



**BY SPEED**  
**POST**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES**

**(A Constitutional Commission set up under Art. 338A of the Constitution to investigate and monitor all matters relating to violation of rights and safeguards provided for STs.)**

F.No. 4/13/2010-Coord (DWS)

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2011

To

Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar,  
Joint Secretary,  
Department of Drinking Water Supply,  
Ministry of Rural Development,  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi – 110003

**Sub: Proceedings of the Meeting taken by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon,  
Chairperson , NCST with the Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply,  
Ministry of Rural Development on 28.07.2011**

Sir,

A copy of the proceedings of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 regarding drinking water supply to ST habitats is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

(Aditya Mishra)

Joint Secretary

Encl: As above

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Proceedings of the Meeting taken by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson,

NCST with the Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural

Development on 28.07.2011

A list of officers present in the meeting is at the Annexure

2. At the outset, Chairperson, NCST extended warm welcome to the officials of the Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply, MoRD. He mentioned that the meeting was convened to solicit views of the Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply on the details sought by the Commission vide NCST letter dated 7/2/2011 and 30/6/2011 regarding supply of drinking water to ST habitation in connection with a Chapter on the subject to be prepared for the Annual Report of the Commission.
3. Joint Secretary, Deptt. of DWS mentioned that the requisite details were furnished vide Deptt. of DWS letter dated 12/7/2001 and 25/7/2011. He further mentioned that draft proposal in respect of the Scheme for the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan was under preparation. Deptt. of DWS further informed that the physical target for provision of drinking water to ST habitats for the year 2011-12 covered 32,095 ST habitats (out of total 1,45,169 habitats), which constituted 22% of the total covered habitats, compared to 21% and 15% ST habitats in 2010-11 and 2009-10 respectively. The Commission observed that the Scheme should provide accelerated coverage of drinking water to ST habitats and accordingly, funds should be allocated according to "problem-share"; and "need-based" to make up the shortfall existing over the years in relation to ST habitats, compared to other habitats. Unless the earmarking of outlays exceeds the relative share of incidence of residual problems in the area of drinking water supply to ST habitats, the relative gap between ST and other habitats is likely to persist. Joint Secretary, Deptt. of DWS mentioned that, as a matter of policy, preference in respect of ST habitats having partial or no coverage of drinking water supply was being ensured. An Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) had also been established for effective monitoring of the Scheme.
4. The Commission desired to know whether any study was undertaken or being conducted to measure the effectiveness of the Scheme. Deptt. of DWS informed that three pilot studies were being conducted in the State of Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya for evaluation of impact of sustainability activities on the drinking water supply. The Commission advised the Deptt. of DWS that they should establish appropriate mechanism on the pattern of the MGNREGA for effective monitoring and implementation of the Scheme. The Commission also

Contd.. to page 2

*Rameshwar Oraon*

desired that the pilot studies should also be conducted in other States having significant ST population viz. Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh etc. Joint Secretary, Deptt. of DWS assured that the views of the Commission in the matter would be considered. Deptt. of DWS also mentioned that the TOR for engagement of consultancy organizations/research institutions for evaluation of IMIS of drinking water supply schemes and evaluation of impact of sustainability activities on the drinking water supply schemes would also be forwarded to the Commission separately.

5. On a query from the Commission regarding specific areas of concern relating to implementation of the Scheme in the ST habitats, Deptt. of DWS mentioned that operational maintenance of the pumps etc. in the remote areas was an area of concern which was proposed to be addressed by involving Self-Help Groups (SHG). Taking into consideration, the depleting level of ground water over a period in various regions, a significant allocation to the extent of 20% of the funds was being made for sustainability of sources. The Commission also desired that the quality of water should be periodically checked with proper maintenance and verification of records. Further, proper and timely maintenance of the water purification units, specially in remote areas should also be ensured. Deptt. of DWS assured the Commission that necessary focus was being accorded through the State Govts.

6. Joint Secretary, NCST desired to know long-term strategy of the Deptt. of DWS to ensure drinking water security in rural areas, inhibited by ST habitats. JS, Deptt. of DWS mentioned that a Strategic Plan (2011-2022) for ensuring drinking water security in rural India had been formulated and its copy would also be forwarded to the Commission separately.

Rameshwar Oraon

**Annexure**

List of the officials present in the meeting taken by Dr. Rameshwar Oraon,  
Chairperson, NCST with the Deptt. of of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural  
Development on 28.07.2011

**National Commission for  
Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**

- 1 Dr. Rameshwar Oraon,  
Chairperson - In Chair
- 2 Sh Aditya Mishra,  
Joint Secretary

**Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply,  
Ministry of Rural Development**

- 1 Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar,  
Joint Secretary
- 2 Shri Sujoy Mojumdar, Director
- 3 Shri Sidhil Soni, Deputy Director