

PRESS NOTE

Today Sh. Om Parkash Dhankar, Hon'ble Development & Panchayats Minister, Haryana announced at a Press Conference held at Chandigarh that it is a matter of pride that rural areas of Haryana has become Open Defecation Free. Today under leadership of Sh. Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana, all 6205 gram panchayats have declared ODF status. It is the fourth State that has achieved this status in the country. He thanked the people of Haryana who made this difficult task achievable. After Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi laid down the goal of achieving ODF status in country by 2019, the State took upon the challenge to becoming Open Defecation Free by bringing about behavior change through an intensive campaign by 2017. Out of the total 30.24 lakh rural household as per survey of 2012, 7.3 lakh household were without toilets. Today more than 7.51 lakh toilets have been constructed and 100% coverage of toilets in rural areas has been achieved.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), a Community led Sanitation approach along with a cluster based human resource framework was adopted with the technical assistance of World Bank. Each district conducted a 3-4 months intensive campaign led by the Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners and District Officials from all departments. Teams consisting of government officials, NGOs, youth, PRIs and etc. were constituted from the district level to the village level. Nigrani samities were constituted at the village level which kept a constant vigil on open defecation in the villages. Community triggering tools were used in an extensive campaign reaching every village in the State. As a result of this response of the community was overwhelming. Soon it became a people's movement where in all sections of society, women, children, youth, social and religious leaders actively participated, as natural leaders.

Use of Community triggering tools led to a change in the mind set of people. People/panchayat so motivated resolved to make their village ODF. The role of elected members specially Sarpanch/Panches was pivotal to the success. Unflinching support of all political leaders at every level was the hall mark of this campaign. Educational institutions, companies, banks, NGOs also made immense contribution to the movement. Full cooperation of media helped to spread message to every corner of the State.

As an incentive, the Government is giving a grant of Rs. 1.00 lakh to every panchayat which achieved ODF status. Besides Swachhta Purskar, Swaran Jayanti Award for sanitation was started under which Rs. one lakh is being given to one GP per block and one GP in a district for cleanliness which includes maintaining ODF status. All efforts have been also made to provide toilets in schools, anganwadi, schools and public buildings also.

The campaign focused not only on construction of toilets but also on bringing about a behavior change so that people use toilet and not defecate in the open. This has resulted in an impressive and visible change. However, as in case of any behavior change, efforts will have to be continued to be made for its sustainability.

Therefore, an ODF+ campaign has been prepared where in the focus would be on sustainability of ODF and on solid and liquid waste management through community participation. 16 pilots have been launched in 8 ODF districts. The emphasis in these projects is on decentralized household management of solid and liquid waste in an cost-effective manner.