

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2219  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013  
LACK OF TOILETS  
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

**Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether World Bank, in their recent report has pointed out that about 50% of Indian households do not have toilets/latrine and hence defecate in the open;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION [(DR. (MS.) GIRIJA VYAS)]

(a) : Yes, Madam.

A report of World Bank in this regard i.e. "Effects of Early Life Exposure to Sanitation on Childhood Cognitive Skills: Evidence from India's Total Sanitation Campaign" by Dean Spears and Sneha Lamba has pointed out that 53% of Indian households defecate in the open, without using a toilet or latrine.

(b) : In the report, the effects on childhood cognitive achievement of early life exposure to India's Total Sanitation Campaign (now renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) to encourage local government to build and promote inexpensive pit latrines have been studied. The report shows that, low cost rural sanitation strategies such as India's Total Sanitation Campaign can improve children's cognitive development which can further improve the human capital of Indian labour force in the long run.

(c) : The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MoDW&S) is implementing the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) under which financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for construction of toilets in rural areas. In the 12th Plan an outlay of Rs. 34,377 crores has been provided for rural sanitation as compared to Rs. 6540 crores in the 11th Plan, which is a significantly higher allocation (425% higher than the 11th Plan). The goal is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households in the Country by 2022 under the NBA. Also as per 12th plan objectives of NBA, 50% of all the Gram Panchayats are to become Nirmal Grams by 2017.

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.

In addition, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) is implementing the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation (ILCS) Scheme, which envisages conversion of all dry latrines into twin pit-pour flush latrines and construction of new latrines for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) households as per the demands raised by the respective States.