

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6722
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
OPEN DEFECATION
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

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

- (a) the outcome of the awareness measures taken by the Government to check open defecation in the country;
- (b) the details of the obstacles in eliminating open defecating in the country;
- (c) whether any decline has been noticed in the number/percentage of people resorting to open defecation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof State/UT-wise; and
- (e) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)] has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 2nd October, 2014 as a citizen movement for cleanliness and freedom from open defecation across the country. Under this programme, many awareness measures were taken by Government of India and the States. As an outcome of the same, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) programme is picking up and 58.91 lakh Household latrines were constructed during 2014-15, which is higher than the last years. More importantly 49.85 lakh household latrines were constructed after launch of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). Indicating more than 450% increase in construction of toilets after the launch of SBM(G) as compared to pre-SBM period of 2014-15.

(b) Sanitation is a mindset/behavioural issue influenced by Socio-cultural practices adopted since centuries. The biggest obstacle in eliminating open defecation is changing this mindset. Some of the other obstacle are :-

Constraints of Institutional capacities at grass root level

Constraints of appropriate skills required for behavioral change

Constraints of resources

(c) Yes.

(d) State/UT-wise percentage of household practicing Open Defecation as per Baseline Survey 2012-13 and as on 31.3.2015 is at Annexure-1.

(e) Does not arise.