However, despite lack of interest among the ruling BJP, the process to kick off the pilot project in two wards has been initiated. The 24x7 water supply project was introduced in the budget of 2010-11. At that time, no budget was fixed for the project.

The civic body then not only studied similar plans in other cities, but also organised a workshop on providing 24x7 water supply in Ahmedabad. The cost of ₹2,600 crore was arrived at following the study.

"We have studied the project, but I don't think we should move ahead as the cost per water connection has gone up to ₹19,000. Who will bear such a huge expense?" asked an office-bearer of AMC.

The city has around 14 lakh water connections. And to spend ₹19,000 on each of them for continuous water supply, the civic body would need to allocate more than 20% of its budget.

Meanwhile, AMC's estimate puts the cost of project at ₹1,700 crore, considering ₹12,000 per connection.

Earlier, it was planned to start the pilot project in Jodhpur and Chharodi, but now AMC has decided to replace the latter with Stadium ward.

The civic body has also earmarked ₹53.84 crore for the pilot project and sent a detailed project report to the central government under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

"We had short-listed six agencies for pilot project and invited technical and financial bids from them. The technical bids have been opened and now its financial bids will be opened," said Tarun Lad, city engineer of AMC.

He said that there won't be need for a completely new water supply network, but around 10 to 15% of the pipelines will have to be changed, along with augmentation of storage and pumping capacity.

Moreover, valves need to be installed and implementation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) is also required to keep a tab on non-revenue water supply.

Presently, in India, Nagpur, twin towns Pimpri-Chinchwad, twin cities Hubli-Dharwad and Chandigarh have started the pilot project and are working on expanding its reach.

Source: *http://bit.ly/19JrePH*

SPML INFRA LTD., INDIA'S LEADING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY HAS WON NEW ORDERS WORTH ₹1802.10

SPML Engineering Life

SPML Infra Ltd., India's leading infrastructure development company has won new orders worth ₹1802.10 Croresfrom South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd. (SBPDCL), Biharand Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) of Rajasthan. The two orders received from SBPDCL worth ₹ 1000 Crores are for the rural electrification projects in Patna and Gaya districts under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana. The three orders combined to ₹802.10 Crores are received from PHED, Kota, Ajmer and Bharatpur for water supply schemes benefitting more than 445 villages and their dhanies in Ajmer, Bharatpur and Jhalawar districts. Millions of people of these districts will be benefitted with drinking water facility once these projects are completed. SPML will also be responsible for the operations & maintenance of these water infrastructure projects for a decade after the commissioning.

Rural electrification work in Patna district involves construction, erection, testing and commissioning of new 33 &11 Kv Sub-Stations, augmentation of 33 & 11 Kvexisting Sub-Stations, 7,246 kilometers long 33 Kv and 11 Kv new transmission lines, reconductoring of 56,164 kilometers of 33 kv lines, 5,309 kilometers of LT lines, and providing BPL service connections to almost 4 lac consumers.

Rural electrification work in Gaya district involves construction, erection, testing and commissioning of new 33 &11 Kv Sub-Stations, augmentation of 33 & 11 Kvexisting Sub-Stations,6,183 kilometers long 33 Kv and 11 Kvnew transmission lines, reconductoring of 57,733 kilometers of 33 kv lines, 6,058 kilometers of LT lines, and providing BPL service connections to almost 3 lac consumers.

The scope of work for ₹. 308.59 Crore Gagreen Water Supply Project in district Jhalawar involves construction and commissioning of intake pumping stations, raw water mains, water treatment plant, clear water reservoir, elevated service reservoirs, cluster distribution and village distribution system with associated civil, electrical

and mechanical works with PLC & SCADA on single responsibility turnkey basis to be completed in 36 months with 10 years of operation& maintenance.

The Rs. 247.81 Crore order from PHED, Ajmer is for regional water supply scheme for 199 villages and their habitants of Jawaja Panchayat Samiti in Beawar tehsil of Ajmer district. This project is on design-build-operate basis to be completed in 36 months with 9 years of operation & maintenance post commissioning.

The Rs.245.70 Crore project has come from PHED, Bharatpur for development of regional water supply infrastructure for 246 villages and their NRVs & dhanies of Kaman & Pahari tehsils of district Bharatpur under Chlorination disinfection by-products (CDBP) water supply scheme.The time line of this single responsibility turnkey basis project is 30 months and SPML will be responsible for its operation & maintenance for 10 years after the commissioning

Source: *SPML*

SCIENTISTS' WATER FILTER TO AID POOR

A water purification filter created by Australian scientists has pipes just 10,000th the width of a human hair and could provide relief to millions of people without access to safe drinking water.

Source: *http://bit.ly/1eHYCwb*

The membrane, treated with plasma to boost the water absorption rate through nanotubes, removes contaminants and salt from dirty water, said Professor Kostya Ostrikov of the CSIRO.

The plasma-treated carbon nanotubes are like security gates.

The membrane can be fitted into portable purification devices the size of a teapot that would be rechargeable, inexpensive and more effective than many existing purifiers, he said.

"The plasma-treated carbon nanotubes are like security gates," he explained. "The main flow, the water molecules, can get through, while suspicious contaminants are identified, isolated and prevented from entering."

More than 10 per cent of the world's population, or 783 million people, have no access to clean water, United Nations figures show. Cases of diarrhoea, which kills 801,000 children a year aged five and under, mostly in developing countries, can be drastically cut with improved water and sanitation.

CSIRO scientist Zhaojun Han said small and portable purification devices were the best way for people in developing countries and in remote locations to have a constant supply of clean water.

Filtration devices on the market rely on reverse osmosis and thermal processes that cannot remove some contaminants found in briny water in many river and lake systems. They also need continuous power, unlike the new membranes, which can be used in rechargeable devices.

"Water scarcity is a major problem for many countries, including Australia," said Dr Han. "The current way of getting clean water is from large-scale desalination plants, which require high investment in infrastructure and manpower.

"The energy consumption of these plants is high. This is costly for remote and less developed areas."

The CSIRO scientists created the membranes with an international team, led by Associate Professor Hui Ying Yang from Singapore University of Technology and Design, with the results published in Nature Communications.