

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2891
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013
BIO TOILETS
Pathak Shri Harin

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is partnering with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to build Odourless bio-toilets in villages to eradicate the menace of open defecation;
- (b) if so, the number of gram panchayats likely to be covered across the country under the programme, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the current status of the programme?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation(MDWS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for implementation of bio-digester/bio-tank based eco-friendly toilets developed by DRDO, in Gram Panchayats. The MoU has provisions for MDWS and DRDO to work together for use in these villages. DRDO is responsible for the technical aspects of implementation of the project. There also exists provision for monitoring of the project by a joint team. It has been decided that willing States may implement the projects with technical assistance from DRDO. NBA guidelines shall form the basis for the project including the financial incentive that would be the same for the bio-digester toilets as provided for in the NBA guidelines. Additional cost over and above that fixed under NBA guidelines plus that allowed under MGNREGS would be met by the State Government.