

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1610**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

**Open Defecation in Rural Areas**

**†1610. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people including women are reportedly still defecating in open despite toilets constructed in every household in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes any campaign to spread awareness against open defecation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any arrangement is being made to spread awareness at the block level and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI**  
**(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

(a) to (d) Government of India had launched Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014 with the goal to make the country Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019, by providing access to toilets to all the rural households. Sanitation being the State subject, the programme is implemented by the State Governments/UTs. Government of India provides technical guidance and financial support to the States/UTs by issuing advisories, guidelines and releasing grants-in-aid. Under the programme, inter alia, apart from providing financial incentive to the beneficiaries for construction of individual household latrines (IHHLs), financial support is also provided for the Gram Panchayats to construct Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) to cater to the sanitation needs of households who do not have space for construction of IHHLs. As reported by the States/UTs on the online Integrated Management Information System of SBM(G), more than 10 crore IHHLs were constructed under the programme till 2019. And, all the villages/districts had declared themselves ODF by 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019. The States/UTs were, however, advised to cover any left-out households under the programme and to ensure that no one is left behind.

Phase-II of SBM(G) was launched with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 with focus to sustain the ODF status and to cover all the villages with Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), i.e. to convert villages from ODF to ODF Plus, by 2024-25. In order to ensure that no one is

left behind in having access to toilets, provisions for providing financial incentive to the beneficiaries for construction of IHHLs for new households or any left out households, and financial support for Gram Panchayats for construction of CSCs, on need basis, have been continued in Phase-II.

Sanitation primarily is a behavioral issue. It requires continuous engagement with community to adopt and practise safe sanitation behaviors. Hence, under SBM(G), States/UTs have been advised to carry out regular Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns including Interpersonal Communication (IPC) techniques, at all levels including blocks and gram panchayats, and to continuously engage with people and community focusing on continuous usage of toilets. Under the programme, upto 3% of total programmatic funds can be spent on IEC by the States and upto 2% can be used at the Central level.

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