

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 434
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2018**

MANUAL SCAVENGERS AND SBM

434. SHRI AHMED PATEL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of manual scavengers in the country has increased during the last four years;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the health hazards to manual scavengers;
- (c) the total amount of funds being spent each year under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM);
- (d) the total amount of funds under SBM that is spent towards the improvement of conditions of manual scavengers or giving them better instruments; and
- (e) the total amount of funds under SBM that is being spent on 'marketing' or 'public relation'?

ANSWER

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

(a): There has been no report regarding the increase in the number of manual scavengers in the country. Under Section 5 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) no person, local authority or any agency shall with effect from 06.12.2013 engage or employ either directly or indirectly, a manual scavenger, every person so engaged or employed shall stand discharged immediately from any obligation, express or implied, to do manual scavenging. This Act also provides for survey and identification of manual scavengers by the Chief Executive Officers of Municipalities in urban areas and Gram Panchayats in rural areas under their jurisdiction. 13 States have reported identification of 13,770 manual scavengers upto 30.11.2018. A National Survey was also undertaken at the behest of NITI Aayog by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 170 districts of 18 States where a large number of insanitary latrines had been converted into sanitary latrines under Swachh Bharat Mission implemented by Ministries Housing and Urban Affairs and Drinking Water and Sanitation. Under this survey 25015 manual scavengers have been identified upto 05.12.2018.

(b): Even while manual scavenging has been prohibited as per the MS Act, 2013, the National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation has been organizing Health Camps for sanitation workers engaged in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

(c): Year-wise details of funds released/spent by the Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs and Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), urban and rural respectively are as under:

Rs. in Crore

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds spent under SBM (Urban)	Funds spent under SBM (Rural)
1	2014-15	859.48	2850.00
2	2015-16	1075.67	6524.52
3	2016-17	2037.50	10509.00
4	2017-18	2365.63	16941.96
5	2018-19 (Upto November, 2018)	1485.76	15821.28
	Total	7824.04	52646.76

(d): Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have informed that there is no such component under SBM (urban). Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation have informed that since there has been 100% conversion of insanitary toilets in rural areas the issue of manual scavenging in rural areas does not arise as far as cleaning of toilets is concerned.

(e): Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation have informed that an amount of Rs.1695.74 crores have been spent on Information, Education and Communication under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have informed that as on 30.11.2018 Rs. 625 Crores have been released to States / Union Territories for IEC Component and Rs 295.58 Crores have been spent by Ministry for IEC component.
