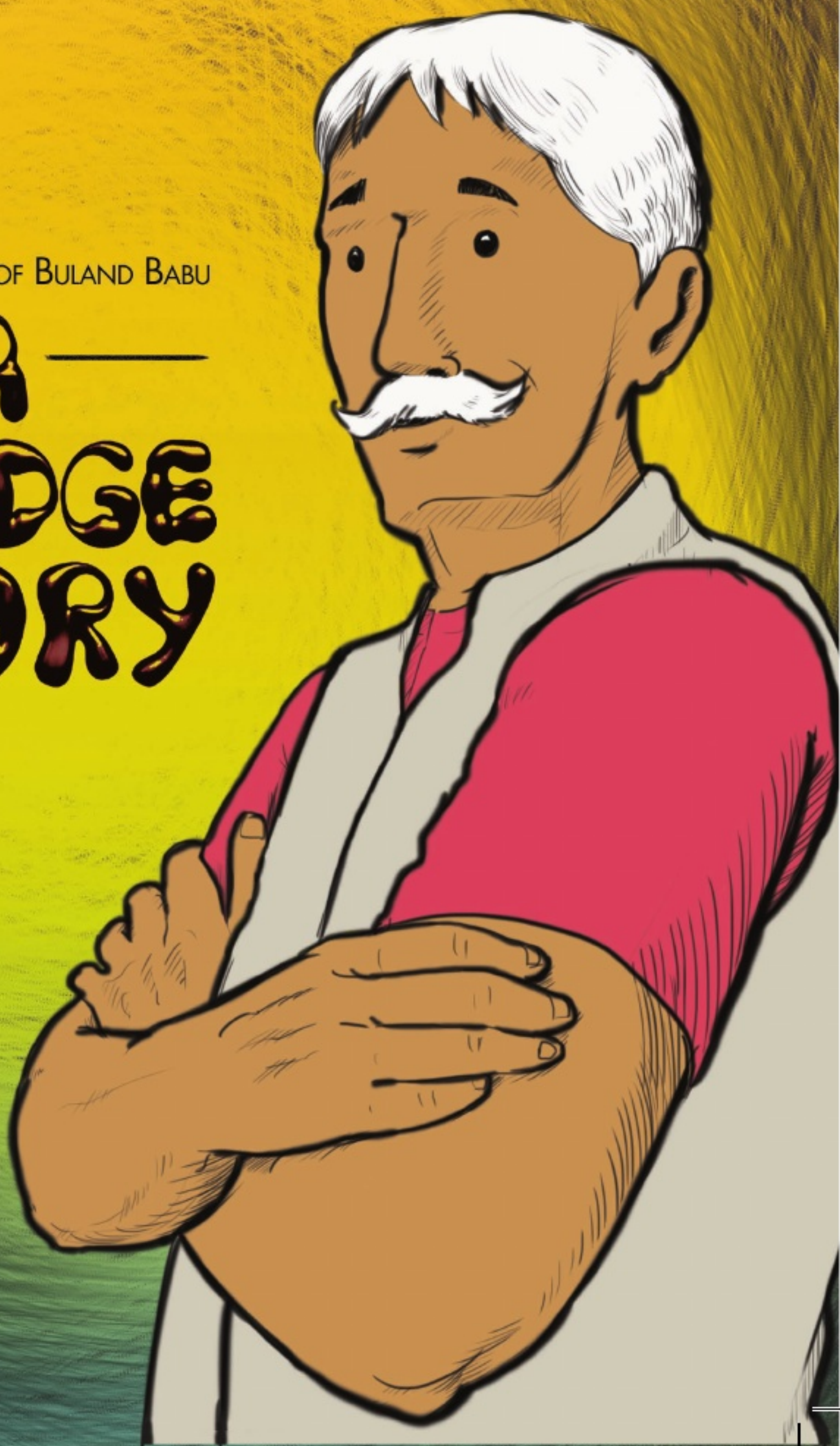


THE ADVENTURES OF BULAND BABU

— A —
**SLUDGE
STORY**



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STORY, LAYOUT AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY TWIST OPEN INNOVATIONS

THE SANITATION STAR CAST



BULAND BABU
AN ORDINARY MAN,
HE HAS THE
EXTRAORDINARY
DETERMINATION TO
DO THE BEST FOR
HIS CITY AND
FELLOW CITIZENS...
AN EVERYDAY HERO!



RAHUL
AN ENGINEER, HE
HELPS THE SANITATION
DEPARTMENT DESIGN
AND BUILD THE BEST
POSSIBLE SOLUTION
FOR YOUR WASTE!



MRS. SWATI
THE LOCAL
CORPORATOR, SHE
MUST KEEP THE
PEOPLE HAPPY AND
HELP THE CITY GROW!



MR. GOKHALE
A JOURNALIST, HE
BELIEVES THE MEDIA
MUST BE THE VOICE
OF THE PEOPLE, A
MIRROR TO SOCIETY
AND THE CONSCIENCE
OF THE GOVERNMENT!



MR. RAO
THE MUNICIPAL
COMMISSIONER, HE
BEARS THE BURDEN
AND THE PRAISE OF A
WELL-PLANNED CITY!



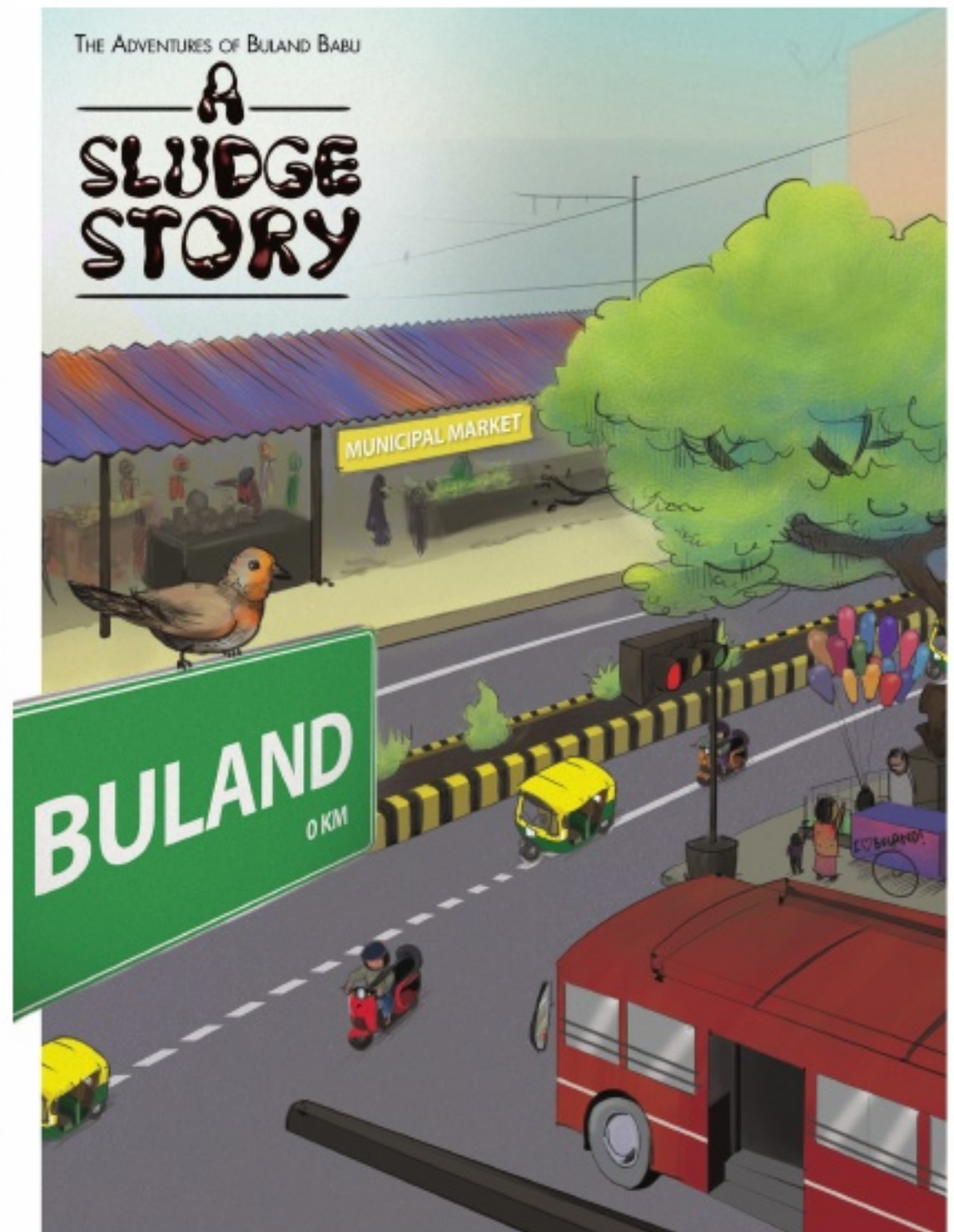
MR. SHARMA
THE LOCAL SANITARY
INSPECTOR, HE MANAGES
THE TRICKY AND OFTEN
SMELLY SOLUTIONS!



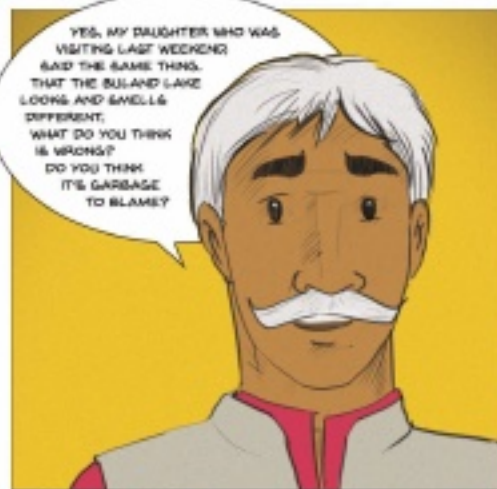
MR. PATEL
THE OWNER AND
OPERATOR OF A
HONEY-SUCKER TRUCK,
HE GETS YOUR WASTE
OUT OF THE WAY!

THE ADVENTURES OF BULAND BABU

A SLUDGE STORY









BUT BULAND HAS BUILT SO MANY NEW PUBLIC TOILETS. EVERYWHERE ONE GOES, WE SEE AND HEAR TALK OF BUILDING TOILETS AND PREVENTING OPEN DEFECATION.



YOU'RE RIGHT, MAMM. BUT HAVE YOU WONDERED WHAT HAPPENS UNDER THE TOILET? WHERE YOUR AND MY WASTE IS GOING?



THAT IS NOT OUR PROBLEM. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING OUR GUTTERS AND SEWAGE PITS. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR TRADITION. WE HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN WORRY ABOUT SHIT.



THAT'S WHERE SO MANY OF US ARE WRONG. NOT ONLY IS MANUAL SCAVENGING NOW BANNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, IT IS ABSOLUTELY INEFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH OUR PROBLEM OF FAECAL SLUDGE AND SEWAGE.

SO TELL US HOW DOES BULAND CURRENTLY DISPOSE OF ITS WASTE?



AS YOU KNOW BULAND DOES NOT HAVE A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT BIG ENOUGH TO HANDLE ALL OUR WASTE.



UNFORTUNATELY EVEN WITH THE DRAINAGE NETWORK, MUCH OF THE WASTE FAILS TO REACH THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BECAUSE OF POOR MAINTENANCE.



YES, YES, GO ON AND COMPLAIN ALL YOU WANT. DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO MAINTAIN SUCH A SYSTEM?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A CENTRAL PLANT THAT CONNECTS ALL AREAS OF THE CITY?



WITH SO MUCH GROWTH, WHERE IS THE SPACE TO PUT UP SUCH A PLANT? WE CAN'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IT WITHOUT A GRINACE. HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL WILLINGLY LIVE NEXT TO IT?

PLUS THERE ARE BIG FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. DO YOU KNOW THAT BULAND WOULD HAVE TO SPEND BETWEEN ₹6,000 TO ₹8,000 PER PERSON ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEWAGE NETWORK THAT CONNECTS TO A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM?



BUT SIR, WE HAVE OTHER SYSTEMS IN PLACE ALSO. MOST HOUSEHOLDS AND LOCALITIES IN THE SUBURBS HAVE THEIR OWN SEPTIC TANKS.



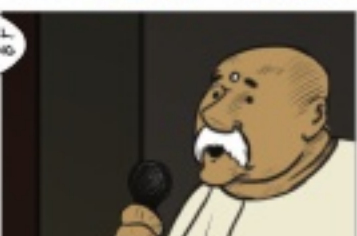
AND THAT'S WHERE PRIVATE DESLUDGING OPERATORS COME INTO PLAY. THESE GUYS ARE COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE. THEY'RE TO BLAME FOR THE MESS THAT WE ARE IN.



PLEASE, SIR, DON'T ONLY BLAME US PRIVATE OPERATORS.



OF COURSE IT IS YOUR FAULT, MR. RAHEL. YOU'RE NOT DOING YOUR JOB!



WHERE PIPED SEWAGE IS UNAVAILABLE, PEOPLE RELY ON ON-SITE CONTAINMENT IN THE FORM OF PITS/PIT LATRINES OR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SEPTIC TANKS.

THESE PITS AND TANKS REQUIRE DESLUDGING. FAECAL SLUDGE IS COLLECTED AND THEN EMPTIED AT DESIGNATED DUMP SITES OR AT THE WASTE-WATER TREATMENT PLANT.



MR. SHARMA, AND DEAR BULAND CITIZENS, WE HAVE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST JOBS POSSIBLE. WE ARE ASKED TO WORK ONLY AT NIGHT, WE WORK IN SMELLY AND DIFFICULT CONDITIONS...



SO MANY NEW AREAS OF BULAND ARE HAPHAZARDLY BUILT... LOW-INCOME HOUSING AREAS ARE SO CONGESTED, THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO BRING IN OUR TRUCKS. A SMALL-SIZED TRUCK IS NOT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE TO MOST PRIVATE OPERATORS.



BUT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THAT IN MOST AREAS, WE HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN GIVEN A PLACE TO DUMP THE SLUDGE, THIS FORCES US TO DUMP INDISCRIMINATELY AND THEN WE ARE FINED FOR DOING SO! FINED AND HARASSED BY THE LOCAL POLICE FOR HELPING KEEP SOCIETY CLEAN! HOW RIDICULOUS!



THE SLUDGE THAT IS ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE TRUCK PUMPS IS DIFFICULT TO REMOVE! IT HAS BEEN LYING IN THE 'DUNK' FOR A VERY LONG TIME AND HAS BECOME VERY HARD.



OK, SO WHY ARE YOU DUMPING IN THE CITY LAKE? GO OUTSIDE OF THE CITY AND DUMP!

THAT WILL COST ME A LOT TO GO SO FAR, THE CONSUMER DOES NOT PAY ME TO COVER THOSE COSTS AS WELL.

SO WHY DON'T YOU DESLUDGE MORE OFTEN? YOU'LL GET ENOUGH MONEY THEN.

PEOPLE DON'T CALL US UNTIL THE PIT IS FULL, SIR.

WHY SHOULD I CALL YOU TO DESLUDGE FREQUENTLY? THAT WILL COST ME MORE!

IT WILL NOT COST YOU MORE MAAM, ON THE CONTRARY IF YOU DESLUDGE MORE OFTEN, IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE EVEN CHEAPER.

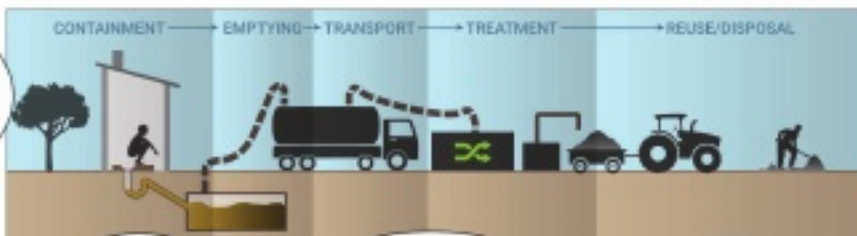


MR. COMMISSIONER, CAN WE MAKE A RULE THAT BULAND'S CITIZENS WILL BE CHARGED THROUGH PROPERTY TAX SO THAT THEY DESLUDGE REGULARLY? WOULDN'T THAT HELP SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS AND YOUR WORRIES TOO?



WAIT A MINUTE! BEFORE WE OFFER IDEAS, WE NEED TO GET TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM.

I'VE INVITED SOME EXPERTS...



IT'S A SIMPLE
4 STEP PROCESS!

1 The Right set of Regulations



Containment systems should be made a part of building permission process



Provide for subsidies for refurbishments of containment systems



Municipality owns & runs the horeysucker trucks directly, or outsources the work to one/more reliable contractor who satisfies the selection criteria



Block existing black water outlets to drains



Desludging of all the containment units happen at proper intervals via scheduled system as well as on-demand

2 The Right Incentives



To ensure desludging services are priced in a judicious manner for all citizens the pricing must include the charges for desludging as well as operation and management of treatment plant



The Price paid to the truck operator can be dependent on the volume of the truck filled or on the distance from the fecal sludge treatment plant or both



Alternatively, the price can depend on the building footprint, as decided by & paid at the municipality



If desludging is on demand, there can be dynamic pricing fixed upon mutual agreements of the truck operator & customer

4 The Right Plant



Does not require highly skilled human resources



Consumes less energy



Requires minimal number of operation and management staff

3 The Right Monitoring



To ensure the trucks deliver their service and dispose the faecal sludge at the plant check systems should be in place. For example, manual signature sheets at every interface, or coupons system or real time tracking of trucks on its routing & timing via GPS.



For the FSTP's optimal efficiency, records must be maintained, regular assessments to be done by third parties, or there can be online monitoring via sensors



END!

**COMING
SOON!**

MORE ADVENTURES
OF BULAND BABU...



Consortium for
DEWATS
Dissemination
Society

BORDA 

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