

Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2101
TO BE ANSWERED ON **08-03-2018**

Use of Toilets for other Purposes

2101. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

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

(a) whether the Government has noticed that toilets made under various Government schemes are used to shelter small animals or to store tools, bikes and grains, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) whether deep-seated attitudes may present an even bigger barrier to improve sanitation than the lack of pipes and pits in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER &
SANITATION**

(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) to (b) As per Swachhata Status Report 2016, published by National Sample Survey Office, in rural India, of the households having sanitary toilet, 95.6% were found to be using them. There may be isolated instances where toilets are used to shelter small animal or to store tools bikes and grain etc. Sanitation is a state subject and accordingly records of such instances (and action taken thereof) is limited to them.

(c) to (d) Yes, Swacch Bharat Mission is currently focusing on taking up Sanitation primarily as a behavior change issue. This involves changing the mindset amongst people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices. This is achieved through sustained engagement of community and skills in facilitation, ‘triggering’ and toilet usage that are largely defined as IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities. Up to 8% of total budgetary resources can be spent on IEC by the states. Many States are focusing on community approaches, wherein the people are directly triggered and made aware about the importance of sanitation and hygiene using socio-cultural triggering tools. Besides these, conventional IEC tools such as IPC (Inter personal communication) are also used to educate the people.