

SEMINAR ON COMMUNITY WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Water of sufficient quality and quantity is critical to all life. Increasing human population and growth of technology require human society to devote more and more attention to protection of adequate supplies of water. Although perception of biological degradation stimulated current state and federal legislation on the quality of water resources, that biological focus was lost in the search for easily measured physical and chemical surrogates. The "fishable and swimmable" goal of the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (PL 92—500) and its charge to "restore and maintain" biotic integrity illustrate that law's biological underpinning. Further, the need for operational definitions of terms like "biological integrity" and "unreasonable degradation" and for ecologically sound tools to measure divergence from societal goals have increased interest in biological monitoring. Assessment of water resource quality by sampling biological communities in the field (ambient biological monitoring) is a promising approach that requires expanded use of ecological expertise. One such approach, the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI), provides a broadly based, multiparameter tool for the assessment of biotic integrity in running waters.

Based on the above we have organised a One Day Seminar on "Community Water Resource Management" at Puri. The participants were 55 in number representing Village Heads, PRI Leaders, Youth Leaders, SHG Leaders, Media, Educationists, Advocates, Social Activists, Water Activists, Water Experts, and Environmentalists and retired Bureaucrats. Resource Persons presented their concept paper on the subject. Community Leaders and Opinion Leaders shared their long experiences on Community Water resource Management. The outcomes were submitted to Govt. through District Administration.