

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2382
ANSWERED ON - 09/08/2023

UPDATING DATA OF MANUAL SCAVENGING IN THE COUNTRY

2382. SHRI JAGGESH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many districts in the country have neither declared themselves manual scavenging free nor uploaded details of existing insanitary latrines and manual scavengers on the Centre's mobile App;
- (b) if so, number of districts in the country that have not uploaded the details of existing manual scavengers on the mobile App, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of steps initiated by Government to update the data of manual scavenging on the App and the details of steps to make India manual scavenging free?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (c) 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 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. Total 6253 cases uploaded on mobile app from 114 districts. However, no credible data has been uploaded on the app so far.

Out of 766 districts in the country, 646 districts as on 03.08.2023 have reported themselves as manual scavenging-free.
