



D.O No. MD-SBM/AA/63/2016

30<sup>th</sup> May, 2016



**Sub: Assigning responsibility for Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) / Septage Management - Reg.**

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

As you are aware, one of the key objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) is to help all 4041 cities/towns achieve 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) status by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019.

2. As we move towards 100% coverage of toilets, we need to look ahead at managing the large volume of fecal sludge from the growing number of septic tanks and single pit latrines. Proper **fecal sludge management (FSM) or Septage Management** that maximizes safety and sustainability is essential and we need to develop a model that will cater to the country's future needs. Fecal sludge comprises partially stabilized excreta and slurry from improved single pit latrines, septic tanks, as well as latrines based on other improved and unimproved technologies. Unless managed appropriately, this fecal sludge poses a huge risk to public health and the environment. At present about 64 million Indian households must be supported with safe FSM services.

3. In this regard, a key intervention proposed is to assign the responsibility of Septage Management/Fecal Sludge Management to the respective Water and Sanitation Board. The Water and Sanitation Board may also be renamed as "**Water, Sanitation and Septage Management Board**".

4. I request you to kindly issue instructions to the concerned officers for implementing the recommendations as per para 3 above. They may reach out to me in case any clarifications are required.

In anticipation of your kind support.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Praveen Prakash)

To,  
Chief Secretaries of all states/UTs

Copy to:  
Mission Directors (SBM) – of all states  
DS (SBM) – MSS  
DA-CPHEEO