

Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1674
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28-12-2017

Lack of Sanitation Awareness

1674. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the Minister of **DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people in villages often fail to acknowledge that the lack of sanitation is a problem and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the people are using toilets constructed under various schemes only in emergencies and continuously practicing open defecation and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether caste division plays a role in such mindset and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)**

(a) Sanitation is mainly a behavioral issue. It involves change of mindset of people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices.

(b) No, Madam. On the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) SBM(G) on 2.10.2014, **61.30%** rural households were practicing Open Defecation, which has been reduced to **25.17%** as on **26.12.2017** as per Integrated Management Information System of SBM(G).

(c) Sanitation is mainly a behavioral issue.

(d) The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) was launched on 2nd October, 2014, which aims at attaining Open Defecation Free India by 2nd October 2019. The following steps have been taken under SBM(G):-

- Focus on behavior change: Community based collective behavior change has been mentioned as the preferred approach, though the States are free to choose the approach best suited to them. Focus is also on creation of complete open defecation free (ODF) villages, rather than only on construction of individual toilets. This entails triggering the entire village into changing their behavior.
- The programme provides flexibility to the States in the implementation. This is essential, given the vast socio-economic-cultural diversity of India, and also from the point of view of promoting innovations.
- There is a greater emphasis on capacity building, especially in community approaches and programme management. Lack of adequate capacities is a major challenge in scaling up the programme. Therefore, various initiatives are being taken to reach out to all the stakeholders. From the Government of India side, the States and select organizations (called Key Resource Centres) are being trained. These in turn are, carrying out trainings at the sub-State level. The key official at the district level-Collector-has been roped in the programme to provide leadership at the district level.
- The programme is being run as a *janandolan* with cooperation of all sections of the society including the NGOs, Corporates, youth etc. The Panchayats are being actively involved.
- Zila Swachhata Preraks are being engaged for support of districts.

