 2022 wherein Gram Sabha may resolve to focus on any one or more of the Nine Themes identified for realization of SDGs. All GPs in a Block/District, which undertake to focus on attainment of **Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village**, would need to be provided special hand-holding support to work towards that goal. Preparation of a **Village Water Conservation Plan** would be the first step in that direction. It is heartening that over 2.03 lakh GPs have already prepared Water Conservation Plans. These need to be integrated into the GPDP. Thereafter, role and responsibility of all stakeholders would need to be clearly delineated and understood and resource mapping to be undertaken factoring in resources available under various schemes of Central and State Government and finally culminating in implementation of the Panchayat Development Plan. It is also important that system to measure effectiveness of water conservation measures be put in place in every GP and the same may be regularly shared in meeting of Gram Sabha. It is felt that convergent action by all concerned Ministries/Departments among others at Central and State Government levels will go a long way in attainment of desired outcome. Eventually, all GPs/villages have to become Water Sufficient Village if SDGs are to be attained by 2030.

7. In Government of India, the Nodal Department for the **Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village** is **Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti**. All other Ministries and Departments, which are signatory to this Joint Letter, will provide full support under their ongoing schemes to this effort at the GP/Village level. We expect and hope that similar convergent actions would be undertaken at the State and District level too and progress regularly monitored at High Level Committee constituted at State and District level.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Sanjay Agarwal)
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare


(Pankaj Kumar)
Department of Water Resources, River Development
and Ganga Rejuvenation


(Rajesh Bhushan)
Department of Health & Family Welfare


(Nagendra Nath Sinha)
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Ministry of Women & Child Development


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Ministry of Panchayati Raj

To,

The Chief Secretaries,
All States/UTs

Copy to: Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, All Related
Departments, All States/ UTs