
To

1. All the Deputy Directors(Regional)
2. All the Commissioners, Municipal Corporations
3. All the Chief Engineers, Improvement Trusts/Local Government Deptt.
4. All the Executive Officers of Municipal Committees/Councils/Nagar Panchayats

Memo.No.PUDM:2013:7699-7844
June 17, 2013

Sub: Water Supply & Sewerage work in the State

1. A case has come to the notice in which Improvement Trust, Amritsar, in their recent tender for various works in Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, has advertised for sewerage work and tube-wells to the tune of Rs.282 lakh in areas where the sewerage scheme is covered under the JICA project of Rs.600 crore.
2. The undersigned on the directions of the Deputy Chief Minister visited Amritsar on 13 Jun 2013 to listen to the grievances and problems faced by the Councillors of Municipal Committee, Amritsar. With a view to resolve these issues and suggest remedial measures, the undersigned had a detailed meeting followed by visit to the various wards in the city.
3. During the inspection, it came to light that both Municipal Corporation and Improvement Trust have been executing water supply and sewerage works without consulting the Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board who are the custodian of the entire water supply and sewerage designs and master plan. At nearly three places, it was seen that the Improvement Trust/Municipal Corporation Engineers had executed sewerage works in the last one year. However, these were already planned in the JICA contract. Further, the size of the sewer laid and the levels (depth) of sewer was not as per the existing design approved under the JICA project. Therefore, the sewer had to be demolished and new sewer line with adequate depth and levels had to be laid. This has caused dual inconvenience to the residents of these wards as well as the road has been damaged and kept unusable for long duration of time. Further, it has resulted in infructuous expenditure whereas this fund could have been utilized for Operation & Maintenance or other works like repair of roads etc.

4. Further in case of water supply, a large number of tube-wells have been dug in all the cities and towns in excess of the actual requirement. For example, for the entire city of Amritsar, PWSSB has designed water supply distribution by making various zones based on OHSRs. There are 40 OHSRs existing in the city but are not being utilized resulting in wastage of precious Government funds. If water supply distribution based on various zones is utilized using these 40 OHSRs then it will require 80 tube-wells @ 2 (two) tube-wells per OHSR for the entire city. But at present, there are already 468 tube-wells in the city under operation. These tube-wells run for 8-12hrs every day increasing the electricity bill, manpower, water losses, increasing load on sewerage system and funds for repair of these installations. In addition, the Improvement Trust Amritsar has planned 35 more new tube-wells in the current year as informed by the Municipal Commissioner, Amritsar. Thus, the O&M of the city based on the existing system is nearly 2-3 times more expensive for the Corporation to fund. As a result, most of the Municipal Corporations/Councils/Committees have no funds for O&M of these state-of-the-art installations.

5. In view of the above, as per the existing order of the Government of Punjab, no work of water supply & sewerage will be undertaken by any other agency except PWSSB. Further in case it is felt that due to urgency and inescapable need the execution of projects related with water supply & sewerage will be first vetted and approved by PWSSB and sanction/NOC will be given by the Commissioners/Deputy Directors (Regional)/Executive Officers. Though only case of Amritsar has been cited above but this aspect has been brought in all cities and towns by the undersigned during his inspections/visits in the last 9 months. It is, therefore, imperative that all Municipal Councils/Committees/Nagar Panchayat ensure that there is no infructuous expenditure on the above action in future.

Technical Adviser

Endst.No.PUDM:2013:

June 17, 2013

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information:

- (a) The Special Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab, Chandigarh
- (b) The Secretary (A) Local Govt. Punjab, Chandigarh
- (c) The Secretary (B) Local Government, Punjab, Chandigarh
- (d) The Director, Local Government, Punjab, Chandigarh

Technical Adviser