



**Government of West Bengal
Irrigation & Waterways Department
Jalasampad Bhaban, 3rd Floor, Western Block
Bidhannagar, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700091**

**Memo No. 109 – IFC
IW/Q/IFC/4M-19/2009**

Dated, 5th April 2018

From: G K Chattopadhyay
Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal

To: The Principal Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal
Health & Family Welfare Department
(PHP Branch)
Swasthya Bhaban, GN-29, Sector-V
Bidhannagar, Kolkata 700091

Sub: Recommended actions to control mosquito breeding.

Ref: Your No.HS-325/2018 dated 31st March 2018, addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary, Irrigation & Waterways Department.

Sir,

Apropos above, I am to inform you that Irrigation & Waterways Department (IWD) has already undertaken a series of comprehensive measures during last couple of years for cleaning, desilting and re-excavation of irrigation channels and canals, whose primary purpose is irrigation development as well as drainage improvement both during non-monsoon period and particularly during the monsoon period for evacuation of flood waters. These measures include:

- (a) Large scale desiltation works of capital nature in the clogged drainage channels in Kolkata and nearby districts of North & South 24-Parganas, Hooghly, Howrah, and Purba & Paschim Medinipur.

Total length of drainage channels and rivers re-excavated mainly in South Bengal districts during last six years (2011-12 to 2017-18) was 1340 km.

- (b) Holding regular pre-monsoon monitoring meeting since 2016 with the District Magistrates and other authorities of North & South 24-Parganas, Hooghly & Howrah and also with KMC officials for better inter-sectoral coordination.

Lists of drainage channels identified for clearance of water hyacinth and garbages, by the IWD and also by the District Authorities are exchanged in the meetings.

- (c) Bringing drainage channels passing through Corporation, Municipal and adjoining semi-urban areas, and prone to clogging due to growth of water hyacinth and dumping of garbages, through Annual Maintenance contracts to keep those clean round the year.

The Annual Maintenance contracts are newly introduced from financial year 2018-19. Earlier, the drainage channels and irrigation canals were cleared only once before the monsoon and periodically during the monsoon. It has now been decided that henceforth all such channels and canals passing through human habitation, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas, would be kept free from water hyacinth and garbage throughout the year and accordingly, a total stretch of 980 km in 154 number drainage channels in the districts of Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North & South 24-Pargans and Purba Medinipur has since been included under Annual Maintenance contracts by deploying a good number of working agencies. The critical stretches of these channels and canals are kept under close surveillance by the Departmental officials during pre and post work stages. Similar procedure is being followed for irrigation canals passing through the human habitations.

- (d) Awareness campaign in print and electronic media, immediately before and during the monsoon to sensitize the people and curb the tendency of directly dumping all sorts of wastes and garbage in the irrigation canals and drainage channels.

2. I am further to state that flushing during the non-monsoon period is periodically done in the channels outfalling to river Hooghly, e.g. Circular-Beliaghata-New Cut, Keshtopur and Monikhali & Churial Khal. In absence of perennial and tidal water, such flushing cannot be done in other channels during the dry season. Hence, it is for the local Municipal and Health authorities to take anti larvac measures by use of larvaides etc. to contain vector borne diseases.

3. However, inspite of the sustained efforts to keep the channels and canals free from water hyacinth and garbages, such practices cannot be fully stopped due to unauthorized encroachments on channels banks and dumping wastes and garbages by local people. Even in case of channels under Annual Maintenance contract, where cleaning is done once a week, some stretches appear to remain clogged due to continuous garbage deposition. The problem is further aggravated due to direct disposal of raw and untreated sewage water by municipal drains into the channels and canals. The number of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) required for treating wastewater is far less than required. It may be mentioned here that during non monsoon period, the dry discharge comprises mainly sewage flow or wastewater for drainage

channels and remnant irrigation water for irrigation canals. This is only a fraction of full design discharge of the channels and canals, and there is a considerable reduction of velocity and increase of contaminated water in these channels and canals. Role of the IWD is restricted to maintaining unobstructed flow and maintained required carrying capacity in the channels from irrigation or drainage point of view and changing the quality of water flowing in the channels / canals is beyond its purview. As such, I would request you to kindly take up with the UD & MA Department on the issue of garbage disposal and use of STPs for treating wastewater before discharge in the irrigation canals / channels. Furthermore, wherever river flushing is not possible and there is little discharge during dry season, leading to stagnation of water, use of larvacides and fumigation may be taken up by the local Municipal / Health authorities.

4. Finally, as suggested by you, a copy of your letter is being circulated to the concerned officials of this Department so as to assist the local municipal and health officials in undertaking IEC and anti-mosquito breeding measures.

Yours faithfully,


G K Chattopadhyay
Secretary


Memo No.109/1(8) – IFC

Dated, 5th April 2018

Copy with copy of No.HS-325/2018 dated 31st March 2018 of the Principal Secretary, Health Department, forwarded for information and necessary action to the:

- 1 Chief Engineer, Teesta Barrage Project
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
- 2 Chief Engineer (North East)
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
- 3 Chief Engineer (North)
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
- 4 Chief Engineer (West)
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
- 5 Chief Engineer (South West)
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
- 6 Chief Engineer (South)
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
- 7 Chief Engineer (Design & Research)
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate

It is requested to circulate the letter to the concerned field level officials.


D SenGupta
Joint Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal

Encl. as stated



Government of West Bengal
Health & Family Welfare Department (PHP Branch)
Swasthya Bhavan, GN-29, Sector V
Salt Lake, Kolkata 700091

No. HS-325/2018

Dated :31st March, 2018

From: Anil Verma, IAS

Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

To: Additional Chief Secretary
Department of Irrigation & Waterways
Jalasampad Bhaban, 1st Floor
Block-DF, Sector-1, Bidhannagar
Saltlake, Kolkata-700091

Subject: Recommended actions to control mosquito breeding

Sir,

This is regarding action being taken to control breeding of mosquitoes in the State under the control of vector borne diseases, especially Dengue. The State Vector Borne Diseases Control and Seasonal Influenza Plan, 2018 has been prepared compiling the district plans which was presented to the Hon'ble Chief Minister in a meeting on 28/02/2018.

2. The developmental activities undertaken by different sectors may contribute to the proliferation of mosquito breeding places and thereby result in increase in incidence of vector borne diseases. Inter-sectoral coordination needs to play a key role in advocacy for the containment of vector borne diseases. As there is no vaccine or specific drug available against Dengue & Chikungunya infection, hence vector control and social awareness are significant factors for reducing the risk of disease transmission.

3. In this context, may I request you to kindly advise the local officers for source reduction of mosquito breeding spots so far as various canals passing through the human habitations are concerned. Removal of clogging in canals, churning of water, cleaning of water hyacinth, lifting and clearing of wastes in canals may help to destroy breeding spots. Also, IEC activities

among the residents residing near canals to keep it clean may help to keep irrigation canals free from mosquito breeding spots. The concerned subordinate offices may take suitable and prompt action for better coordination and cooperation at district level.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)

Principal Secretary

No.HS-325/1(6)/2018

Dated: 31st March, 2018

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to the:-

- 1) Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayats and rural Development Department
- 2) Secretary, Urban Development and MA Department
- 3) Secretary (PHP), Health and FW Department
- 4) DHS & E.O. Secretary, Health and FW Department
- 5) District Magistrate (all)
- 6) Chief Medical Officer of Health (all)

(Signature)

Principal Secretary