

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:921

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012

PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON SANITATION

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

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

(a) whether Panchayats have been entrusted with the responsibility to play an important role in public awareness on cleanliness and hygiene more particularly inculcating hygienic habits in children;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard in various States of the country including Maharashtra; and

(c) the initiatives taken by the Government to improve the community based Total Sanitation Programme and to cover a maximum number of Panchayats under it?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam, steps taken by the Government in this regard in all States/UTs of the country including Maharashtra are as under:-

As per Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan(NBA), Gram Panchayats have a pivotal role in the implementation of the program at all levels. Gram Panchayats will carry out the social mobilization for the construction of toilets and also maintain a clean environment by way of safe disposal of wastes. GPs will also play a key role in inter-personal communication for hygiene education. Panchayats and implementing agencies have also been urged to ensure good co-ordination with Deptt. of Education and Health and other partners to provide a safe, healthy learning environment to all children in the schools by providing hygiene education to the children on all aspects of hygiene.

(c): Govt. of India started Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in 1999 to promote personal hygiene, household toilets, garbage disposal and waste water disposal. Under this program financial incentives were provided to BPL households for construction and usage of Individual household Latrines.

To accelerate the progress of sanitation in rural areas, Government of India has designed a paradigm shift in Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which is now called the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), in the XIth Five Year Plan. The objective of NBA is to achieve sustainable behavior change with provision of sanitary facilities in entire communities in a phased, saturation mode with 'Nirmal Grams' as outcomes. The new strategy is to transform rural India into 'Nirmal Bharat' by adopting community saturation approach. NBA goal is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022.

The provision of incentive for individual household latrine units has been widened to cover all APL households who are SC/ST, small and marginal farmer, landless labourer with homestead, physically challenged and women headed households along-with all BPL households. Financial incentive for construction of toilets has been raised for all eligible beneficiaries to Rs. 4600 under NBA. In addition upto Rs. 4500 to be booked under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for construction of the toilet is permitted and a beneficiary contribution of Rs. 900, taking the total unit cost of toilet to Rs. 10000/-

The component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) has been prioritized through focused funding.

The Government has taken sufficient technical and financial measures to cover maximum numbers of Panchayats with enhancement in funding for construction of Individual household latrine, school and anganwadi toilets, Solid and Liquid Waste Management. Government has increased the allocation under NBA from Rs.1500 crore in the year 2011-12, the last year of the XI Five Year Plan to Rs.3500 crore as Budget Estimate during the year 2012-13, the first year of the XII Five Year Plan.

Under NBA, assistance is also being provided for public awareness and for training to Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) and PRI members, block and district functionaries, grass root functionaries in trades such as masonry work, brick- making, toilet pan making and plumbing etc., required for creation of sanitation facilities.