

# **JALASATHI**

## **AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO EMPOWER URBAN POOR WOMEN**

**(An initiative under 5T, Government of Odisha)**

### **Background:-**



Universal piped water supply coverage with focus on quality and sustainability is top priority of the Government. In line with this, Jalasathi initiative has been launched by Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha under 5T initiatives to ensure community participation in water supply management across the State. So far the experience has been quite

fulfilling in terms of empowering women and bridging the gap between Department and Local Communities. Further the regular conduct of Water Quality Test at the household level has also served to bring more awareness on safe drinking water among the people.

### **Profile at a glance:**

**Date of Commencement – 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**

**Key Stakeholders – WATCO, PHEO, HDFC Bank & SUDA**

**No of Jalasathis deployed till date – 765**

**No of ULBs being covered – 109**

**(No of Corporations – 5, No of Municipalities – 45 & No of NACs – 59)**



### **Programme Objectives:**

- 1. Strengthening the community centric process for universal coverage of piped water connections to all the households.**
- 2. Ensuring delivery of safe and clean drinking water to every households.**
- 3. Reduction and control of Non Revenue Water through effective and regular metering.**

### **Programme Activities**

- Bringing all existing water connections, either on record or missing, into the consumer database;**
- Sensitizing public on relationship between water and health and**

discouraging them from using groundwater from individual bore wells;

- Reassessing number of taps, size of storage tanks, underground and overhead, and the status of meters in each house vis-à-vis that on records of WATCO/PHEO. WATCO/PHEO will revise the billing amounts of bills accordingly as necessary.
- Intimating consumers about monthly bills and collecting the same in time 'digitally' through MPoS devices from consumer doorsteps;
- Conducting field tests on quality of water at user ends/ household levels for quality assurance and quality control.
- Intimating each consumer about the monthly user charges bills, annual property tax demand and other municipal revenue as may be notified by the government, and collecting all revenue 'digitally' through MPoS devices against the bills from the consumer's doorstep in time;

#### **Operation domain:**

1. Water Quality Testing, Facilitating New Water Connections, Regularizing Connections, Reassessment of Demands, Meter Reading, Bill Generation, Bill Delivery, Collection of Water Charges and facilitating Complaints Redressal.
2. Unified Revenue Collection consisting of Water Tax, Property Tax has started as a pilot in Puri and based on the learnings, it will be scaled up to cover other ULBs of the state.



**HR deployment:** There is a team of professionals who are being led by a Jalasathi State Coordinator to look into the implementation of Jalasathi programme.

**Monitoring & Evaluation Mechanism:** Project Monitoring Unit has been set to regularly review and look into the following aspects:

- Jalasathi wise Revenue collection across 115 ULBs in the State.
- Follow up with key stakeholders i.e. HDFC, Ezetap & PHEO/WATCO to address issues coming up at the field level.
- Monthly Consolidation of Revenue to ensure timely release of incentive.

**Progress of Jalsathi initiative till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023:**

**Programme Coverage:**

- No of Jalasathis deployed till date – 758
- No of Consumers covered till date – 897923
- No of Mission Shakti Groups (MSGs) involved till date – 753

**New Connections & Water Quality Tests till 31<sup>st</sup>March,2023**

- No of New connections provided – 48425
- No of Water Quality Tests done till date – 196726

**On the basis of experienced gained from the on-going pilot initiative on Unified Revenue Collection at Puri, Jalasathis will soon be assigned the task of collecting Water Tax, Property Tax etc. across the State. This will result in empowerment of women as well as flow of revenue for the State.**