

Issue with  
immediately my  
speed post  
(33 letters)

12/7/07  
KAMLA GARG  
Under Secretary  
Ministry of Health & F.W.  
Government of India



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Joint D.O.No.R.14011/9/2005-EAG/NRHM-I Part-II  
9th July 2007

Dear

**Sub: Provision of household toilets for ASHA under the Total Sanitation Campaign**

As you are aware, ASHA is the first port of call for health service delivery under the National Rural Health Mission. ASHA is a specially deployed health activist in the community for creating awareness regarding health and its social determinants, and also for mobilizing the community to take up local health planning. At the village level ASHAs are involved in the Village Health and Sanitation Committee of the Panchayats as members.

The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (DDWS) aims at complete sanitation coverage in the rural areas. The thrust of Total Sanitation Campaign is now on awareness generation, which in turn would lead to creation of demand for individual toilets.

TSC provides for a basic subsidy to BPL families for toilet construction. It also provides a revolving fund of Rs. 50 lakhs in each district. This fund can be accessed by Self Help Groups (SHGs) and individuals with proven credit worthiness. A maximum interest free loan of Rs. 2000/- can be taken, payable in 10-12 instalments.

ASHA being a member of the Village Health and Sanitation Committee is an important player in health and sanitation awareness generation activities and as such must be seen in the village as a role model. It is desirable therefore that all ASHAs should have a toilet in their household so that none of her family members need to resort to the practice of open defecation.

It would therefore be appropriate that States take steps to include access to a toilet in the household as a criterion for selection of ASHAs. Alternatively all existing ASHAs can be encouraged to construct a toilet in their homes, with assistance from the ongoing Total Sanitation Campaign project of the district.

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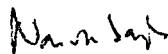
This initiative may also be extended to the Self Help Groups (SHGs) operating under various programmes in the State.


Such an action, you will appreciate will further the ongoing process of convergence of NRHM with the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission and the Total Sanitation Campaign. A Plan of action to facilitate and convergence may accordingly be formulated for your State.

We trust this will be among your priorities and will optimize outcomes of these schemes, in the best interest of the people at large.

With Regards

Yours sincerely,

  
(Naresh Dayal)

  
(Santha Sheela Nair)