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Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
(National Jal Jeevan Mission)

12th Floor, Antyodaya Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110003
Dated 09th April, 2025

To,
The Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary,
Rural Water Supply/ PHE Department,
All States/UTs.

Subject: Advisory on preparedness for heat wave - Reg.

Madam/ Sir,

As you may be aware that upcoming months in the country, dry spells with increasing normally observed temperature are expected. Heat Waves are a period of unusually high temperatures as compared to what is normally expected over a region. Therefore, the temperatures at which Heat waves are declared differ from place to place based on the temperature climatology (historical temperatures) of that region.

2. In this respect, following criterion has been set by IMD for declaring heat wave:

a.) Likelihood of heat wave comes under consideration if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees C or more for Plains and at least 30 degrees C or more for Hilly regions;

b.) Based on departure from Normal temperature:
   i. Heat Wave: Departure from normal is 4.5 degree C to 6.4 degree C
   ii. Severe Heat Wave: Departure from normal is >6.4 degree C

c.) Based on Actual Maximum Temperature:
   i. Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature ≥ 45 degree C
   ii. Severe Heat Wave: When actual maximum temperature ≥47 degree C

If the above criteria, i.e., (b) OR (c) is met at least in 2 stations in a Meteorological sub-division for at least two consecutive days, heat wave is declared. However, for coastal regions, when maximum temperature departure is 4.5 degrees C or more from normal, heat wave may be described provided actual maximum temperature is 37 degrees C or more.

3. In view of the likely dry spell including the heat wave, the rural water supply infrastructure need to be made fully functional/ operational so that there are no inconvenience reported on account of adequate and safe water supply at least in households, schools and AWCs. Towards this following is suggested to take up as preventive action:

d.) Identify all water sources like dams, reservoirs, tanks etc. and plan for reserving requirement of drinking water in the event of water scarcity at the earliest to avoid conflict with agricultural demand including reservation of water for drinking purposes in multipurpose water reservoirs;

e.) Identify habitations / villages indicating the month from which they are likely to face water scarcity during the heat wave and dry spell;

f.) Steps are to be taken for repair, rehabilitation, replacement, rejuvenation and augmentation of existing water supply schemes through preventive O&M practice so that they are all functional and supply water at maximum efficiency. Schemes nearing completion are to be fast tracked;

g.) Planning for availability and supply of hardware viz. pipes, DG sets, HDPE tanks, vehicles, motors, drilling machines and equipment etc. and chemicals used for water treatment should be done;

h.) Leakages and thefts from the water distribution network is to be observed for quick rectification, so that the water supply is uninterrupted;

i.) The electricity dues for the water supply schemes are to be cleared by the State Deptt. so that the electricity department in the State can ensure uninterrupted power supply;

j.) As water level drop, there are chances of deteriorating water quality due to increased contamination, hence ensure water quality testing of drinking water sources and delivery points through laboratories and at village level by trained persons with field test kits;

k.) Identification of new bore wells, dug wells of high yield, high yielding agricultural bore wells for hiring as an exigency measure to restore water supply on temporary basis from local source;

l.) In areas which are not served by the piped water supply schemes or community water purification plants, either commission water supply through hand pump, borewells, dug wells, springs, other improved sources etc. or prepare adequate plans with route maps to supply safe drinking water through tankers for vulnerable areas etc.

m.) Close monitoring of ground water level and assessing feasibility of drilling of tube wells at various depths;

n.) The water supply schemes progressed under JJM are to be expedited since this dry spell is working season before onset of monsoon;

o.) IEC/ BCC measures for i.) Protection and conservation of water sources to meet the increased demand for water during heat waves, ii.) Strengthening of water supply infrastructure to meet the increased demand for water during heat waves.

4. The above list is not exhaustive, and it is requested that States/UTs may take all possible measures required to keep the piped water supply infrastructure operational during the heat wave and dry spells which are going to be expected in a fortnight time.

Yours faithfully

Manoj 29/4/25

(Manoj Kumar Jha)
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Copy to: Engineer-in-Chief/ Chief Engineer, in-charge Rural Water Supply, All States/ UTs for information further necessary action.