

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3800
ANSWERED ON - 05/04/2023

WELFARE AND REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

3800. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) whether there is an official estimate of the number of manual scavengers in the country, if so, details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has not been able to achieve the target of abolition of manual scavenging as prescribed by the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any manual scavengers have benefited from the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers, if so, details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether Ministry maintains a database of sanitation workers in the country; and
- (e) measures taken to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) Two surveys have been conducted for identification of manual scavengers in the year 2013 and 2018. As per these two surveys, 58098 eligible manual scavengers have been identified. State-wise details are given at **Annexure**.
- (b) There is no report of practice of manual scavenging currently in the country.
- (c) Under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers following rehabilitation benefits have been provided:-
 - a. One-time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/- per family has been provided to all identified and eligible 58098 manual scavengers.
 - b. Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5,00,000/- has been provided to 1935 identified manual scavengers and their dependents to take up alternate self employment projects.

c. Skill Development Training has been provided to 22294 identified manual scavengers and their dependents with stipend @ Rs. 3,000/- per month during the training period. The successfully trained candidates are also provided Government recognized training certificates and assistance for sustainable employments.

State-wise details are given at **Annexure**.

(d) No, Sir. Sanitation is state subject and no such database is maintained centrally by the Government.

(e) The Prohibition of Employment as manual scavenger and their rehabilitation Act 2013, which has come into force w.e.f. 06.12.2013, bans manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Further, Government has taken the following initiatives to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks:-

- i. Under Swachhta Udyami Yojana of NSKFDC, concessional loans are provided to safai karamcharis, manual scavengers & their dependants and the Urban Local Bodies & other agencies responsible for cleaning for procurement of sanitation related instruments/vehicles for complete mechanization of all cleaning operations.
- ii. Under Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) in addition to the manual scavengers, the sanitation workers and their dependants are also provided capital subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh for procurement of instruments/vehicles for mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- iii. Workshops are organized in municipalities with the officers, engineers, contractors, sanitation workers etc. of urban local bodies to sensitize them about safe and healthy cleaning practices and mechanized cleaning of sewers & septic tanks. About 200 such workshops have been organized in the current F.Y. 2022-23 in various urban local bodies (ULBs) pan India.
- iv. A short duration training programme (RPL) is organized for the sanitation workers wherein they are trained in mechanized cleaning, safe & healthy cleaning practices, safety precautions, use of PPE kits. Such training has been provided to about 14393 sanitation workers in F.Y. 2022-23 PAN India.

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) and (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3800 for 05.04.2023 regarding Welfare and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers. State-wise beneficiaries of SRMS Scheme:-

S. No.	State	One time cash assistance	Skill development training programme	Capital Subsidy for self employment projects
1	A&N Islands	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1793	252	0
3	Assam	3921	658	0
4	Bihar	131	18	0
5	Chhattisgarh	3	0	0
6	Gujarat	105	19	0
7	Haryana	0	0	0
8	Jharkhand	192	34	0
9	Karnataka	2927	349	713
10	Kerala	518	314	0
11	Madhya Pradesh	510	243	0
12	Maharashtra	6325	1638	3
13	Odisha	230	66	83
14	Punjab	231	62	46
15	Rajasthan	2673	1432	0
16	Tamilnadu	398	29	78
17	Telangana	0	0	0
18	Uttar Pradesh	32473	15000	774
19	Uttarakhand	4988	1949	74
20	West Bengal	680	231	164
	TOTAL	58098	22294	1935
