

S-11011/3/2015-SBM  
Government of India  
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pt. Deendayal 'Antyodaya Bhawan'  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi-110 003  
Dated 1<sup>st</sup> Dec .2017

To

The Principle Secretary/Secretary,  
In-charge of rural sanitation,  
All State/UTs

Subject: - Advisory on continuous engagement with ODF villages

Madam/Sir,

Swachh Bharat Mission is at a unique juncture where historic changes related to collective behaviour change and the practice of open defecation has been halted in lakhs of villages across States. It is important that the program builds on the significant gains achieved and ensures continued engagement even after the village has attained open defecation free status to ensure that the benefits accrue on a continued basis. Swachh Bharat Mission program design calls for a series of activities to be taken up even after the attainment of ODF status by a village so that people realize continued health and hygiene benefits.

2. It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that the States which have declared themselves as ODF have presumably slowed down follow up arrangements and additional activities thinking the final attainments under the program has been achieved. It is emphasized here that mere attainment of ODF declaration should not result in stopping engagement with villages and communities over the issue of sanitation and hygiene.

3. It is reiterated that ODF declaration is the first step towards Clean India Mission. Once a village or district or State becomes ODF, it needs to undertake various activities like follow ups to maintain the status, first verification of ODF status, second verification to ensure the continuance of ODF status and other continued activities which could include celebrating ODF on various occasions like 15<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> January or any other auspicious day in the village or in the district. Apart from such these activities, the village or the community needs to be motivated to undertake Solid Liquid Waste Management activities and activities that promote and upgrade the general sanitation and environment in the ODF villages.

4. It is, therefore, suggested that the States need to ensure that continued engagement with villages even after attainment of ODF status is maintained so that the vision of Clean India Mission is achieved.

5. Please refer to the ODF Sustainability guidelines issued by this Ministry circulated vide letter No.S-11011/3/2015-SBM dated December 15, 2016, for this purpose. Detailed ODF-Sustainability Guidelines will be issued shortly and shared with the States.

Yours faithfully,



(Arun Baroka)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel No. 011 24362192

Fax No. 011 2436 9831

E mail [arun.baroka@nic.in](mailto:arun.baroka@nic.in)

**Copy to: -**

- 1) Mission Director/State coordinator, SBM (G), all States/UTs
- 2) TD NIC for uploading on website
- 3) Hindi Section for Hindi translation