

सुनील कुमार  
सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय



**Sunil Kumar**  
Secretary,  
Government of India  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

अनीता करवाल  
सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
स्कूली शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग

**Anita Karwal**  
Secretary,  
Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
D/o School Education and Literacy

DO .No. M-11015/170/2019-FD

16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan with the campaign theme "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" is being observed in the entire country from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The campaign was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 (the World Water Day). During the campaign period, various activities for water conservation and augmentation of ground water availability would be taken up with active participation of people.

Having regard to this campaign, it is suggested that the Panchayats/Traditional local bodies in your State may be advised to utilize the funds under the various schemes and programs, including the Fifteenth Finance Commission Tied Grants towards creation and maintenance of roof rain water harvesting structures and groundwater recharge systems in various Panchayat/ Government owned/controlled/aided schools, during the campaign period. They may also prepare nurseries to take up tree plantations during monsoon period in such schools.

Further, the sudden rise in the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country calls for a special strategy to protect the health and well being of school going children. As significant numbers of cases are also being reported from rural areas, rural schools need to give special focus on regular testing and tracking for the pandemic cases, as also intensive preventive measures viz. regular daily sanitation in schools, cleaning of school toilets and proper arrangement in schools for hand-wash, wearing of masks and adequate social distancing. This may be ensured with active cooperation of Education and Panchayat functionaries and convergence of funds available with the Education Department and Gram Panchayats.

This may be accorded top priority.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sunil Kumar)

(Anita Karwal)

To,

The Chief Secretaries/Administrators, All States/UTs.

Copy to :Principal Secretary/ Secretary, Panchayati Raj Deptts, All States/UTs.