CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS AT SANGLIWADI AND TASGAON VES
Produced by Shelter Associates, Pune, July 2002

The construction work has progressed rapidly on both sites. This is the beauty of pre-fabricated panels which allows for most work to be completed at the workshop without any hindrance. The panels, beams and columns were all cast at the Shivsadan Workshop where the existing infrastructure ensured that the components were well cast and cured. The Baandhani women made periodic checks to see the progress. The SMK-MC officials together with Shelter Associates visited the site to inspect the quality of construction at regular intervals. The panels were placed in position and bolted together. The first floor has been completed in Tasgaon Ves and the caretaker’s room on the first floor will be assembled in the coming week.

This photograph of Sangliwadi site shows how the beams and columns were hoisted in place using cranes. This was an unusual sight and attracted a lot of attention. As this slum is off the main Islampur highway, passersby would stop to see the work. Their puzzled, curious expressions often changed to incredulity when they heard that it was a toilet block for the poor that was coming up. The Baandhani women take great pride in showing off their toilet block to these visitors and explaining the process that led to this project. This has already sparked a lot of interest in neighbouring slums and many have urged the local Baandhani women to start federation activity in their slum.

This is the fully assembled toilet unit at Sangliwadi facing the Islampur Highway. It came up in 4 stages—the foundation and plinth and 3 levels of panels stacked on top of each other as can be seen from the joints. There was enough space for the caretaker’s room to be accommodated on the ground floor. The toilet block will be ready for use by the end of August 2002.