The department is primarily responsible for supply of safe drinking water to rural areas and development of sanitation facilities.

The department follows the guidelines of National Rural Drinking Water Programme(NRDWP) and Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan(NBA) of the Govt. of India as well as the guidelines/policies laid down by the Govt. of Bihar.

There is a paradigm shift in the role of the department and is new gearing itself up as a social engineering department whereby the behavioral change in people is being brought about through Information Education Communication(IEC).