

**Ministry of Urban Development cuts red-tape to fast-track**  
**Swachh Bharat Mission implementation**

In order to speed up implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) by the States and Cities, Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has been taking several proactive steps to smoothen and facilitate the processes, so that the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban are achieved rapidly as time is of essence to the Mission.

The procurement process in particular has been the bane of Missions in the past – be it of procuring machinery, equipment or services through vendors, involving cumbersome and time-consuming procedures. By facilitating procurement through rate contracts of the Director General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D), MoUD has now put the entire process of procurement of sanitation and solid waste equipment on a fast-track mode for the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies. Various equipments required for solid waste management (SWM), including garbage/litter bins of different capacities, auto-tippers etc., totalling over 47 items are now available on DG S & D Rate Contract, with more in the pipeline. Further, MoUD has liberalized the sanction of SBM grants up to 50% of the Central assistance for Solid waste management projects involving purchasing of bins, transportation vehicles, and capping of crude dump sites. These interventions of MoUD are poised to give a much needed face-lift to cleanliness in cities.

Furthermore, in view of the impending closure of financial year, MoUD has advised the States and Cities to invoke emergency measures to assign works on nomination basis for construction of backlog numbers of individual household latrines and community toilets for up to Rs.30 lakh per nomination contract.

As Behavior Change Communication is central to the success of SBM, it has been recommended to States and Cities to speed up the process of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) by procuring IEC-related services from local agencies on nomination basis, for up to Rs 5 lakhs per engagement. It is expected that these measures taken by MoUD, cutting through red tape, will help speed up the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission.