

## **Statement of Sh. Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, India.**

Good Afternoon every one.

As we all know, clean tap water, improved sanitation and hygiene has profound impact on quality of life, mortality, dignity and economic prosperity. In India, water and sanitation has been given top priority in 2014. Swachh Bharata Mission was launched and as a result, India has become open defecation free. Similarly, in 2019 Jal Jeevan Mission has been launched under which, every rural home is being provided with tap water connection and so far 67% household have access to clean tap water. In fact, a study by Michael Kremer, a Nobel Laureate from Chicago University indicates that, only with 50% coverage of tap water facility, more than 136000 lives of children are saved every year. Once completed, 400000 lives every year will be saved. NHRC India has given a high priority to improve water and sanitation services. We are focussing on improving the services which means NHRC has taken up mechanisation of cleaning of sewerages system and improving the life of people involved in this activity.

Thank you.