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पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
7, कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001

SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
7, KRISHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110 001

DO No. M-11015/67/2014-DPE

Dt. 19th September, 2014.

Dear Chief Secretary

In his Independence address, the Prime Minister announced that the 'Swachh Bharat' or 'Clean India' campaign would be launched on 2nd October 2014. The Prime Minister has emphasized the importance of public participation in achieving this National goal.

Local governments across the world are pivotal institutions for sanitation. In the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, 'sanitation' is one of the subjects to be devolved to Panchayats. Only Gram Panchayats, in collaboration with Gram Sabhas, can undertake the day-to-day activities that are needed to ensure cleanliness and sanitation in villages.

Therefore, Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas have to play a key role in this campaign. To emphasize this role, the period from 26th September 2014 to 2nd October, 2014 is to be celebrated as the 'Swachh Panchayat Saptah' or 'Clean Panchayat Week'. To celebrate this week, a schedule of activities as attached in Annex may be followed, culminating in a 'Swachh Gram Sabha' or 'Sanitation Gram Sabha' on 2nd October 2014. This will be the launching pad for the National Sanitation Campaign, which will continue till 31st October, 2014. Detailed guidelines regarding the celebration of the Swachh Panchayat Saptah have been sent to Principal Secretaries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj vide my letter dated 16th September 2014 and are available on the website of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Your support is needed in making the Swachh Panchayat Saptah a success, and a starting point for Gram Panchayats to make sanitation a mission. A high degree of inter-departmental coordination among the departments of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Public Health Engineering, Health, Woman and Child Welfare, School Education, Public Relations etc. will be needed. Your directions to all the relevant departments to collaborate in this process and support the Gram Panchayats in taking up the numerous activities will be invaluable. There would also be need to involve volunteers as well as people's bodies such

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as Village Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Committees; Village Water and Sanitation Committees, Self Help Groups etc. I would suggest that a State level interdepartmental committee be formed immediately under your chairpersonship to steer this process.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard, and hope that this week will be the starting point for 'Swachh Bharat'.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



Vijaylaxmi Joshi

To

The Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs except Haryana and Maharashtra.

Received

30

23-9-2014

Time 5-00 P.M.

etc.

Annex: Schedule of Events for Swachh Panchayat Saptah

S. No.	Date	Theme
1	25 th Sept	Preparation such as formation of monitoring committee at the village level, announcement of the activities of the week etc.
2	26 th Sept	Cleaning of houses with emphasis on individual and domestic hygiene.
3	27 th Sept	Cleaning and maintenance of animal shelters
4	28 th Sept	Cleaning of roads and markets
5	29 th Sept	Cleaning of public places
6	30 th Sept	Cleaning of water bodies and water sources
7	1st Oct	Cleaning and removing blockages in the drains
8	2 nd Oct	Special Gram Sabha on sanitation where basic issues related to sanitation may be discussed and resolutions for the year may be made.