Nepalese Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation
in collaboration with Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

Menstrual Hygiene Management Policy Consultation Workshop
February 9-10, 2017

Closing Speech by Honorable Minister, Water Supply and Sanitation, HE Mr Prem Bahadur Singh

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Chair of this closing session and other Guests,

Women & Girls from remote districts,

Representatives from different Ministries and Departments, Development partners, International delegates, INGOs, NGOs, Civil societies, Academicians, Media and all other present here.

I thank the organizing team for giving me this opportunity in the closing session of Menstrual Hygiene Management Workshop.

This is a very important and a definitive step in the Menstrual Hygiene Management arena in Nepal. This issue of MHM has been considered by our society a topic of silence and shame and has been neglected and poorly addressed. Millions of girls and women are subject to restrictions in their daily lives simply because they are menstruating.

Many sad Chhaupadi related incidents in Nepal garnered serious attention from donors and the international community as well. A recent letter submitted to the Prime Minister by WASH Development Partners about the menstrual hygiene and Chhaupadi is a clear indication of the gravity of this situation and we from the policy sector take it the same way. We intend to eradicate any Chhaupadi related tragic incidents in future through policy level intervention and implementation. I believe you all must have offered and committed your support, suggestions and a concrete basis in this two-day workshop.

I thank you all for this overwhelming participation, sharing each others’ lessons learnt, and contribution to formulate menstrual hygiene management policy in Nepal. We will further work with the ministry of health, ministry of education, ministry of environment, ministry of local development and federal affairs, ministry of women and children, WASH development partners to harmonize the Menstrual hygiene policy and monitoring of implementation of the menstrual hygiene program and projects.

I also thank the international dignitaries from various agencies to share their global learning so that we can best formulate the policy and programme. I expect your continued supports to our future Endeavour on menstrual hygiene management in the country.
I also thank many girls and women who came all the way from the remote districts in this workshop. We definitely consider your pains and voices to the policy which we will soon formulate.

I assure you that a policy framework for MHM will be formulated based on the outcome and suggestions of this workshop and we intend to bring it into action as soon as possible.

Thank you all.