

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:186
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013
NIRMAL BHARAT ABHIYAN
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

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 steps taken by the Government to strengthen Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan and to include more panchayats therein?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. Under the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), Panchayati Raj Institutions have a pivotal role in the implementation of the programme including creating public awareness at all levels. Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to carry out social mobilization for the construction and use of toilets and also to maintain a clean environment by way of safe disposal of waste. GPs also play a key role in inter-personal communication for hygiene education amongst the rural population. Panchayats have also to ensure co-ordination with local schools to ensure provision of safe and healthy environment to all children studying in the schools as well as by providing hygiene education to the students. States implementing the NBA, which inter alia includes Maharashtra, carry out extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Capacity building activities to generate awareness amongst the rural population about the importance of Cleanliness and Hygiene. States are also taking steps to prioritise the coverage of schools and Anganwadis with toilets.

(c) To accelerate the progress of sanitation in rural areas, Government of India has made a paradigm shift in Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which is now called the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), being implemented from 2012-13, 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 a community saturation approach. The goal of NBA is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022. Gram Panchayats shall play an important part in the achievement of these outcomes. The Government aims at targeting maximum numbers of Panchayats, through enhancement in Budget allocation under the NBA under the XIth Five Year Plan, amounting to Rs. 37,159 crore and enhancing the Incentives for construction of Individual household latrine, and the funds available for constructing School and Anganwadi toilets, Community Sanitary Complexes and for Solid and Liquid Waste Management.

Under NBA, assistance is also being provided to States for generating public awareness and for trainings to Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) and Panchayat 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.