

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3121

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014

BIO DIGESTER TOILETS

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to popularise bio-digester/bio-tank based eco-friendly toilets, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred to construct these toilets, State-wise;
- (c) the extent to which these toilets are likely to reduce the menace of open defecation;
- (d) whether the Government has sought private participation to build bio-digester/ non-bio-digester toilets;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided by private sector in this regard; and
- (f) the time by which such bio-digester toilets are likely to be constructed in all the rural panchayats of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) 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 Ministry has also written to the States to consider the use of this technology as one of the options for toilets under the rural sanitation programme, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) {SBM(G)}.

(b) No separate funds have been allocated for setting up Bio-digester Toilets. The financial support for the bio-digesters toilets would be as provided for in the SBM(G) guidelines. Additional costs over and above that fixed under the SBM(G) will have to be provided by the State or the beneficiary.

(c) No separate physical target has been fixed for setting up of Bio-digester toilets. Bio-digester toilets are one of the technical options along with other options for construction of toilets in rural areas under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), aiming to achieve the objective of open defecation free India by 2nd October, 2019.

(d) Yes Madam.

(e) The construction of these toilets are done by the 39 companies to whom DRDO has issued licences.

(f) There is no policy for construction of Bio-digester toilets in all the panchayats of the country.