

Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6410
TO BE ANSWERED ON **05-04-2018**

Impact of ODF Drive

6410. SHRI KUNDARIYA MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) drive;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof particularly in Saurashtra region;
- (c) whether any reports/complaints have been received that the toilets built under the scheme are not disabled-friendly and have other problems as well; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) Open Defecation Free (ODF) has a positive impact on the health of the people. This helps save money spent on treatment of avoidable diseases caused due to open defecation. As per study undertaken by UNICEF, on an average each household in Open Defecation Free villages in India saves Rs.50,000 every year by way of diseases averted, time saved and lives saved. Further, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has also conducted a study to assess the health impacts of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). The study revealed that there is reduction in cases of diarrhea, stunting and wasting among children in ODF areas versus comparable non-ODF areas, and lesser cases of women with lower than average Body Mass Index in ODF areas. The findings of the study are indicative for any ODF areas versus comparable non-ODF areas, which may include the Saurashtra region.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. However Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued instructions that households having differently-able persons should be provided disabled-friendly toilets and all Community sanitary complexes need to be made Divyang-friendly.