



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SANITATION FOR ALL - ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Sanitation, as defined by the National Urban Sanitation Policy 2008, is the safe management of human excreta, including its safe confinement, treatment, disposal and associated hygiene-related practices. The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and waste water disposal. Sanitation is at the core of human physical and psychological well-being and dignity. Inadequate sanitation is a major cause of disease world-wide and improving access to sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities. A clean environment with adequate water and sanitation services are required to support urban stability, enabling social balance, economic development and public services. Sanitation is, thus, one of the key components to ensure better public health and is closely linked to a host of developmental issues and challenges like environment sustainability and social inclusion.

Sanitation as a Global Challenge

The lack of sanitation facilities is one of the gravest challenges to public health and environment in the world. In fact, after malnutrition, lack of clean water and sanitation are factors most responsible for the global burden of diseases. Presently, about a billion people around the world do not have access to the most basic sanitation services and still resort to open defecation. Realisation of the strong direct and indirect linkages of sanitation with socio-economic and health issues, led to sanitation being included in the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Out of the eight MDGs, three are directly or indirectly related to sanitation, i.e. the Goals to:

- reduce child mortality
- combat disease
- ensure environmental sustainability

Even eradicating extreme poverty, the first Goal, is linked to sanitation since the costs associated with illnesses caused by inadequate sanitation affects productivity and incomes. Acknowledging the critical importance of water and sanitation, the United Nations declared 'sanitation' and 'water' as human rights in 2010.

Water and Sanitation as Human Right

A Resolution adopted on 28 July 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly in its Sixty-Fourth Session recognises the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance and cooperation, in particular to developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

The global sanitation challenge remains large, despite efforts under programmes aimed towards achieving the MDGs. According to the *Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report 2014 of WHO/UNICEF*, in 2012, 2.5 billion people did not have access to improved sanitation facility and 1 billion people still resorted to open defecation. The Report also states that in spite of the fact that almost 2 billion additional people gained access to an improved sanitation facility between 1990 and 2012, an increase from 49 per cent to 64 per cent; the MDG target of 75 per cent coverage may not be met by 2015. This requires much greater effort and investment to redress inadequate sanitation practices in the coming years.

Sanitation in India

The importance of sanitation has been felt long before independence. It had been once said by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation that, “sanitation is more important than political independence”. Making every village “Nirmal” (clean and healthy) is central to all development efforts and that clean, green and healthy villages are an enduring sign of India’s progress. Providing sanitation and hygiene facilities to a growing population of more than 1.2 billion is an enormous challenge and the Government of India, aware of the direct relationship between water, sanitation, health, nutrition, and human well being, has been taking various steps to address these concerns.

Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation on Cleanliness and Sanitation

- ‘Cleanliness is next to godliness.’ We can no more gain God’s blessing with an unclean body than with an unclean mind. A clean body cannot reside in an unclean city.
- The one thing which we can and must learn from the West is the science of municipal sanitation. The peoples of the West have evolved a science of corporate sanitation and hygiene from which we have much to learn. We must modify western methods of sanitation to suit our requirements.
- ... No one should spit or clean his nose on the streets... Those who spit after chewing betel leaves and tobacco have no consideration for the feelings of others...
- No municipality can cope with insanitation and congestion by the simple process of taxation and paid services. This vital reform is possible only by whole-sale and voluntary co-operation of the people both rich and poor.
- If we do not keep our backyards clean, our Swaraj will have a foul stench.

State of Sanitation in India

The severe state of sanitation condition in India could be gauged from the fact that India continues to be the country with the largest number of people resorting to open defecation. According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report 2014, about eighty two per cent of one billion people practicing open defecation in the world live in just ten countries. 597 million or 59.7 per cent of the world population defecating in the open are in India. Despite the fact that 291 million people have gained access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2012, yet 792 million people in the country do not have access to an improved sanitation facility. As per the National Sample Survey (NSS) 2012, 59.4 per cent households in rural India and 8.8 per cent households in urban India respectively had no toilet facilities (See Table 1 for households State-wise). The MDG India Country Report 2014 has pointed out that, while the 2015 MDG target is likely to be met in urban areas, the progress is lagging behind in rural areas.

According to a study ‘Economic Impacts of Inadequate Sanitation in India’ conducted by Water and Sanitation Programme, the adverse economic impacts of inadequate sanitation in India amounts to Rs. 2.44 trillion (US \$ 53.8 billion) a year, an equivalent of 6.4 per cent of India’s GDP in 2006. The study estimated that health related economic impacts at Rs. 1.75 trillion (US \$ 38.5 billion) accounts for the largest category of impacts. Further, under the health-related impact, diarrhoea is the largest contributor, contributing to two-thirds of the total impact, followed by Acute Lower Respiratory Infection accounting for 12 per cent of the health-related impacts.

Indicators on households with Sanitation facilities during 2012
(Number per 1000 households) – NSSO

State/UT	Without latrine facility		Having exclusive use of latrine		Having access to improved source of latrine	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Andhra Pradesh	543	81	345	681	445	910
Arunachal Pradesh	126	0	492	679	465	979
Assam	137	3	794	703	754	971
Bihar	728	208	188	443	258	784
Chhattisgarh	767	249	188	552	200	749

State/UT	Without latrine facility		Having exclusive use of latrine		Having access to improved source of latrine	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Delhi	0	0	744	668	1000	987
Goa	97	40	711	743	858	960
Gujarat	587	62	366	743	407	936
Haryana	254	14	639	818	742	982
Himachal Pradesh	257	43	595	701	737	957
Jammu & Kashmir	443	60	494	672	441	794
Jharkhand	905	177	75	570	89	801
Karnataka	708	90	244	672	284	877
Kerala	28	12	927	887	969	988
Madhya Pradesh	790	140	153	640	207	849
Maharashtra	540	69	322	580	443	927
Manipur	12	0	786	741	796	912
Meghalaya	45	2	918	793	860	994
Mizoram	7	0	980	975	934	999
Nagaland	0	0	972	791	981	994
Odisha	813	182	124	496	173	805
Punjab	222	62	655	581	776	933
Rajasthan	730	142	215	606	261	783
Sikkim	2	0	857	556	991	1000
Tamil Nadu	664	122	275	606	330	866
Tripura	14	1	727	555	886	981
Uttarakhand	197	16	644	644	802	976
Uttar Pradesh	753	107	195	642	224	867
West Bengal	397	54	400	574	580	932
A & Nicobar Islands	288	50	614	740	712	950
Chandigarh	3	16	350	567	997	984
D & Nagar Haveli	493	322	89	291	507	678
Daman and Diu	268	1	380	119	732	999
Lakshadweep	0	23	1000	628	1000	977
Puducherry	474	63	409	772	526	936
All-India (2012)	594	88	319	639	388	896
All-India (2008-09)	652	113	279	581	*	*

Table 1.* Comparative figure for 2008-09 (NSS 65th round) is not available.

Sanitation Policy and Activities

In India, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) and the Ministry of Urban Development are the nodal agencies dealing with sanitation in the rural and urban areas respectively. The Ministries are responsible for the overall policy, planning, funding and coordination of sanitation programmes. Sanitation is in the State List as per the Constitution. Following the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, sanitation has become the responsibility of local bodies.

The National Urban Sanitation Policy (NUSP) of 2008 sought to transform urban India by providing integrated city wide sanitation including promotion of network based sewerage system and ensuring connections of households to them wherever possible. It contains specific goals like (a) Awareness generation and behaviour change, (b) Open

Defecation Free Cities, and (c) Integrated City-Wide Sanitation. A major component of the NUSP is the City Sanitation Plan (CSP), a comprehensive sectoral planning document which details the full cycle of sanitation, financing and institutional arrangements for achieving the goals of city-wide sanitation. The NUSP requires each of the States to prepare their own State Sanitation Strategies taking into account its local urban context. This will set out the State level framework in which cities will plan and implement their City Sanitation Plans (CSPs).

The Ministry of Urban Development has brought out service level benchmarks on water supply and sanitation with a focus to shift from creation of infrastructure to service delivery. (The 13th Finance Commission has mandated all cities to notify service level benchmarking on water supply and sanitation). The following are the Service Level Benchmarks brought out by the Ministry:

Service Level Benchmarks

Sl.No.	Indicator	Benchmark
A.	Sewage Management (Sewerage and Sanitation)	
A1	Coverage of toilets	100%
A2	Coverage of sewage network services	100%
A3	Collection efficiency of the sewage network	100%
A4	Adequacy of sewage treatment capacity	100%
A5	Quality of sewage treatment	100%
A6	Extent of reuse and recycling of sewage	20%
A7	Efficiency in redressal of customer complaints	80%
A8	Extent of cost recovery in sewage management	100%
A9	Efficiency in collection of sewage charges	90%
B.	Solid Waste Management	
B1	Household level coverage of solid waste management services	100%
B2	Efficiency of collection of municipal solid waste	100%
B3	Extent of segregation of municipal solid waste	100%
B4	Extent of municipal solid waste recovered	80%
B5	Extent of scientific disposal of municipal solid waste	100%
B6	Efficiency in redressal of customer complaints	80%
B7	Extent of cost recovery in SWM services	100%
B8	Efficiency in collection of SWM charges	90%

Table 2 (Source: Ministry of Urban Development)

A Sanitation Rating Survey initiated by the Ministry of Urban Development based on the primary and secondary data sources to establish a comprehensive baseline with respect to waste (liquid and solid) generation, collection and disposal would place them through objective self-assessment, in the relevant sanitary category. As per the First Sanitation Ratings conducted in 2009-10, cities were classified under four color categories viz., red, black, blue and green based on the scores for output, process and outcome indicators defined under National Urban Sanitation Policy. The details are given as under:

No.	Category	Range	No. of cities
1	Red	Upto 33 points	189
2	Black	34-66 points	230
3	Blue	67-90 points	4
4	Green	91-100 points	0
	Total		423

Table 3. (Source: Ministry of Urban Development)

The exercise revealed that more than half of the cities were in the Black and Red categories. There were four cities, viz., Chandigarh, Mysore, New Delhi Municipal Council and Surat in the blue category which have scored above 66 but less than 90 marks out of hundred. No city falls under green category. The Second Sanitation Rating for the 476 Class-I cities is under process.

The first nationwide programme for rural sanitation was the *Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)*, launched in 1986 by the Ministry of Rural Development. The programme provided large subsidy for construction of sanitary latrines for Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. The *Total Sanitation Campaign*, a restructured CRSP, was launched from April 1999 and an incentive award scheme, *Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP)*, was started in 2005 to award those PRIs which attain 100% open defecation free environment. The TSC was revamped as the *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)* with effect from April 2012 which sought to transform rural India into 'Nirmal Bharat' by adopting 'community-led', 'people-centred'

strategies and a 'community saturation approach', with emphasis on awareness creation and demand generation for sanitary facilities in houses, schools and for cleaner environment. With the efforts put into the Total Sanitation Campaign/Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), the number of rural households who had access to toilets has gone up from 22 per cent in 2001 to 32.70 per cent in 2011. According to the *WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report 2014*, the proportion of households in India using improved sanitation facilities has gone up from 18 per cent in 1990 to 36 per cent in 2012 [50% to 60% in urban areas and 7% to 25% in rural areas].

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

The *Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)*, launched on 2 October 2014, is the largest ever sanitation programme/campaign of the Government of India till date. The SBM, which emanates from the vision of the Government articulated in the President's Address to the Joint Session of the Parliament on 9 June 2014, is a joint Mission of the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The *Swachh Bharat Mission* which has two Sub-Missions, each for the rural and urban areas, aims at attaining a 100% Open Defecation Free India by 2 October 2019, intended by the Government of India, to help fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Clean India in his 150th Birth Anniversary year.

We must not tolerate the indignity of homes without toilets and public spaces littered with garbage. For ensuring hygiene, waste management and sanitation across the nation a "Swachh Bharat Mission" will be launched. This will be our tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary to be celebrated in the year 2019.

—President of India,
Shri Pranab Mukherjee in his Address to
the Joint Session of the Parliament on
9 June 2014

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)

A Sub-Mission of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) for urban areas is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), which aims to provide sanitation and household toilet facilities for all 4041 statutory towns in the country. These

towns are home to 31 per cent of the country's population or about 377 million people. The total expected cost of the programme over 5 years is Rs. 62,009 crore, out of which the proposed Central assistance will be of Rs. 14,623 crore. The Mission seeks to cover 1.04 crore households, provide 2.5 lakh seats of community toilets, 2.6 lakh seats of public toilets and solid waste management facility for all towns.

The programme includes elimination of open defecation, conversion of insanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging, municipal solid waste management, bringing about a behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices, generating awareness among citizens about sanitation and its linkages with public health. It also aims at strengthening of urban local bodies to design, execute and operate systems to fulfil these objectives and creating an enabling environment for private sector participation in capital expenditure and operational expenditure. A National Advisory and Review Committee, headed by Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development and comprising of representatives of Finance and other concerned Ministries shall release funds, monitor and supervise the programme. A High Powered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary at the State level would steer the programme in its entirety. District Level Review and Monitoring Committee (DLRMC) will be constituted with a view to fulfil the objective of ensuring satisfactory monitoring of projects under the Chairpersonship of a Member of Parliament.

Components of SBM (Urban)

The Mission has the following components:

- Individual household toilets,
- Community toilets,
- Public toilets,
- Municipal Solid Waste Management,
- Information and Education Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness, and
- Capacity Building.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

The aim of the other sub-Mission, *Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)*, is to improve the levels of cleanliness and making Gram Panchayats, Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2nd October, 2019. For

this, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has been launched with a new thrust to the rural sanitation programme, by removing bottlenecks that were hindering progress, and focusing on critical issues affecting outcomes. *Swachh Bharat (Gramin)* is proposed to be achieved through:

- Coverage of all rural households with Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs), cluster toilets, community toilets (including through PPP mode), construction of school and *Anganwadi* toilets and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) activities in all Gram Panchayats;
- Creation of enhanced demand, convergent action through various agencies and stakeholders with triggering through enhanced Information and Education Communication (IEC), Inter Personal Communication (IPC);
- Strengthening of implementation and delivery mechanisms;
- Monitoring Outputs (construction of toilets) and Outcomes (use of toilets) at the Gram Panchayat and household levels leading to Swachh Bharat.

Under the SBM (Gramin), Rs. 1,34,000 crore has been estimated for the construction of about 11 crore 11 lakh toilets in the country. The unit cost of the Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) has been enhanced from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 so as to provide for water availability, including for storing, hand-washing and cleaning of toilets. Some of the important *components* include:

- Provision of Individual household latrines: Incentive of Rs. 9000 and 3000 for each toilet (Rs. 10800 and Rs. 1200 in case of North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Special category States) is given by Central and State Government respectively to BPL households and identified Above Poverty Line (APL) households after they construct and use toilets. Other APL households are motivated to construct toilets with their own funds or by taking loans from SHGs, banks, cooperative institutions, etc.
- Construction of Community Sanitary Complexes. Sharing pattern will be 60:30:10 (Centre: State: Community).

- Assistance to Production Centres of sanitary materials and Rural Sanitary Marts.
- Fund for Solid and Liquid Waste Management. A cap of Rs. 7/12/15/20 lakh to be applicable for Gram Panchayats having upto 150/300/500 and more than 500 households on a Centre and State/GP sharing ratio of 75:25.
- Provision for IEC will be at 8% of total Project cost, with 3% to be utilised at the Central level and 5 % at State level.
- Provision for Administrative Cost will be 2% of the Project cost. Sharing pattern will be 75:25 between Centre and State.

The strategy of implementation of the Sanitation Programme will focus on behaviour change, triggering of the population with regard to toilet construction and their use. Triggering of communities for behaviour change and usage of toilets shall be given top priority to ensure increased demand, which will lead to use of assets created. Effective use of technology and media shall be done to communicate the message of the benefits of safe sanitation and hygiene. The *Swachh Bharat Award* has also been envisioned for individuals, institutions, GPs, Districts; States who do exceptional work, among others.

Sanitation in the Railway and General Budget, 2015-2016

In the current Railway and General Budgets of 2015-2016, sanitation has been given high priority. Through the Railway Budget, 2015-16 the Ministry of Railways intend to make *Swachh Rail* the driving force behind the Government's flagship programme—the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*. A new department is being enacted for keeping the stations and trains clean. Integrated cleaning will be taken up as a specialized activity which would include engaging professional agencies and also training the staff in the latest cleaning practices. The Railways plan to set up 'waste to energy' conversion plants near major coaching terminals to dispose waste in an environment-friendly manner. Besides, the Railways will build new toilets covering 650 additional stations (compared to 120 stations in the last year). Bio-toilets are being fitted in coaches and that

17,388 existing toilets have been replaced with bio-toilets. In the current year 17,000 toilets are intended to be replaced.

Major thrust had also been given to sanitation in the General Budget. The Government's focus is to transform the '*Swachh Bharat*' into a movement to regenerate India. Fifty lakh toilets have already been constructed during 2014-15, and the objective of the Government is to build six crore toilets. *Swachh Bharat* is not only a programme of hygiene and cleanliness but, at a deeper level, a programme for preventive health care and building awareness. The taxation proposals in the current year include initiatives for the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* and a 100% deduction for contributions, other than by way of CSR contributions, to the *Swachh Bharat Kosh*. In indirect taxes, it was also proposed to increase the Clean Energy Cess from 100 to 200 per metric tonne of coal, etc. to finance clean environment initiatives. Excise duty on sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene other than for industrial use is being increased from 12% to 15%. It is also proposed to have an enabling provision to levy *Swachh Bharat Cess* at a rate of 2% or less on all or certain services if need arises.

Challenges and the Way Forward

There are various challenges and obstacles in the implementation of sanitation programmes to achieve total sanitation in the country. One of the main obstacles is the population challenge. Although the rural sanitation coverage has made rapid strides in the past years, the real impact could not be appreciated due to increase in the number of rural households, necessitating a scale up of efforts. Similarly, the growing urban population and the migration from rural to urban India pose a major challenge to urban sanitation. By the year 2050, it is expected that 50 per cent of India's population will be living in urban areas thus putting a huge pressure on sanitation and supply of water. Along with the population growth, poverty has been one of the barriers for accelerating rural sanitation coverage.

Bringing about behavioural change in sanitation practices among the people and sustaining them is yet another challenge. Various field studies have pointed to different levels of latrine usage depending upon the community awareness and also slippage in the status of NGP villages, again due to

non-usage or the quality of the toilets constructed. For example, in one such study undertaken by UNICEF in 2008, it was found that out of the 81 per cent of the population having access to sanitation, only 63 per cent was using the facilities. Ensuring sustained use of toilet facilities while keeping pace with coverage is indeed a challenge. Besides, there is a need to integrate improved hygiene and environmental sanitation into sanitation programmes.

Sanitation has been accorded utmost priority by the Government of India in recent times. In order to achieve the goal of total sanitation or a defecation free India, there is a need to raise mass awareness to an unprecedented level. The *Report of the Working Group on Rural Domestic Water and Sanitation, Twelfth Five Year Plan, 2012-2017* has observed that, “while good sanitation practices result from a proper understanding of its consequences through individual and community behaviour change, the need is for a dedicated institutional structure involving both the Government and civil society with the appropriate financial resources that would be able to put in the sustained effort for achievement of objectives.” A holistic approach involving strengthening the process of decentralization, media and awareness campaign, adopting an inclusive and incentive based approach, actively involving the civil society, proper monitoring and capacity building, etc., is imperative to achieve the desired ends.

Involvement and role of various Stakeholders

The present state of sanitation in the country makes a compelling case for all stakeholders to join hands together for a concerted effort. As per the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, sanitation is included in the 11th Schedule and accordingly, *Gram Panchayats* have a pivotal role to play. Various sanitation policies and programmes need to be earnestly implemented by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at all levels. PRIs need to carry out social mobilization for the construction of toilets and also maintain clean environment by way of safe disposal of wastes. They should act as the custodian of assets such as community complexes, environmental components, drainage etc. and also open and operate the Production Centres/Rural Sanitary Marts. Similarly, under the 74th Amendment, the *Urban Local Bodies* (ULBs) have been provided with some powers to frame

by-laws in conformity with the State and Central Government policies and the Environment Protection Act. The ULBs on their part need to frame policies for cost recovery, levying sanitation tax, promoting Public Private Partnership (PPP) and private sector participation, providing sewerage and sanitation services in slums, allotting appropriate funds, developing human resources, setting up mechanism for grievance redressal, enforcing awareness for public participation, construction and maintenance of drains.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) could play an important role as catalysts in the implementation of sanitation programmes in the rural areas. They could be actively involved in IEC activities and capacity building measures leading to demand generation, construction and use of sanitation facilities. They could also be engaged in conducting baseline surveys, specifically to determine key behaviours and perceptions regarding sanitation, hygiene, water use, etc. NGOs could also open and operate Production Centres and Rural Sanitary Marts as well.

Corporate Bodies or Houses could contribute to the sanitation campaign as an essential part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The *Swachh Bharat Mission*, for instance, could serve as a platform for the Corporate Houses to help address their CSR. They could take up the issues of sanitation through IEC, HRD or through direct targeted interventions such as:

- providing sanitary complexes in market or other public places/around work places or alike;
- providing assistance in effective solid and liquid waste management technology and resources; or
- adopting habitations/villages/GPs to make them *Swachh Grams*, etc.

Civil society could also play a key facilitating role at the GP level. People have often been referred to as beneficiaries of services rendered by the Government or other stakeholders/agencies. It has now been recognized that the people should instead be considered as important stakeholders. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) need to be involved in monitoring the implementation of plans and to check whether the funds were utilized

optimally. Every State needs to engage the community to prepare a community-led "Citizen's Charter". Community Based Organizations (CBOs) formed through the societal process should be harmoniously synergized with PRIs and viewed as nurseries of learning for grassroots democracy and local planning and implementation.

Besides the stakeholders mentioned, the *Union and State Governments* and *regulatory bodies* must be engaged in setting standards, planning, financing, implementation, knowledge development, capacity building, training, monitoring & evaluation and regulatory arrangements on a continuous basis. States need to devolve powers, roles and responsibilities along with financial and personnel resources necessary to the ULBs to discharge their functions. The States will also have to give ULBs wide-ranging powers over agencies that currently carry out sanitation related activities in the city but are not directly accountable to them, such as parastatal agencies and Public Health Engineering Departments (PHEDs). Statutory authorities like Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) are also required to monitor the works of other agencies, NGOs and ULBs, etc., for complying with announced set of rules and regulations by State Governments.

Role of Parliamentarians

In line with the objective of bringing all-round development for the people, parliamentarians can also help in the sanitation campaign in various ways. Being people's representatives, they can effectively raise public awareness about sanitation at national and local levels. They could also influence the Government and participate in several ways in implementing the sanitation goals. They are also in an advantageous position to see that budgetary allocations are in line with the approved Government policies/priorities and also in keeping with the MDG targets on sanitation for the country. They could raise issues on these matters on the floor of the House through Questions and other parliamentary devices and in other discussion forums including the Departmentally Related Standing Committees and Parliamentary fora. One of the most important challenges to sanitation is to achieve the benchmark of 20 % reuse and recycle of sewage for non-potable use (as defined in chapter 7, Part A of the *Manual on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Systems 2013*). Parliamentarians could play a proactive role in promoting the reuse and recycle of sewage and this will also lead to revenue generation for the ULBs.

Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management

Various Parliamentary Forums have been constituted in the Indian Parliament starting with the 14th Lok Sabha, with the objective of equipping members with information and knowledge on specific issues of national significance, besides providing a platform to the members to have interaction with subject experts and senior officials from the nodal Ministries. At present, there are eight Parliamentary Forums: one each on *Water Conservation and Management, Children, Youth, Population and Public Health, Global Warming and Climate Change, Disaster Management, Artisans and Craftspeople and Millennium Development Goals*.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management on the subject, "*Technological Options in Rural Sanitation—Indian Context*" was held on 13 March 2013 in the Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. Among others, Sulabh International, a Social Organisation, made a power point presentation on the technology developed by them which has benefitted the people. The two-pit pour-flush compost toilet known as Sulabh Shauchalaya costing from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 55,000, is an appropriate, affordable indigenous and culturally accepted technology to put to an end to open defecation and manual cleaning of dry toilets by human scavengers. The Sulabh Shauchalaya may also help to economize the use of water, conservation of which is also the need of the hour for India and the world.

Sanitation under the MPLAD Scheme

Another area where Members of Parliament could contribute towards improving the sanitation condition in the country is under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). In fact, sanitation and public health is one of the priority sectors for recommending works from the MPLADS fund. As per data available, 4.57 per cent and 4.35 per cent of the works were sanctioned for sanitation and public health in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. It was 3.75 per cent for the year 2008-09, and 4 per cent for the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. The State-wise percentage of the works sanctioned for

sanitation and public health for the year 2011-12 is given in Table 4 (below).

**Work Sanctioned in Sanitation and Public Health in States under MPLADS
(2011-2012)**

States/Union Territories	% of Works sanctioned in Sanitation and Public Health
Andhra Pradesh	3%
Arunachal Pradesh	5%
Assam	1%
Bihar	3%
Chhattisgarh	1%
Goa	10%
Gujarat	3%
Haryana	4%
Himachal Pradesh	1%
Jammu and Kashmir	17%
Jharkhand	4%
Karnataka	4%
Kerala	1%
Madhya Pradesh	2%
Maharashtra	10%
Manipur	1%
Meghalaya	2%
Mizoram	7%
Nagaland	—
Odisha	2%
Punjab	11%
Rajasthan	1%
Sikkim	11%

States/Union Territories	% of Works sanctioned in Sanitation and Public Health
Tamil Nadu	6%
Tripura	6%
Uttar Pradesh	1%
Uttarakhand	0.42%
West Bengal	3%
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8%
Chandigarh	3%
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3%
Daman and Diu	3%
Delhi	3%
Lakshadweep	9.34%
Puducherry	9%
Nominated Members	13%

Table 4. (Source: MPLADS Annual Reports)

The MPLADS is one of the possible sources of additional support. The Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation in August 2014 has requested the Members of Parliament to recommend the allocation of funds from MPLADS for construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), school and Anganwadi Toilets, Community Sanitary Complexes and for Solid Liquid Waste Management Projects to meet the full approved unit cost in (Centre and State share) in each case under the scheme.

Right to Sanitation

Another area of possible intervention by the parliamentarians is to consider or assess the need

for bringing in appropriate legislation for effectively providing sanitation facilities as a matter of right to the people. In this regard, there has already been active campaign in some corners from civil society organisations to make sanitation a constitutional right. As legislation is one of the major functions of the Parliament, parliamentarians could consider the viability of according the right to sanitation a constitutional status. In this regard, the United Nations has since declared Water and Sanitation as a Human Right. The *Report of the*

Working Group on Rural Domestic Water and Sanitation, Twelfth Five Year Plan, 2012-2017 has recommended that “the process of ‘Right to Sanitation’ may be initiated as a constitutional provision which is legally enforceable right, for which appropriate models for practical implementation need to be studied and worked” and also opined that ‘defining sanitation’ as a human right would make a difference and in creating a healthy living condition for the people in rural and urban India.

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Prepared by Smt. Neelam Sethi, Additional Director and Shri S. Holkhopao Baite, Joint Director under the supervision of Shri P.K. Misra, Additional Secretary and Dr. D.K. Singh, Director with inputs from the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation and Ministry of Urban Development for the use and information of the Members of Parliament.