

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1574
ANSWERED ON - 02/08/2023

MEASURE FOR ERADICATION OF MANUAL SCAVENING IN THE COUNTRY

1574. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the nearing of the deadline of Government's initiative to declare India Manual Scavenging free;
- (b) whether the Ministry acknowledges that 246 districts of the country are yet to declare themselves free from the practice;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any initiative to accelerate the process in the defaulting districts for submitting a Manual Scavenging free report; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has taken any measure for extending rehabilitation benefits to the Manual Scavengers in these districts, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b) Parliament enacted "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" which became effective with effect from 06.12.2013. As per the provisions of the Act, manual scavenging is prohibited and no person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from that date. Provisions of the MS Act 2013 mentions that contraveners shall be punishable with fine or imprisonment or with both.

There is no report of practice of manual scavenging in any districts. We have requested all districts either to declare themselves free from manual scavenging or upload the data of insanitary latrine and manual scavengers associated with it on "Swachhta Abhiyan" mobile app. However, no credible data has been uploaded on the app so far.

Data has been collated from 580 districts that have reported themselves as manual scavenging-free.

(c) The Ministry is sending several communications at different level to states and districts and taking regular meetings with them to expedite their confirmation in this regards.

(d) The nomenclature of the SRMS Scheme has been changed to "National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem" (NAMASTE) and existing components of SRMS have been kept as component of NAMASTE Scheme to ensure rehabilitation of manual scavengers.
