

Government of Bihar
Panchayati Raj Department

From,

Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh, I.A.S
Director

To,

The Editor,
Times of India,
New Delhi / Kolkata.

Date - 18/09/2021

Sub.: The Actual facts with respect to a news item published in Times of India, Patna edition on 17.09.2021 at page 3.

Sir,

A news item has been published in ToI on 17.09.2021 titled "**Govt. gave Bihar Taps, but forgot Water**" has all data & figures with malafide intent and entire story is totally incorrect and fabricated. The correspondent in this news article states that a reality check has been carried out and refutes the claim of Centre and State which says 87% of Bihar Households are now have tap water. The said news is incorrect & baseless while the actual status of the '**Har GharNal Ka Jal**' scheme in the Bihar that is wrongly quoted as achievement under Jal Jeevan Mission in the said article.

It has been reported that in three Panchayats of Muzaffarpur district, namely –Pakahi (Barla Ismail), Sonbarsa (Kurhani Block) and Madhubani (Mushahari Block) the tap water supply is not working. The factual position with regard to the three Panchayats is as under:-

Sl. no.	Block	Panchayat	Number of Wards	Published News	Status of Tap Water Supply	Remarks
1	Kurhani	Balra Ismail (Pakahi)	15	Infrastruct- ure is in place but no water supply	Out of 15 wards, 13 wards have uninterrupted water supply, while only two wards have minor issues being flood affected and the same will be resolved soon. In Barla	The news article has been published on the basis of just one ward, which is not a representative sample of the actual status and is clearly biased with negativity with clear negation

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					Ismail village that consists of two wards, one ward has severe water logging while the other ward has functional water supply.	of facts.
2	Kurhani	Sonbarsa	15	Only 30 min of water supply, twice a day	Out of 15 wards, 13 wards have uninterrupted water supply, whereas two wards are flood affected.	The statement of Raman Kumar has been taken who himself seems to be unaware of the provision that the ward itself regulates the timing of the water supply as per the needs of the people, and which is normally three times a day. Just one such person was interviewed, which cannot be termed as a representative sample or a scientific way of confirming the facts.
3	Mushahari	Madhubani	14	Water supply not proper and water quality is poor	Uninterrupted water supply is being ensured in all 14 wards. The issue of water quality being raised is not tenable because work in quality affected areas was entrusted to PHED department after proper survey analysis, whereas	The published news article has made no reference as to the quality benchmark that has been considered in making such an exaggerated claim. It was also not deemed proper to take the statement of any technical or administrative official at the district or the

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					Panchayati Raj Department undertook the work in other areas where water quality was not affected, Mushahri under question being one of such areas.	state level before publishing the news article.

Thus, it is clear from the above-mentioned facts that have been physically verified by officials of the local district administration, that in all three Panchayats under question, out of 44 wards, there is uninterrupted water supply in all wards except a few which have minor issues due to being affected by flood and water logging and which will be resolved soon. It must be noted that to redress such issues of repair and maintenance, the State Government has enforced a robust Operation and Management (O&M) Policy and ensured a user responsive system for quick redressal of non-functionality / break-down incidence in water supply. Service Providers are being hired for repaired and maintenance work in stipulated time on call basis. A very robust mechanism for repair, maintenance and upkeep has been put in place. A grievance redressal number - 1800 -1231-121 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM (6 days) is functional to register the complaint and redress in stipulated time - period. IT enabled grievance redressal has helped in collecting the information and bringing the corrective measures for effective implementation. Interpretive information systems highlight the impacts made at grass root level.

It is to further clarify that Government of Bihar started Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal scheme in 2016 and has been systematically working on it. In 4291 Panchayats, work is being done by Panchayati Raj Department and in the remaining 4095 Panchayats, works are being done by PHED. The status of completion of schemes is as under:-

Sl. No.	Department	Total No. of Wards	Functional	In Process
1	PRD	58,107	57,452	543
2	PHED	56,544	55,053	1,491
Total		1,14,651	1,12,505	2,034

Thus, out of total 1,14,651 wards in the State, Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal Yojana is functional in 1,12,505 wards.

In Muzaffarpur district itself, the Panchayati Raj Department has undertaken works in 4585 wards, out of which the works have been completed in 4577 wards. Of these, 43 wards are affected by flood and water logging.

It is clearly evident that the published news article has overlooked the essential facts and it is not clear as to how a very small and a non-representative sample was chosen in the most unscientific way, without recording any statement from the technical or administrative authorities, and with a clear bias and an intent to portray a fact-less and negative narration.

It is requested to issue suitable rebuttal in this matter. It is also requested that in future before publishing such news items you may kindly confirm the facts from all concerned sources.

Thanking you.

Enclosure:-

DM's Report Lt. No.2250 dt. 17.09.2021


(Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh)
Director

Memo No. :- 05 (com)

Patna, Dated 18/09/2021

Copy to -

1. Bureau Head, Times of India, Patna.
2. Sri Kanwal Tanuj, I.A.S., Director, IPRD, Patna for information and necessary action please.


(Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh)
Director