

Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07-02-2019

Effects of Open Defecation

884. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that about 50% Indians defecate outside without using toilets and from here and children pick up parasites and chronic infections that impair the ability of the intestines to absorb nutrients;
- (b) if so, give details of the number of diarrhoea affected children admitted and treated in various hospitals of the country during the last 4 years;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note that the UNICEF reports death of almost 117,000 Indian children per year from diarrhoea; and
- (d) if so, give details regarding measures taken by the Government to curb the said alarming situation in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) and (b) Government of India had launched Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)] with effect from 2nd October, 2014 with the aim to attain Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2019 by providing access to toilet facilities to all rural households in the country. Under SBM(G), 9.16 crore toilets have been constructed till 05.02.2019. As a result, sanitation coverage which was 38.7% on 2.10.2014 has increased to more than 98% and 27 States, 601 Districts, 5,934 Blocks, 2,46,116 Gram Panchayats and 5,50,151 villages have been declared ODF. Benefits of ODF are accrued to all the households in the village.

(c) According to UNICEF data, 1,17,285 children died of diarrhoea in India in 2015.

(d) Government had launched SBM(G) with effect from 2nd October, 2014 with the aim to attain ODF India by 2nd October, 2019. As per the World Health Organisation (WHO) Study released in 2018 it is estimated that SBM-G will result in averting more than 3,00,000 deaths (diarrhoea and protein-energy malnutrition) between 2014 and October 2019.