



No.S-18/10/2015-SBM
Government of India
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Division

4th Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated the 20th July, 2015

To

Principal Secretary/Secretary in charge Rural Sanitation,
All States/UTs

Subject : Clarification regarding availability of water for toilets

Sir / Madam,

As you are aware, the new programme 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)' introduced certain novel features to expedite rural sanitation, while focussing on the quality of outcomes. One of the changes introduced was increase in incentive amount for the individual toilet from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.12,000/-. This increase was made keeping in mind the fact that hygiene was an important factor affecting health and promotion of hand-washing at critical times such as after defecation was essential to prevent the faeco-oral transmission. It was, therefore, desired that facility, if not already there, for water storage, hand-washing and cleaning of toilets may be created/strengthened, along with construction of a toilet. The essence of the above provision is that water should be available for the toilet purposes, cleaning the toilet and for hand-washing thereafter.

2. However, what cannot be lost sight of is that the issue of sanitation is a behavioural and demand-driven issue, where the households are encouraged to construct their own toilets for safe disposal of excreta. This behavioural change includes behaviour for hygiene, and it is expected that when a household constructs toilet, they will also ensure adequate water availability for the same. Many households may already have provision for water within the house or at nearby places, and it suffices if the person uses the same for toilet purposes. In such a situation, there remains no need for him to invest in a separate water storage facility such as a tank or wash-basin compulsorily along with the construction of a toilet. Prescribing a specific structure leads to supply-driven approach and the person may not use the same, leading to wasteful expenditure.

3. It is, therefore, clarified that while availability of water for toilet needs to be pushed, the choice of structure of the same, may be left to the beneficiary/community. This may be brought to the notice of all the districts for clarification.

Yours faithfully,

(Saraswati Prasad)

Joint Secretary (Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin)

Tel. No. 24362705

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