

Zero Discharge Toilets

Eco-friendly zero discharge toilets are all set to be introduced in trains across the country. The toilets jointly developed by IIT Kanpur, Research Designs and Standards Organization, Lucknow and a private agency in Chennai, ensure that all liquid discharges are converted into “pure water” which can be used as re-cycled water to flush and clean toilets and sanitary fittings. The solid waste is converted into odour free paste by certain bio-chemicals or additives applied at the departing terminal. This can be stored for 15 days in a tank and can easily be emptied at the destination point through pressurized evacuation.

The odourless solid waste could yield revenue since the paste would form an excellent manure after being dried in the sun. After some more trial runs and studies the scheme would be permanent feature in Indian Railways.

Presently, the system has been installed in trains running between Chennai and Jammu Tawi and Chennai-Lucknow – (*PTI Science Service, March 1-15, 2009*)

(We invite comments from members, who have traveled in the above mentioned trains, about the efficiency of these toilets – Ed.)