

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3141

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012

SANITATION FACILITIES

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Pandey Saroj

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that 4th South Asian Conference has observed that sanitation in South Asian countries including India is at a crisis point;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the standard of sanitation in the country is much less as compared to international standards; and
- (e) if so, the action plan formulated by the Government to improve the standard level of sanitation and bring more awareness regarding sanitation among the common person?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b): The Colombo declaration of 4th South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) held in Colombo states that the sanitation and hygiene situation in South Asia remains at a crisis point. The view point was taken in the backdrop of poor sanitation coverage in the South Asian countries.

(c): The sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country was 21.9% as per census 2001 that has gone up to 32.7 % in rural areas of the country as per Census 2011 after accounting for the increase in number of households due to increase in population and fragmentation of households etc.

(d): There is no universally accepted international standard of sanitation.

(e): Government of India administers Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), a comprehensive programme to facilitate States to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main objective of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. To accelerate the progress of sanitation in rural areas under NBA, Government has adopted the strategy of phased saturation approach for creation of Nirmal Grams. The provision of incentive for Individual Household Latrines has been extended to cover identified categories of Above Poverty Line (APL) households restricted to SCs/STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women headed households in addition to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. Convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) has also been made in terms of work person days for construction of sanitation facilities. The component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) has been strengthened. Conjoint approach with National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has been adopted to address the issue of availability of water for sanitation facilities. To achieve the vision of Nirmal Bharat by 2022 with all Gram Panchayats in the country attaining Nirmal status. The budget provision under NBA for the first year of the XII Plan, 2012-13, has been increased to Rs.3500 crore from Rs.1500 crores provided in the last year of the XI Plan 2011-12.