

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1814
ANSWERED ON 17/03/2025**

LACK OF TOILETS AND WASHROOMS IN PUBLIC PLACES IN SMALL TOWNS

1814. SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

Will the Minister for HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a lack of toilets and washrooms in public places in small towns of the country despite a large number of women leaving home for work;
- (b) whether the condition of women is very pathetic in small towns of the country where there is a lack of public toilets;
- (c) if so, whether toilet is a very basic necessity under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM); and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to construct toilets in small towns across the country, particularly in the State of Maharashtra under the SBM?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (d) : Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM – U) was launched on 2nd October, 2014 with one of the objectives being to make the urban areas including small towns Open Defecation Free (ODF). This has been achieved with the construction of 63.74 lakh Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) units, which is more than mission target of 58.99 lakh (108.05%) and 6.36 lakh Community Toilet/Public Toilet (CT/PT) seats have been constructed against the mission target of 5.07 lakh (125.44%). Out of total IHHL and CT/PT, 7,22,915 units of IHHLs and 1,66,465 seat of CT/PT has been constructed in the State of Maharashtra.

A key focus under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) is to ensure that every citizen has access to sanitation facilities and these facilities are constructed in a gender friendly manner (separate facilities for men, women and trans-genders). Operational guidelines of SBM-U 2.0 emphasizes ULBs to give special focus on sanitation and waste management needs of the urban poor (especially slum dwellers) and other vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, girls, pregnant and lactating mothers, especially-abled, third gender groups, migrants, homeless, construction labour etc. To ensure comprehensive planning and sustainability of any toilet infrastructure, MoHUA has issued advisory time to time on community and public toilets wherein a Gender (especially women) needs checklist have been advised.

As regards State of Maharashtra, for construction of IHHLs and CT/PTs, Rs. 338.61 crores has been released against the Mission allocation of Rs. 359.90 crores under SBM-U (2014-2021). Further, under SBM-U 2.0 (2021-2026), proposals worth Rs.740 crores with central share of Rs. 163.80 crores has been approved for construction of 1,88,334 IHHLs, 20,143 CT/PTs, 4,385 Aspirational Toilets and 6830 Urinals.