

*Summary of Recommendations*

- *Department of Drinking Water Supply (DDWS) should not only insist on preparation and submission of Annual Action Plans (AAP) in time by the State Government, but also insist that these plans are habitation-wise. Details of schemes for SC/ST populations should be specifically indicated in the AAPs, and implemented as per the plans.*
- *GoI may take action for recovery in respect of cases of inadmissible expenditure/ diversion of funds.*
- *DDWS may direct all State Governments to ensure adequate infrastructure for water testing like laboratories equipped with adequate qualified manpower and required equipment.*
- *State Governments should ensure testing of water samples, including positive water samples from GPs/ VWSCs, at the stipulated periodicity, and also maintain appropriate records of such testing. This may be structured as part of a comprehensive State-wide water quality monitoring programme.*
- *Requisite number of Field Testing Kits should be procured and distributed to Gram Panchayat level functionaries who should be imparted adequate training, so that the objective of institutionalizing water quality testing at the grass root level is achieved.*
- *DDWS should ensure that States accord due importance to the sustainability component as suited to their local environment. Further, State Governments should be encouraged to adopt measures for rainwater harvesting, controlling utilization of ground water, studying ground water levels and impact of recharge structures and use of remote sensing and related technologies for such studies, and promoting ground water recharge in WSSs.*
- *State Governments may also consider launching localized Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to promote the urgency of, and need for adopting water conservation and sustainability measures amongst the local population.*
- *State Governments may be encouraged to carry out independent third-party evaluations of a representative sample of water supply schemes to assess their effectiveness and the level of satisfaction of the local community.*
- *DDWS may direct States to ensure that Vigilance and Monitoring Committees are constituted and are functional. Further, States should also set up Special Monitoring and Inspection Units with adequate complement of technically qualified staff.*