

MODEL BY LAWS FOR WATER SUPPLY

By law for.....Village Panchayat.....Panchayat Union
of..... District.

Approved by the Village Panchayat/.....2023.....

PART I

GENERAL

1. The jurisdiction of the Bylaw is limited to domestic and non-domestic water supply to the villages and hamlets within the Village Panchayats.
2. These By Laws are prepared keeping in view the Constitution of India (Articles 243G, 243H, 243I and 280), the relevant provision of the State Panchayat Acts on the responsibilities and powers of Village Panchayat on water supply and as per JJM guidelines.
3. The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) is here by appointed Executive Authority and is authorised to manage, operate and maintain the public water supply system within the boundaries of the villages within the Gram Panchayat and to fix terms and rate under which water facilities may be supplied and water used.
4. Water of adequate quantity and safe quality as per JJM norms / norms of the State Government shall be supplied for domestic use through FHTC, and for non-domestic use at times and place as decided by the GP / VWSC.
5. The rates as set out in Schedule A and Schedule B are hereby imposed on water and the rates shall be levied and collected in accordance with the schedules.
6. The rates shall be revised once a year to reflect changes in the cost of delivery of water services.
7. Revenue collected for providing household service connections and water charges shall only be used by the purpose of operation and maintenance of water supply systems in the Village Panchayat.

8. Any person who contravenes any provision of the Bylaw commits an offence punishable, and is liable to a fine as stipulated in schedule C of the By law.

PART II

House Service Connections

Application

1. Every application for the FHTC shall be submitted to the Chairperson of VWSC in writing signed by the applicant (owner or occupier of the house with the written consent of the owner of the premises). The applicant shall indicate if the connection is for Domestic or Non-Domestic Purpose.
2. The turn “House” occurring in the Bylaw shall mean building that is assessed as one unit under the House tax for the purpose of raising demand note for House Tax / Property Tax collection.
3. After receiving the application, from any new household, the VWSC will investigate and decide whether the capacity of the water supply system allows the connection to be given without unduly affecting the supply of water to existing household service connections / FHTCs. Application shall be considered and approved in the order they are received.
4. After approval of the application for house service connection the work necessary for such supply shall be commenced only after the applicant has remitted to the G P the estimated service connection fee and the fixed deposit amount as specified in Schedule A.
5. A formal agreement signed by the Applicant and the VWSC shall be prepared and a copy of the By-law for Water Supply shall be given to the Applicant.

User category

1. The FHTC shall be either for Domestic or Non-Domestic use.
2. Supply of water in the following places shall be classified as Non-Domestic irrespective of the fact that building is used for the purposes or not.
 - i. For any small business like village restaurants / tea stalls

- ii. For government or private institutions
 - iii. For the purpose of home-based / cottage industries
 - iv. For the purpose of building constructions
 - v. For any other mechanical purpose – not meant for drinking
 - vi. Other than domestic purposes
 - vii. If the house owner or occupier draws water from the Panchayat pipe supply through hose pipe or movable pipe or other device attached to the taps sanctioned for the FHTC.
3. The supply of water to Temples, Mosques and Churches shall be only for drinking purposes and shall be classified as Domestic.
- i. The management of the institutions shall have to pay all the charges incurred for the installation of tap connection and its maintenance.
 - ii. If the water supplied for the above said institutions is found to be wasted or used for other purposes, the charges will be collected as for Non-Domestic use. However, such use will be discouraged / severely warned against initially.
 - iii. If at any time the taps are found leaking. Or mishandled defeating the automatic action. The VWSC shall place it before the Executive Committee of the GP to consider disconnecting the tap forth with.

Technical stipulations

1. Every house to which water supply connections pipe is laid, shall be provided with only one service connection from the main (controlled by a “Screw Down” ferrule and a stop cock), which can be used for three faucets inside a house. The flow shall be maintained as 5 litres per minute or as may be prescribed by the State. No house shall be supplied with water from existing or prospective service connection of any adjoining house or building.
2. The House owner/occupier of the premises shall not have any right to claim FHTC in a particular distribution main. The connection will be given only on the distribution main approved by the VWSC / GP in consultation with PHED.
3. Subject to these by-laws the diameter and the character of the service connection pipes, and the number, size and kind of stop cock or tap, shall in

each case, be determined by the VWSC having regard to the pressure available at the “off take” point at the main. The standard service connection shall be 15mm (1/2”) service pipe with 10mm (3/9”) ferrule.

4. All taps in domestic service shall be of G.I or bronze and “screw” type or any other type approved by the Executive Engineer/PHED / RWS Department. The water supply connection pipe and fittings shall conform to the Indian Standard Specification and as specified by the CPWD and concurred by VWSC.
5. No tap of any FHTC shall be in such a position as to render it liable to be submerged by water discharged from it at any time or in a position where the spill (or) waste water can be discharged to the nearest panchayat recharge pit, or drain, by gravitation.
6. The house owner or occupier shall not draw water from the piped supply through any pump or other device or movable pipe attached to the tap sanctioned for domestic or non-domestic connection. Non-compliance will be viewed seriously.

Inspection and examination

1. All tap fittings etc of a house service connection shall be so fixed within, the purview of the Executive Authority easy access, and the owner or occupier of the houses shall afford all faculties for easy inspection by the VWSC representatives or other representatives and government servants authorized. If any resistance is offered, the supply of water shall be stopped.
2. The VWSC may approve removal at any time any pipe or fitting connected with any FHTC for the purpose of examining the condition of such pipes or fittings for rendering repairs. If it is found that the pipes or fittings are defective in any respect the VWSC may give notice to the owner (or) occupier of the premises to carry out within a specified time. If the work is not executed within the time specified in the notice or if the defect is likely to cause waste or contamination of water, the VWSC may himself execute such works, and shall recover the cost there of from the owner or occupier or stop supply of water to the premises by cutting off the connection.

Further, if on such examination if it is found that there were unauthorized additions or alternations or extension of pipes, taps, and fittings or tampering with ferrule etc. the VWSC may order disconnecting the FHTC after giving 24 hours of notice to the owner or occupier of the premises concerned.

Interference and misuse of water

1. No person not duly authorized by the VWSC shall open or in any way interfere with any main or pipe connected with the panchayat water supply. Creation of so-called pit taps cause contamination and collapse of the whole water supply system. Any person suspected to have done this will be reported to the Police.
2. The VWSC reserves to himself/herself the right to cut off after giving 24 hours' notice any supply granted for domestic or non-domestic purpose if in their opinion, it is found that the water supplied is being misused. In such case the Village Panchayat shall not be liable for any loss or damage.

Temporary cut off or restrictions of supply

1. The GP/ VWSC reserves the right to cut off after giving seven days' notice any supply granted for domestic or non-domestic purposes if in his/her opinion there is any scarcity of water, until such time the source is restored. In such cases, the Panchayat or the VWSC shall not be liable for any loss but the deposit shall be repaid if so requested.
2. The VWSC reserves the right to cut off after giving 24 hours' notice any supply granted for domestic or non-domestic purpose in case of repair works, upon intimation to the households in a given village.

Payment for service

1. The supply of water shall be chargeable as laid down in Schedule A irrespective of the number of internal taps, and according to the purpose for which it is used (Domestic or non-Domestic) and charged at the rates specified.
2. Water charges shall be paid to the Panchayat monthly / annual as prescribed by GP.

3. In case of default in the payment of the Water Supply charges before the end of the month the VWSC shall have full powers to stop supply of water at any time. The VWSC of the Village Panchayat shall not be held responsible for any loss or inconvenience caused to the owner or occupier of house. If the water charges are not remitted in the coming month an amount as specified in Schedule A shall be levied as penalty.
4. Payment for all water supply under the terms and conditions laid down in the Bylaw if not paid by the party concerned within the time stipulated shall be recoverable in the same manner as house tax.
5. A reconnection fee as specified in Schedule A will be charged for reconnection in case the supply of water is cut off for non-payment of water bills.
6. The water charges have to be continuously paid. Failure to remit the above water charges due to the Panchayat the amount will be recovered from the deposit amount for some time, and then supply disconnected.
7. Remission for non-use of water may be granted by the VWSC for the closure of water supply temporarily. A fee as laid down in Schedule A will be charged for reconnection and cut off in each time.
8. Water from a house service connection given for domestic consumption shall not be utilized for non-domestic purpose without the express permission of the GP / VWSC in writing. But if the VWSC, has reasons to believe that in any case the water supply under the domestic rate is being used for other than domestic purposes, the owner or the occupiers may be required to pay at non-domestic rate of the services connection as specified in Schedule-A from such date as the VWSC / GP may notify and in default order for cutting off the supply. The decision of the Chairperson of the VWSC / Executive Officer of GP is final.

Penalty

1. Whoever commits a breach of the above by-laws shall be punishable as laid down in Schedule C.

PART III

Public taps and hand pumps

Definition of users services

1. All houses within the village panchayat that have not obtained FHTC/ House Service Connections shall be deemed to be users of public taps or hand pumps.
2. The term “House” occurring in this By-law shall mean a building that is assessed as one unit under the House tax.

Use of services

No person

1. Shall draw water from a public fountain in a vessel of more than 30litres capacity
2. Shall draw water from a public fountain or hand pump for purpose other than domestic
3. Take bath or wash cloths, utensils, vehicles, animals at a public tap or hand pump
4. Shall draw water from a public fountain or hand pump more than once consequently when others are waiting.
5. Suffering from any contagious disease or infective disease shall use any public tap or hand pump.
6. Shall draw water from unauthorised taps, pit taps or broken pipes.
7. Shall draw water from FHTC for construction, gardening or any other purpose.

Interference

No person

1. Not only authorized by the VWSC shall interfere with any standpost or hand pump for any purpose whatsoever.
2. Not duly authorized by the V W S C / G P shall open or in any way interfere with any main or pipe connected with the water supply. Creation of

so-called pit taps cause contamination and collapse of the whole water system.

Any person suspected to have done this will be reported to the Police.

3. Shall willfully or negligently allow the water from a stand post or public water tap run waste
4. Shall so manipulate a stand post or a public water tap as to secure a continuous flow of water. The person by whose action or for benefit or advantage a continuous flow was so manipulated shall be considered to have violated this by-law.
5. Shall commit any nuisance at a public tap or a hand pump.
6. Shall willfully or by neglect cause pollution or contamination of any public water source.
7. Not duly authorised by the VWSC in that shall open or in any way interfere with any reservoir, main or pipes or valves or other fittings or cause damage to any stand post, public water tap or hand pump connected with the Panchayat water supply scheme.
8. Shall allow children to play around with a public stand post or hand pump.
9. Shall use a public stand post or a hand pump for tying animals or use the tank as a cowshed.

Payment

1. The supply of water from a public fountain or hand pump shall be chargeable as laid down in Schedule B and charged at the rates specified.
2. Water charges shall be paid in the Panchayat monthly in advance.
3. In case of default in the payment of the water supply charges an amount as specified in Schedule B shall be added.
4. Payment for all water supply under the terms and conditions laid down in the By-laws if not paid within the time stipulated shall be recoverable in the same manner as house tax.
5. Remission for temporary non-use of water may be granted by the VWSC.
6. In exceptional cases the VWSC has the right to waive or reduce rates for poor individual water users or groups of water users if so decided by Gram Sabha.

7. Whoever commits a breach of the By-law and whoever has the care or custody of any child who commits a breach of the above By-laws or an animal that damages any part of the water supply shall be punishable with a fine in accordance with the rules specified in Schedule C.

SCHEDULE – A

Approved by the Village Water Sanitation Committee __/____2023.

WATER RATES FOR HOUSE SERVICE CONNECTIONS

1. For Domestic use, water rate/month is Rs. /- (minimum Rs.60/-) to be paid to the Panchayat monthly or annually preferably in advance (as per demand note raised).
2. The GP may decide to offer exemption to a few poorest families as proposed by the VWSC, and approved by the Gram Sabha.
3. For Non-Domestic use, water rate/month is Rs /- (minimum double the domestic rate) and to be paid monthly in advance to the Panchayat.
4. The Supply of water to Mosques, Temples and Churches, only for drinking purpose, shall be regulated as Domestic use and water charge to be paid at the rate of Rs. /- (minimum Rs.100/-) per month or annually as per demand note raised by GP.
5. Where households / local institutions pay annual water charges at the beginning of the year, they may be given an incentive of 10% discount; and for those paying in the second quarter shall get 5% discount; and those paying in the third and fourth quarter shall pay the full amount.
6. Annual list of defaulters will be prepared and a demand note sent to them by the GP with a penalty of 50% - meaning they will pay 150% in total. If they fail to pay within one month time, the GP may take firm action including disconnection of FHTC, and refusal to provide any service that the GP may have to offer in future.

FHTC SERVICE CONNECTION FEE & DEPOSIT AMOUNT

1. For each House Service Connection (FHTC) for Domestic purpose a deposit amount of Rs.2000/- has to be paid to the Panchayat. Half of the deposit shall be paid before getting the connection sanctioned and half within 6 months after the connection has been made, if the Gram Sabha decided so. (This is optional and for consideration).

2. For each Service Connection for Non-Domestic purpose a deposit amount of Rs. 2,000/- has to be paid to the Panchayat before getting the connection sanctioned.
3. Service connection fee-worked out towards actual cost for laying pipeline-labour and material charges shall be paid in advance to get the FHTC executed.
4. Delay in payment of the balance deposit in accordance with (1) above will be disconnected from the service without prior notice.
5. Reconnection charges in case of cut off of service for non-payment of water supply charges is Rs.500/- and labour charges in actuals will be paid by the householder.

SCHEDULE – B

Approved by the Village Water and Sanitation Committee____/____2023__.

WATER RATES for use of public taps and hand pumps

This is applicable only in places where hand-pumps / public water collection points are still in use, and are maintained by the GP

1. For Domestic use water rate/month is Rs.25/- per house to be paid monthly in advance to thePanchayat
2. In case of late payment of the water rates an additional amount Rs.5/- will be added for everymonth the payment is delayed.

SCHEDULE – C

Approved by the Village Water and Sanitation Committee __/____2023__.

PENALTIES (Fines)

Major offence (willful and active breach of Bylaw)

1. Breach of By-law – Rs.500/- fine
2. For repeated breach – Rs.1000/- plus Rs.100/- for each day the breach continues after receipt of notice from the Chairperson of VWSC / GP to discontinue such breach.

Minor offence

1. Breach of the By-law – Rs. 100/- fine
2. For repeated breach – Rs.250/- plus Rs.50/- for each day the breach continues after receipt of notice from the Chairperson of VWSC / GP to discontinue such breach.