

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3808**  
ANSWERED ON - 05/04/2023

**CONCERN OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS IN THE COUNTRY**

3808 # DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA

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

- (a) the details of the manual scavengers not only in the form of contract, migrant and casual labourers but also in the form of the bonded labourers in the country, the State-wise details of the action being taken by Government to solve this problem;
- (b) whether more than 20 per cent manual scavengers were never registered under 'The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act', if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the State-wise details of the manual scavengers/people who died during the hazardous cleaning of the sewers and septic tanks during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) There is no report of people currently engaged in manual scavenging in the country.

Manual scavenging as defined under Section 2 (1) (g) of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” is prohibited with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from that date.

(b) Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, since October 2, 2014, more than 11.05 crore sanitary toilets have been constructed in rural areas and over 62.81 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. Two surveys have been conducted at the initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during the year 2013 and 2018 for the identification of Manual Scavengers. All identified eligible Manual Scavengers have been provide One Time Cash Assistance. After receiving reports from the social institutions working in this field, about continuation of this practice, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a mobile app “Swachhata Abhiyaan” on 24.12.2020 to capture the data of insanitary latrines still existing and manual scavengers associated with them. However, no credible data has been received.

(c) There is no report of death due to manual scavenging. However, people died during cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. State-wise details of such deaths during the last five years are at **Annexure.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Annexure referred in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3808 for answer on 05.04.2023 regarding Concern of manual scavengers in the country.

Details of death of persons in sewers and septic tanks during the last five years (2018 to 2022)

S No	Name of State/UT	Number of death
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Chhatisgarh	1
3.	Delhi	33
4.	Dadra Nagar & Havili	3
5.	Gujarat	23
6.	Haryana	40
7.	Jharkhand	3
8.	Karnataka	23
9.	Maharashtra	38
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4
11.	Odisha	2
12.	Punjab	7
13.	Rajasthan	7
14.	Tamil Nadu	52
15.	Telangana	7
16.	Uttrakhand	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	46
18.	West Bengal	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>

\*\*\*\*\*