

ADB, India Sign US\$ 112 Million Loan to Improve Water Supply Infrastructure in Jharkhand

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a US\$ 112 million loan to develop water supply infrastructure and strengthen the capacity of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in four towns in the state of Jharkhand.

The project is aligned to the Government of Jharkhand's priority to improve urban services in the state and will ensure continuous, treated piped water supply in the state capital of Ranchi and other three towns of Hussainabad, Jhumri Telaiya, and Medininagar located in economically and socially backward areas.

The project will be ADB's first urban project in the state and help establish a model for continuous water supply combined with policy reforms for sustainable operation, which can be replicated by other low-income states for providing safe drinking water to urban households as envisaged under national Jal Jeevan Mission.

Four water treatment plants, with a combined capacity of 275 million liters per day, will be established in the project towns to provide safe drinking water, meeting the national drinking water quality standards. The project will also establish 940 kilometers of water distribution network to provide continuous water supply to about 115,000 households, including those below the poverty line, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe members, and other vulnerable groups.

To ensure sustainability, the project will strengthen the capacity of ULBs on urban service delivery and governance through the development of an asset management strategy and training on design and implementation of urban projects. Innovative technologies will be introduced to minimize water losses in water treatment and distribution. The project also includes the use of a supervisory control and data acquisition system for water supply operation and geographic information system-based asset management in Ranchi.

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Warm Regards, Dr S P Sharma Chief Economist | DSG PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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