

PREFACE

The year 2008 has been designated as International Year of Sanitation by the United Nations. The most important aspect relating to sanitation is the access of people to modern toilet, i.e., water closet latrine. A water closet latrine goes a long way not only in keeping one's house in hygienic condition but also helps in keeping a city's environment clean. Open defecation, pit latrines and dry latrines create unhygienic conditions resulting in spread of various diseases.

It is estimated that more than 2.5 billion people worldwide have no access to proper sanitation. Open defecation is still a common sight in many developing countries of the world. What is the scenario relating to availability of modern toilet facilities in India? How many households in the cities and towns have access to modern toilets? The present document has been brought out to answer these questions. The Census of India, 2001 provides data pertaining to distribution of households by type of latrine within the premises. The various types of latrines covered in the Census are water closet, pit and others. The data does not include institutional households. The instant document presents the data relating to availability of toilet facilities within the premises of households, as given by the Census of India 2001, for each of the cities and towns of India and also carries brief analysis of data.

The document has been prepared under the overall supervision and guidance of Shri J. Nagarajan, Senior Social Scientist. He also undertook the task of final editing of the report in which Shri P.P. Tuteja assisted him. Shri K.L. Buttan, Research Officer and Shri C.A. Lokesh prepared the draft of the report and scrutinized the same. Shri Lokesh, along with Shri T. Tete, also carried out computerization and processing of data to generate the analytical tables required for drafting the report. Shri B.K. Bharti, Senior Research Officer supervised the work relating to computerization and scrutiny of data. Secretarial assistance was rendered by Smt. Amarjeet Kaur.

Administrators, policy-makers, urban planners, researchers and academicians will find the document informative and useful.

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Chief Planner**