

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3807
ANSWERED ON – 25/03/2026

REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

3807. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the current status of manual scavenging in the country;
- (b) the number of manual scavengers identified in recent years, including district-wise data;
- (c) the rehabilitation measures provided to such workers, including skill development, alternate livelihood opportunities and social support;
- (d) the compensation paid in cases of deaths and injuries sustained during sewer and septic tank cleaning, including the timelines and adequacy of such payments; and
- (e) the reasons why manual scavenging continues to persist despite legal prohibition under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and the steps proposed to completely eradicate the practice?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b) Recently a fresh survey of manual scavengers, as per the provisions of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013” has been conducted in all districts of the country under which no Manual Scavenger (MS) has been found. However, 58,098 Manual Scavengers have been identified during two surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018 and district-wise details of identified Manual Scavengers is at **Annexure**.

(c) Status of rehabilitation measures taken including Skill Training and alternative livelihood opportunities for 58,098 identified manual scavengers under Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is as under:-

- i. One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) @ Rs. 40,000/- per family has been provided to all identified manual scavengers.
- ii. Skill Development Training has been provided to 27,928 manual scavengers and their dependents with stipend @ Rs. 3,000/- per month during the training period.
- iii. Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5 lakh has been provided to 2,674 manual scavengers and their dependents to take up alternate self-employment projects.

(d) As reported by National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), 1,353 sanitation workers have lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks since 1993 upto 28.02.2026. Full and partial compensation have been paid to the families of 1,201 and 46 deceased respectively. Information related to injuries sustained during sewer and septic tank cleaning has not reported by the States/UTs.

(e) As per the provisions of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)”, manual scavenging is a banned activity in the country with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging after that 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 Act, with imprisonment upto 2 years or fine upto Rs. One Lakh or both. No report of the practice of manual scavenging has been received in the recent survey conducted in all districts.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3807 for answer on 25.03.2026 regarding Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

District-wise details of identified Manual Scavengers in the survey conducted in 2013 and 2018 is as under:-

S.NO.	Name of State	Name of District	Identified MS		
			2018	2013	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur	1231	0	1231
2		East Godavari	251	14	265
3		Krishna	252	0	252
4		Vishakapatnam	0	45	45
5	Assam	Bongaigaon	317	0	317
6		Cachar/silchar	255	0	255
7		Chirang	181	0	181
8		Darang/Mangaldoi	157	0	157
9		Dibrugarh	360	0	360
10		Golaghat	196	0	196
11		Hojai	229	0	229
12		Jorhat	197	0	197
13		Kamrup	0	150	150
14		Kamrup(Rural)	497	0	497
15		Lakhimpur	148	0	148
16		Morigaon	96	0	96
17		Nagaon	332	0	332
18		Nalbari	114	0	114
19	Sonitpur/Tejpur	371	0	371	
20	Tinsukia	321	0	321	
21	Bihar	Araria	0	10	10
22		Bhojpur	0	10	10
23		Khagaria	0	2	2
24		Lakhisarai	0	6	6
25		Munger	0	51	51
26		Patna	0	31	31
27		Purba Champaran	0	8	8
28		Rohtas	0	12	12
29		Sitamarhi	0	1	1
30	Chhatisgarh	Mungeli, Bilaspur	0	3	3
31	Gujarat	Ahemdabad	3	0	3
32		Rajkot	9	0	9
33		Surendra Nagar	93	0	93
34	Jharkhand	Bokaro	73	0	73
35		Gumla	32	0	32
36		Lohardaga	87	0	87
37	Karnataka	Bangalore	35	272	307
38		Bangalore Rural	57	31	88
39		Bellary	0	10	10
40		Belgavi/Belgaum	44	0	44
41		Bidar	0	2	2
42		Chikkabalarpur	0	12	12
43		Davangere	397	0	397
44		Gulbarga/Kalaburagi	224	0	224
45		Haveri	55	7	62
46		Hubli/Dharwad	61	0	61
47		Kolar	269	231	500
48		Mandya	0	42	42
49		Mysore	1048	0	1048
50		Raichur	48	43	91
51		Shimoga	0	22	22
52		Udupi	0	3	3
53	Yadgir	0	14	14	

54	Kerala	Alappuzha	5	0	5
55		Ernakulam	141	0	141
56		Kollam	251	0	251
57		Palaghat/ Palakkad	121	0	121
58	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	72	0	72
59		Guna	9	0	9
60		Katni	47	0	47
61		Mandsaur	21	0	21
62		Narsinghpur	256	0	256
63		Ratlam	0	36	36
64		Vidisha	69	0	69
65	Maharashtra	Akola	378	0	378
66		Amravati	290	0	290
67		Aurangabad	1020	0	1020
68		Buldana	95	0	95
69		Dhule	200	0	200
70		Jalgaon	442	0	442
71		Jalna	272	0	272
72		Latur	162	0	162
73		Mumbai	4	0	4
74		Nagpur	589	0	589
75		Nandurbar	113	0	113
76		Nashik	2322	0	2322
77		Sholapur	383	0	383
78	Washim	55	0	55	
79	Odisha	Kendujhar	0	8	8
80		Khordha	0	62	62
81		Koraput	0	36	36
82		Mayurbhanj	0	18	18
83		Puri	0	32	32
84		Rayagada	0	26	26
85		Subarnapur	0	48	48
86	Punjab	Bathinda	0	6	6
87		Hoshiarpur	0	8	8
88		Patiala	0	38	38
89		Fatehgarh Sahib	84	0	84
90		Ludhiana	57	38	95
91	Rajasthan	Tonk	0	38	38
92		Baran	423	0	423
93		Bharatpur	322	16	338
94		Bhilwara	4	0	4
95		Bundi	218	0	218
96		Dausa	354	124	478
97		Jhalawar	440	0	440
98		Karauli	318	0	318
99		Pratapgarh	261	0	261
100			Sawai Madhopur	0	155
101	Tamil Nadu	Ariyalur	0	37	37
102		Chennai	17	169	186
103		Kanyakumari	37	0	37
104		Madurai	2	0	2
105		Nagapattinam	0	6	6
106		Pudukkottai	0	12	12
107		Thanjavur	0	28	28
108		Tiruchirapalli	0	90	90
109	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	0	39	39
110		Aligarh	17	41	58
111		Ambedkar Nagar	0	16	16
112		Auraiya	506	0	506
113		Badaun	2424	442	2866
114		Baghpat	0	3	3
115		Bahraich	0	14	14
116		Barabanki	0	5	5
117		Bareilly	0	1286	1286
118			Bijnor	2471	1028

119		Bulandshahr	0	687	687
120		Etah	85	43	128
121		Etawah	8	44	52
122		Faizabad	0	6	6
123		Farrukhabad	871	169	1040
124		Fatehpur	0	121	121
125		Firozabad	98	66	164
126		Gautam Buddha Nagar	0	24	24
127		Gazipur	118	35	153
128		Ghaziabad	0	47	47
129		Gorakhpur	0	4	4
130		Hapur	0	172	172
131		Hardoi	1038	362	1400
132		Hathras (Mahamaya Nagar)	230	53	283
133		J P Nagar (Amroha)	2111	1335	3446
134		Jalaun	614	0	614
135		Kannauj	0	41	41
136		Kanpur Dehat	0	19	19
137		Kanpur Nagar	0	16	16
138		Kasganj (Kanshi Ram Nagar)	1165	129	1294
139		Lakhimpur kheri	302	114	416
140		Lucknow	0	60	60
141		Mainpuri	0	45	45
142		Mathura	29	56	85
143		Meerut	0	111	111
144		Moradabad	1958	1599	3557
145		Muzafarnagar	715	422	1137
146		Philibhit	243	318	561
147		Rampur	1353	897	2250
148		Saharanpur	548	208	756
149		Sambhal	1162	902	2064
150		Shahjahanpur	2815	576	3391
151		Shamli	3	0	3
152		Sitapur	0	24	24
153		Unnao	0	10	10
154	Uttarakhand	Champawat	0	2	2
155		Dehradun	2034	8	2042
156		Haridwar	2180	76	2256
157		Nainital	0	14	14
158		Pithoragarh	0	5	5
159		Udhamsingh Nagar	640	29	669
160	West Bengal	Bardhaman (Poorba)	43	0	43
161		Hugli	0	2	2
162		Kolkata	21	0	21
163		Nadia	0	9	9
164		North 24 Parganas	276	13	289
165		Paschim Bardhaman	245	71	316
	Total		44217	13881	58098
