

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5246  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010  
UNICEF REPORT  
Singh Shri Dhananjay

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether as per the report of United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), in the year 2008 Indians constituted 58 percent among such population of the world, who relieved themselves in the open; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a) : According to WHO/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply and sanitation, which is the official United Nations mechanism tasked with monitoring of the progress towards the millennium development goals, India's share in the world of people who practiced open defecation was 49.5% in the year 2008.

(b) : In respect of urban areas, the Ministry of Urban Development has launched the National Urban Sanitation Policy. One of the goals of the policy is to eliminate open defecation. Under the policy, initiatives such as awareness generation campaigns, rating of cities and formulation of City Sanitation Plans and State Sanitation Strategies has been taken up. 21 states and 136 cities are in the process of formulating their strategies and plans respectively. The Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation is implementing the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme. The Department of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation under the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing total sanitation campaign since 1999 to make individual household toilets affordable and accessible to rural families.