

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:716
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014
OPEN DEFECATION
Thota Shri Narasimham

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating a scheme for making all gram panchayats located on the banks of the Ganga free from open defecation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to introduce such scheme in respect of other rivers flowing in other parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes Madam.
- (b) 1649 Gram Panchayats have been identified to be situated along the banks of river Ganga. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has prepared an Action Plan to make all these Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- (c) Yes Madam.
- (d) Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), the goal is that the entire country should be ODF by 2019. However, priority is to be accorded to cover all Gram Panchayats situated in the major river basins of India for making them ODF.