

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4547

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012

PROBLEM OF OPEN DEFECATION

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

- (a) whether World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have jointly reported that India is among the top 12 nations who practice open defecation leading to high rate of diseases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of other countries mentioned in this regard;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the details of the funds released and utilized under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the percentage of population practising open defecation, gender-wise and State-wise;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check such practice;
- (g) whether a large population of the country lack drainage connectivity; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As per the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report 2012 Updates published by World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country is 33% approximately as of the year 2010. The other countries mentioned in the report having large number of people practicing open defecation are Indonesia, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, Nepal, China, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Cambodia, Madagascar and Brazil.

(c): The information presented in the report includes data from household surveys and census up to the period of 2008-09 only and do not reflect the recent efforts of Government of India to eliminate the practice of open defecation and promote the use of toilets under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

(d): The details of the funds released to the States and utilization reported by the States under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) during each of the last three years, State-wise, is at Annexure-I.

(e): As per census 2011, the percentage of population practicing open defecation in rural areas of the country, State-wise, is at Annexure-II. Gender wise data has not been reported.

(f): In order to cover more people under sanitation facilities, the total budgetary allocation for the programme has been increased from Rs.1500.00 crore during 2011-12 to Rs.3500.00 crore during the year 2012-13. Further, the Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Human Resource Development (HRD), the key components to generate and meet demand for sanitation have been strengthened. The States have been advised for engagement of Swachchhata Doots to accelerate sanitation coverage.

(g) & (h): The data regarding extent of availability of drainage connectivity to the population is not maintained by the Ministry. However, Government of India administers the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme started in the year 1999 to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main objective of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. TSC is a demand driven project based programme taking district as a unit. TSC promotes low cost decentralised onsite sanitation systems. Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) is an integral component of TSC with a provision for expenditure up to 10% of the project outlay. Under this component activities like common compost pits, low cost drainage, soakage channels/pits, reuse of waste water, system for collection, segregation and disposal of household garbage etc. are taken up by the project districts.