

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 1652  
ANSWERED ON - 21/12/2022

**MANUAL SCAVENGING**

1652. SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that several people died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the country in the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the current status of the ban on Manual Scavenging and number of cases that have been registered for persons employing Manual Scavengers, State-wise;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to ensure a complete ban on manual scavenging; and
- (e) whether Government has taken any other initiative to replace Manual Scavenging, and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b) The Government takes a serious cognizance of the deaths occurring due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and non observance of safety precautions prescribed under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013”.

State-wise details of persons who are reported to have died due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks during the last five years are at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d) As per the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” manual scavenging is a prohibited activity in the country with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from the above date. Any person or agency who engages any person for manual scavenging in violation of the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 is punishable under Section 8 of the above Act, with imprisonment upto 2 years or fine upto Rs. One Lakh or both.

There is no report of people currently engaged in manual scavenging in the country.

(e) Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, since October 2, 2014, more than 11.06 crore sanitary toilets have been constructed in rural areas and over 62.79 lakh in urban areas and insanitary toilets have been converted into sanitary toilets. This work made a huge contribution towards ending the practice of manual scavenging.

\*\*\*\*\*

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1652 for 21.12.2022 regarding Manual Scavenging.

State-wise details of death of persons in sewers and septic tanks during the last five years.

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of death of persons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11
2.	Bihar	2
3.	Chhattisgarh	1
4.	Chandigarh	3
5.	Delhi	42
6.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	3
7.	Gujarat	28
8.	Haryana	38
9.	Karnataka	26
10.	Kerala	1
11.	Maharashtra	32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4
13.	Odisha	2
14.	Punjab	15
15.	Rajasthan	13
16.	Tamil Nadu	46
17.	Telangana	9
18.	Uttar Pradesh	57
19.	Uttarakhand	3
20.	West Bengal	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>352</b>