

# Brick kiln owners asked to build toilets for workers by May 30

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Bijnor: To ensure proper sanitation facilities for labourers, Bijnor district magistrate B Chandrakala has directed brick kiln owners to set up toilets and bathrooms for workers employed by them by May 30.

There are about 250 brick kilns in Bijnor district with over 10,000 workers. In the absence of toilet facility, labourers are forced to go to the fields to relieve themselves.

The DM has also asked brick kiln owners to submit a report to the ADM in this regard.

The move forms part of efforts initiated by the district administration and village heads to make Bijnor district open defecation free.

As many as 41 villages have been made open defecation free. However, the brick kilns are posing a roadblock in achieving the target.

Sources said the DM had also threatened to initiate strict action against those brick kiln owners who failed to comply with the orders.

"Open defecation leads to all kinds of infection among children in particular. Every minute, six children die and close to 100 get infected from diseases like diarrhoea in the country due to open defecation. Hence it becomes imperative to ensure that every person is provided with a toilet facility," said DM Chandrakala.

According to the district health officials, several cases of diarrhoea had been reported in the district though they did not have the exact data in this regard.

In addition to this, about 55% people in rural areas defecated in open areas.

Sources said over two-and-half-months-ago, the Bijnor district administration had decided to make all villages open defecation free and constituted teams to create awareness among people about the unhealthy practice.