

Surajpur builds inclusive community toilets



The district of Surajpur in Chhattisgarh is building 127 community sanitary complexes (CSCs) in common spaces such as markets, temples and bus stands to cater to women, men, persons with disability and transgenders.

As per the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen guidelines, equity and inclusion are of significance in the sanitation and hygiene sector. Providing access to different categories of people who are not able to access and use safe sanitation facilities should be a priority of the implementing agencies.

According to District Collector, Mr. Deepak Soni, of the 127 such community toilets sanctioned for the district, 22 have been completed while another 105 are in progress.

“Social sensitivity is the fundamental premise of SBM where the right of each section of the society to have access to a toilet is to be respected and catered to. As part of this, the district team is committed to ensuring that no one is left behind from the benefits of Swachhata Maha-Abhiyaan,” the DC said.

The toilets are in keeping with the design provided by the State Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen office. Each of them costs about Rs. two lakhs – of which Rs. 1.8 lakh is taken from funds secured from SBM-G and Rs. 0.2 lakhs from MGNREGA for labour. In total, the 127 units would cost Rs. 254 lakhs.

Each of the facilities have:

- One western commode (WC) toilet for third gender and children with special needs
- 2 urinals, one WC and one wash basin for men
- One WC, one bathroom, one wash basin and 2 urinals for women

The complexes have been constructed by the Gram Panchayat and would be handed over to either a Self Help Group, a bus operator union or a temple board to take care of maintenance; depending on the location on which they have been constructed.



The toilets would also cater to the floating population, ensuring access to sanitation facilities for all those who do not have their own toilets, including those with disability and the third gender.



As far as the cost for using toilets is concerned, the Gram Panchayat or the Village Water and Sanitation Committee would decide if the toilets are free for use or if a nominal amount is charged, the DC said.