

No .S-11011/3/2015-SBM-Part(3)
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

4th Floor, Pt. Deendayal 'Antyodaya Bhavan'
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi-110 003
Dated: 2nd March, 2020

To

Chief Secretaries
All States/Union Territories

Subject: Ensuring quality and addressing gaps in SBM-G interventions

Madam/Sir,

The contribution of the States/Union Territories (UTs) in realizing the dream of a Swachh Bharat and in making India Open Defecation Free (ODF) has been truly commendable. While we have achieved 100% coverage in rural sanitation as reported on the IMIS, the challenge ahead is to maintain this status in a sustainable manner. The dynamic nature of sanitation needs to be taken into cognizance and it is to be ensured that no one is left behind in having access to sanitation facilities. While progressing ahead, it is equally important to ensure due diligence and quality of interventions with regard to creation of individual/community assets under the programme. In this regard, this Department has issued guidelines and advisories from time to time.

2. The oversight role of the States/UTs in ensuring the quality of interventions under the programme needs to be reemphasised. Hence, the following is reiterated:

(i) **Concurrent monitoring of ODF status by State and District Officials:** It is imperative that the sustainability of ODF status is concurrently monitored by State, District and Block level officials by making visits to villages. It has been observed through some independent surveys and field visits by Central teams, that there may still exist some gaps in access to toilets on the ground in some districts. For this, this Department has initiated the No One Left Behind (NOLB) campaign, and States are advised to identify and address any such gaps on priority.

A roster of visits to villages may be developed at the District and Block level, according to which District and Block officials may visit villages to ensure that people continue to use toilets and maintain the ODF status achieved, and to identify any gaps there may exist on the ground. Advisory on enhancing quality of interventions issued by this Department vide letter no S-18011/24/2015-SBM dated 19-12-2017 also refers.

(ii) **Concurrent monitoring of ODF status by Gram Panchayats:** Gram Panchayat functionaries must continue monitoring the assets (toilets) constructed under the SBM(G) and hold regular meetings with nigrani samitis to encourage concurrent monitoring. In case of any gaps identified, these must be addressed and planning for the same may be inculcated into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Funds from the 15th Finance Commission may be used for monitoring purposes as well as to address the gaps. Guidelines for the utilization of the 15th Finance Commission funds will follow separately.

- (iii) **Second Verification for ODF sustainability:** Verification of ODF sustainability must be carried out by every Gram Panchayat for each of its villages, as outlined in the SBM(G) guidelines. The protocol for this verification may be the same as that of the second verification, or may be appropriately modified by the State. Given the dynamic state of sanitation, the ODF sustainability verification would take into consideration the above mentioned points to ensure that no one is left behind and address all required gaps as part of its verification. Advisory on planning and implementation of ODF sustainability issued by this Department vide letter no S-11011/3/2015-SBM-Part(3) dated 27-5-2019 also refers.
- (iv) **Geotagging of newly constructed assets (LOB/NOLB) and sample checking of geotagged toilets.** You would appreciate that a geotagged toilet is the most credible evidence of asset created at village. It is important that all toilets are not only correctly geotagged as per the standards mentioned in the SBM guidelines, but a sample verification of the geotagged toilets are also carried out. Any discrepancy, if found, be immediately brought to the notice of District and Block level officials for verification and action.
- (v) **Improving financial transparency and accountability.** States and Districts are advised to review the internal controls and financial management principles to ensure that SBMG resources are effectively utilized. It is suggested that systems for financial management are periodically reviewed and internal control mechanisms put in place. Capacity building, wherever needed, for financial management be provided to concerned officials.
3. It is expected that the above instructions will be acted upon on priority under your personal leadership.

Yours faithfully,



(Arun Baroka)

Additional Secretary (SBM-G)

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Copy to:

1. ACSs/ Pr. Secretaries/ Secretaries in-charge of Rural Sanitation-All States/UTs
2. Mission Directors/ State Coordinators- All States/UTs
3. DMs/DCs/CDOs/CEOs, ZP- All districts