CHAPTER - II

This chapter contains findings of Performance Audit on "Implementation of Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme in Gujarat".

PERFORMANCE AUDIT

NARMADA, WATER RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLY AND KALPASAR DEPARTMENT

2.1 Implementation of Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme in Gujarat

Executive Summary

Water is a State subject and the State Government is responsible to ensure access to a minimum quantity of potable water. Government of India (GoI) supplements the efforts of the State Governments with technical and financial assistance for provision of safe drinking water to the habitations in the rural areas of the country. The Water Supply Department (WSD) is responsible for the proper implementation of Rural Water Supply Programme (RWSP) through Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board (GWSSB) and Water and Sanitation Management Organisation (WASMO).

A Performance Audit of Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme in Gujarat was conducted between March 2018 and August 2018 covering the period 2013-18. The main audit findings are summarized below:

- ***As of August 2018, out of 17,843 villages in the State, 8,947 villages had been covered under Narmada Canal based projects/programmes and 3,893 villages under other source based water supply projects.***
- ***Government of Gujarat's (GoG) claim that all 35,996 habitations in the State were fully covered with water supply was not correct.***
- ***Out of 2,352 villages covered under 91 Rural Water Supply Schemes (RWSSs) in eight test-checked Districts, only 1,587 villages were getting water through RWSSs. Of the remaining 765 villages, 258 villages had no access of water due to insufficient water at source, non-creation of internal distribution networks, damaged pipes, etc.***
- ***There were under-reporting of non-functional WSSs. Even many of the non-functional schemes were not in the knowledge of the Department.***
- ***State Level Laboratory (SLL) at Gujarat Jalseva Training Institute (GJTI) conducted only routine tests instead of conducting specific tests and could not act as a referral laboratory due to non-availability of high end equipment/instruments. Due to less number of Taluka Level Laboratories (TLLs), there was vast shortfall in the number of water sources to be tested as per norms. Mobile Laboratory Vans were not being utilised optimally. Field Test Kits meant for water quality testing were not utilized by Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Multi Purpose Health Workers (MPHWs) in test-checked habitations.***
- ***GoG's claim of no Quality Affected habitations in the State was not correct. About 10 per cent habitations in the State had no fit source of potable water.***

- ***In the test-checked Districts, bacteriological testing was not being done for all sources of water except for water supplied from RWSS, which is supplied after treatment in Water Treatment Plants (WTPs).***
- ***Irregular booking of expenditure under Research and Development (R&D) schemes by GWSSB and the test-checked Districts respectively, non-surrender/non-refund of unspent funds by WASMO, and non-payment of water charges by Gram Panchayats were noticed in Audit.***
- ***Periodical monitoring of completed schemes was not being done.***

2.1.1 Introduction

Water is a State subject and the State Government is responsible to ensure access to a minimum quantity of potable water. Gujarat has 185 river basins and the available quota of water in the State is 55,608 million cubic metres[1].

As of August 2018, the State has 17,843 villages, of which drinking water was being supplied to about 12,840 villages (72 *per cent*) through water supply schemes implemented by Government of Gujarat (GoG). Of these 12,840 villages, 8,947 villages (70 *per cent*) have been covered under Narmada Canal Based Projects/Programmes and 3,893 villages (30 *per cent*) have been covered under other source[2] based water supply projects.

According to the data available on the Integrated Management Information System[3] (IMIS), as on 01st April 2018, 91.11 *per cent* habitations of Gujarat had the facility of Piped Water Supply (PWS) against the all India percentage of 41.91.

Government of India (GoI) launched (April 2009) the National Rural Drinking Water Programme[4] (NRDWP) for providing grants to State Governments for implementation of Rural Water Supply Schemes (RWSSs) with special focus on water-stressed and water quality affected areas. NRDWP prioritises coverage of uncovered/partially covered/slipped back/water quality affected habitations[5] to make them fully covered habitations[6] by carrying out various water supply related works, recharging of ground water, establishing water testing laboratories for quality control purposes, *etc.*

As per the NRDWP guidelines, GoG had prepared (February 2015) a 'Draft Water Policy 2015' based on the 'National Policy Framework'. However, the policy was not yet finalized (May 2019).

In addition to NRDWP, GoG also implemented State sponsored Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) like Rural Water Supply Programme (RWSP), Scheme for

1 Surface water: 38,100 million cubic metres and Underground water resources: 17,508 million cubic metres
2 Dams, Rivers, Irrigation Canals, Underground water, *etc.*
3 A web-based platform launched by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) to enable online monitoring of the status of water supply projects and coverage across rural India. It consists of data relating to habitation, scheme implementation, water source and quality of water.
4 Successor of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.
5 **Uncovered habitation** is one which has never been provided with drinking water supply or supplied with less than 10 litre per capita per day (lpcd) by the Government; **Partially covered habitation** is one in which the average supply of drinking water is equal to or less than 40 lpcd but more than 10 lpcd; **Slipped back habitation** is one which had the status 'Fully Covered' at one point of time but presently is 'Partially Covered'; **Quality Affected Habitation** is one where water samples tested in laboratories have indicated levels of chemical contamination (limited to Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Nitrate and Salinity) higher than the permissible limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards.
6 **Fully covered habitation** is one in which the average supply of drinking water is equal to or more than 40 lpcd. within a distance of 100 meters from the household.