

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -776
ANSWERED ON - 26/07/2023

ERADICATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING IN THE COUNTRY

776 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) whether Government has records of the total number of States free from Manual Scavenging;
- (b) whether Government has taken any specific measure or initiative to eradicate Manual Scavenging in districts where it is still prevalent;
- (c) whether Government has set any target or timeline for achieving a Manual Scavenging free status in all districts of the country; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of existing Laws and Regulations related to Manual Scavenging to ensure effective eradication and prevention?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) As per information received from Districts and State Govts and UTs towards manual scavenging free status, 14 States / UTs are free from manual scavenging.
- (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 engaging manual scavengers from any district.
- (c) and (d) No, Sir. State Govts and UTs have been requested for effective implementation of the MS Act, 2013 and declare district free from manual scavenging otherwise upload data of insanitary latrine and manual scavengers available with it on Swachhta Abhiyan mobile app.
