

A-39/1/2016-O/o JS (SBM(G))
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Division

4th Floor, Pt. Deendayal 'Antyodaya Bhawan'
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110 003

Dated : 30th January, 2017

To,

Principal Secretary/Secretary In-charge
of Rural Sanitation All States/UTs

Madam/Sir,

As you know, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM(G)), aimed at achieving a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India has far reaching benefits for all sections of society, but it is especially critical for women. In an ODF society, women do not have to face to defecate in the open – an indignity that no woman in this country must be put through.

2. A toilet is being recognized as a basic necessity, and there are umpteen stories from different parts of the country where women have come forward individually and collectively to demand toilets for themselves, and most of the time they have succeeded. A woman Sarpanch, a school teacher, a health worker who has decided to champion the cause of sanitation in her village is the galvanizing force around whom the entire village rallies to move towards Open Defecation Free status. She inspires not only other the women, but all sections of the village to fight against this social evil.

3. To honor such women due to whose efforts their villages, blocks, districts have become ODF, MDWS will hold an event in Gujarat on International Women's Day, March 8, 2017. This will add a huge fillip to the entire Swachh Bharat movement, and will specially motivate these women to continue to champion the cause of a Swachh Bharat in neighboring villages of their gram panchayats and districts, thereby spreading the flame of sanitation at a faster rate.

4. Women Champions from various walks of life will be honoured at this platform. All States that are interested to participate are required to send one page write up of Women Sanitation Champions from one or more of the following 5 categories as nominations to be felicitated on the occasion:

- (i) School Teachers
- (ii) ASHA Workers
- (iii) ANMs
- (iv) Anganwadi Workers



- (v) Any other category identified by State Govt. The person could be in Govt. or non-Govt. sector.

The last date for sending in the stories is 15th February, 2017. The stories must be emailed to Mr. Ikshwaku Sharma at ikshwakus@kpmg.com on or before the due date alongwith complete contact details of the nominees.



(Arun Baroka)

Joint Secretary, SBM(G)

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Copy to :

1. All Mission Directors of all States/UTs
2. All State SBM (G) Coordinator of all States/UTs
3. All DCs/DMs/CEOs