

Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27-12-2018

Role of SBM in Women Empowerment

2540. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has empowered women in the country;
- (b) if so, the manner in which the SBM has helped the empowerment of women;
- (c) whether the women were actively involved in SBM; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)[SBM(G)] focuses on achieving collective behavior change, rather than merely encouraging individuals or households to construct toilets. It takes a participatory approach known as Community Approaches to Sanitation (CAS), in which people in rural communities are facilitated to make their own assessments and develop their own solutions. Women are key to the success of this approach. SBM-G provides opportunities for them to take leading roles in their communities. Women comprise roughly 30-40 percent of the volunteers – Swachhagrahis – who lead in the process of ‘triggering’ behavior change at village level. The process of triggering leads to the emergence of ‘natural leaders’. Mahila Nigrani Samitis work to persuade villagers not to defecate in the open. Women’s Self-Help Groups, Mahila Samakhya Groups, and others have been drawn into the campaign. Elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions have played an active role in many places under SBM(G). Women Masons have also been actively involved in the programme.