

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018**

ADOPTION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO END MANUAL SCAVENGING

1242. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the inhuman practice of manual scavenging is still continuing in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has innovated and adopted any technologies to eradicate this practice and if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) what steps are taken for mechanisation and modernisation of sewage cleaning in the country under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a): Yes Sir, the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the inhuman practice of manual scavenging is still continuing in the country. "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" prohibits manual scavenging with effect from 06.12.2013. The Act also mandates survey of manual scavengers, if any municipality or panchayat has reason to believe that some persons are engaged in manual scavenging within its jurisdiction. 13 States have identified 14,002 manual scavengers upto 17.12.2018. In addition, a National Survey of manual scavengers has been undertaken in 170 districts of 18 States to identify all those persons who were cleaning the insanitary latrines prior to their conversion into sanitary latrines under Swachh Bharat Mission. The survey also identifies those who are continuing to work as manual scavengers in some places. On the basis of this survey 25,015 manual scavengers have been identified upto 17.12.2018. The identified manual scavengers are provided rehabilitation benefits under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) to liberate them from manual scavenging.

(b) and (c): Under section 33 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), every local authority and other agency is to ensure the use of appropriate technological appliances for cleaning of sewers, septic tanks and other spaces within their control with a view to eliminating the need for the manual handling of excreta in the process of their cleaning. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and State Governments have been requested to ensure mechanization of cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have informed that the sanitary individual household latrines constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission consist of either an onsite treatment system or a connection to underground sewerage/septage system which would eliminate the need for manual scavenging.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed that under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) it promotes construction of twin leach pit toilets that do not require disposal of human faeces and are cost effective and sustainable. Under this technology, human faeces become manure in 1-2 years and no sewage/drainage system is required.

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI BANDARATIARWALL)

1. Yes Sir, the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the inclusion of manual scavenging in the country is still continuing in the country. The Ministry of Employment and Manpower has taken various steps to eliminate manual scavenging. In this regard, the Ministry has initiated a survey of manual scavengers in the country. The survey is being conducted in a phased manner. The survey is being conducted in the following states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand. The survey is being conducted in a phased manner. The survey is being conducted in the following states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

2. Yes Sir, the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the inclusion of manual scavenging in the country is still continuing in the country. The Ministry of Employment and Manpower has taken various steps to eliminate manual scavenging. In this regard, the Ministry has initiated a survey of manual scavengers in the country. The survey is being conducted in a phased manner. The survey is being conducted in the following states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand.