

Waste Stabilisation Pond constructed for GWM in Himachal Pradesh's Aamwala Sainwala



About 300 metres of drainage channel leading to a waste stabilisation pond was constructed in Aamwala Sainwala Gram Panchayat in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh, putting an end to the problems pertaining to stagnant water in low lying areas of the village and the waste water that overflowed from various households and water collection points onto the village paths.

The initiative driven by Pradhan – Shri Sandeepak Tomar was a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase II that calls for effective management of solid and liquid waste, in addition to ODF sustainability to bring about visual cleanliness of villages.

Previously, grey water overflowed onto the paths often mixing with other waste material that was strewn about making the roads filthy or forming puddles that attracted flies and mosquitoes.

Keen to address the situation, the Pradhan with the support of the district administration launched an IEC campaign in all the 7 wards of the GP, generating awareness about the SBM-G Phase II campaign and how visual cleanliness could be achieved.

The drains and waste stabilisation pond constructed with MGNREGA and SBM-G funds thereafter, allowed for greywater from households to be channelled into the drains. The drains were connected to the waste stabilisation pond. Meanwhile, some households constructed their own individual soak pits that permitted them to use the treated water to water their kitchen gardens.

Made up of two revenue village namely Bogriya and Aamwala Sainwala, the GP situated on the national highway 72 was declared ODF in 2016 after construction of 35 IHHLs and 2 community sanitary complexes.

As far as Phase II of SBM-G is concerned, the GP has formed a Swachhata Committee to make people aware of the importance of cleanliness and to encourage them cooperate with the Gram Panchayat to sustain the systems put in place for greywater management and solid waste management.

The GP is also attached to the Special Area Development Authority (SADA) in Kala-Amb to collect their solid waste. Majority of the households have their own compost pits to manage their biodegradable waste. School children and swachhagrahis are encouraged to collect single use plastic which is used to make poly bricks with which poly structures such as benches, flower pots and rain shelters are constructed.

For households having single pit or septic tank toilets, a vacuum sewage sucking truck is commissioned for desludging and the faecal matter is sent to an urban STP for co-treatment.

To ensure visual cleanliness, the GP has installed mesh dustbins at the roadsides and public spaces and has organised collection of garbage regularly. People are also seen collecting garbage at their own level. A committee of local reputed persons has been formed to promote the message of hygiene and safe sanitation and carry out garbage collection campaigns from time to time.

With these initiatives, the village is on its way to becoming a model ODF Plus village by 2nd October 2022.

