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D.O.Lr.No.137/WCM/2001, dated: 18.8.2001.

18 AUG 2001

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Sub - Neeru-Meeru - participatory drinking water management -
constitution of habitation level committees in Nizamabad -
regarding.

Ref:- Letter from Nizamabad district Collector, Lr.No. CC/Press
clipping/2001 dt.6.8.2001.

This is regarding constitution of habitation level committees for ensuring participatory management of drinking water in Nizamabad district. In order to ensure supply of clean and pure drinking water, the district administration conceived a pragmatic participatory water management approach to bring about efficient and optimum utilisation of existing drinking water sources, reduce depletion of ground water levels by constituting habitation drinking water committees in all the habitations. The participatory approach conforms to the dictum that if water is to be managed scientifically and judiciously, water users have to be organised to assume responsibilities for meeting their own water requirements. The approach besides ensuring pure and clean drinking water has, reportedly, resulted in decline of gastroenterities/diarrhoea and in curbing leakages in the distribution system.

The typical habitation drinking water committee in Nizamabad consisted of five members, (one each from DWCRA, Yuva Shakti, SHGs with due representation from SC/ST/BC's) and functioned as a pressure group / watch dog on the local bodies powers and ensured proper maintenance and equitable supply of pure and clean drinking water to the entire village.

The responsibilities laid on these committees include:

- (i) Ensuring chlorination of drinking water tanks / open wells so that the source of drinking water is not contaminated.
- (ii) Ensuring cleaning of over head / ground level structures are every week and duly displaying the date of last cleaning and date of next cleaning on the tanks.
- (iii) Ensuring that sewage lines and drinking water pipes do not mixed up.
- (iv) Ensuring regulation of water for equitable supply between wards / borewells / of distribution pipelines.
- (v) Committees were empowered with information pertaining to estimates of the borewells / MPWs schemes, cost of construction etc for ensuring proper utilisation of funds.
- (vi) The committees were entrusted with the responsibility of helping the gram panchayat administration in collection of the water tax.

The above initiative of the district authorities of Nizamabad is not only refreshing but rational as it ensured provision of clean and pure drinking water by utilising the existing infrastructure and without involvement of any additional financial cost. Therefore, I would request you take Nizamabad initiative in right spirit and take up measures to ensure participatory drinking water management with suitable modifications. I would be appreciative of your initiative in this regard and I would be thankful if you can communicate your successful initiatives/ experiences aimed at ensuring participation of people in drinking water management.

REGARDS

Yours sincerely,

(ANIL C. PUNETHA)

To
Sri/Smt G. Ashok Kumar, IAS,
Collector/Magistrate,
Nizamabad District.