

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2330**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

**'WASH REPORT' CLAIMS ON ODF**

2330 SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as opposed to Government claims of India being Open Defecation Free (ODF) in 2019, according to “WASH Report 2021”, 15 per cent of the total population in the country defecates in the open;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that many toilets constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) are either in a dilapidated condition or incomplete while some toilets are being used for other purposes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to increase awareness about the importance of sanitation in rural areas?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) The sanitation status of India as per the report of UNICEF and World Health Organization's Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) titled as 'Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000-2020 – Five Years into the SDGs' is given below:

National Sanitation Estimates (%)	
At-least Basic	71
Limited(shared)	12
Unimproved	2
Open Defecation	15

JMP methodology involves gathering data from various researches and reports conducted on the subject and derive conclusions using them. Many of these surveys and reports are based on very small samples and use varied methodologies and are generally not representative of the ground situation. JMP does not use primary survey or research to derive the ground situation. Hence JMP at best provides an estimate derived from different reports and is not a true reflection of the ground level situation.

(b) to (d) As per National Annual Rural Sanitation (NARSS) 2019-20 Report, 96.4% toilets in rural areas were functional. And, 95.2% of rural population who had access to a toilet, were using it. Sanitation is mainly a behavioral issue. It requires change in mindset of the people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices on continuous basis. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)], adequate emphasis have been given on awareness generation and positive behavior change towards safe sanitation practices through Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Inter-Personal Communication (IPC) activities. Under SBM(G), main focus has been given to Community Approach to Sanitation (CAS), which has played a key role in achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in villages through collective efforts of the community. Various other IEC activities such as Kalajathas, Rallies, door to door campaigns, etc. have also been organized.

At national and State levels various workshops/ trainings are also held from time to time and various media campaigns like print, electronic, Audio Visual and mass media tools, banners, posters, social media platforms, etc. are used for the dissemination of information on sanitation, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and hygiene behavior and creating awareness among citizen of the country.

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