

(c) whether a meeting was held with the forum in Andhra Pradesh to try and find solutions;

(d) whether it is a fact that the forum has sought a Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) in backward areas; and

(e) the steps proposed to adopt a constructive approach to new ideas and concepts from the forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) The Government has received representations from the Forum on Social and Human Rights, Polavaram (Andhra Pradesh), directly as well as through representatives of the public regarding opening of a Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) in Polavaram. The basis on which 77 PSKs were set up in the country under the Passport Seva Project (PSP) and the procedure for submission of passport application in the new system was also conveyed to the Forum and representatives of the public during November-December 2012. Considering various recommendations from representatives of the public and dignitaries for opening more PSKs in the country, the Ministry has requested National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) to undertake a fresh feasibility study to enable the Government to take a view in the matter. Polavaram has been included in the list of locations for requisite study. No specific idea, concept or suggestion has been received, however, from the Forum. No meeting of the Forum with designated officials in this regard has taken place.

Safe and clean toilets for urban poors

2672. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Indian population still defecating in open;

(b) whether Government has fixed any target time by which every Indian can expect a safe and clean place for defecating; and

(c) if so, the details of all schemes under which above target is to be met?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) As per Census of India, 2011: Tables on Houses,

Households Amenities and Assets, 49.8% of Indian Population is still defecating in open. In real terms it accounts for 12.29 crores households out of a total of 24.67 crores households. Out of these 11.30 crores households live in rural areas and 99.60 lakhs households live in urban areas.

(b) and (c) 'Sanitation' and 'Public Health' are State Subjects, according to 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. Issues relating to Sewerage, Drainage and Sanitation in the urban areas are being monitored by Ministry of Urban Development in Government of India. There is no comprehensive and dedicated Urban Sanitation Programme to support the States to address the issue of open defecation in urban areas and Government of India has not set any time limit for eradication of open defecation in urban areas. However, all the houses constructed under the flagship programmes of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation viz., Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)/ Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) and proposed Rajiv Rin Yojana (RRY) provide for toilets. In addition Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation provides assistance to States for conversion of dry latrines of Economically Weaker Section Households into twin pit pour flush latrines under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation (ILCS) Scheme. The scheme also allows construction of new latrines to EWS households who have no latrines to the extent of 25% of number of units for conversion.

Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) is being implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in rural areas of India. NBA envisages to achieve sustainable behavior change with provision of sanitary facilities in entire rural community in a phased mode with 'Nirmal Grams' as outcomes. It is expected to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022.

Demand for housing for urban peoples

2673. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in next fifteen years or so, urban population is going to double in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to meet the growing demand of housing transportation, sanitation, drinking water etc. for new Urban India; and