

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2955
TO BE ANSWERED ON MARCH 13, 2018

CLEANING OF SEWERS/ SEPTIC TANKS

No.2955 SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy for abolishing manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in urban local bodies across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is introducing mechanized sewage cleaning systems in the country in select Urban Local Bodies on pilot basis;
- (c) whether the Government has received proposals from various IITs offering to introduce advanced robotics for sewerage cleaning; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY
OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a): As per the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and rules framed there under, no person shall be allowed to clean a sewer manually, even with the protective gear and safety devices, barring some exceptions.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has adopted National Urban Sanitation Policy (NUSP) in 2008 with the specific goals of awareness generation and behavioral change, Open defecation free cities and integrated city-wide sanitation. This Ministry has also published a Manual on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Systems in November 2013 which explains the mechanisms for safe collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of septage. It also indicates that 'Mechanization for cleaning of sewers, septic tanks and safety devices for sanitation workers' may be adopted by Urban Local Bodies.

(b): The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) has been launched by Government of India on June 25, 2015 for basic infrastructure development in 500 selected Mission cities across the country. Mechanical and biological cleaning of sewers and septic tanks is an admissible component under AMRUT. Under the Mission, individual projects are selected, appraised, approved and implemented by the States/UTs and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs only approves State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs) and releases central assistance as per Mission guidelines.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has not received any proposal from IIT offering to introduce advanced robotics for sewerage cleaning.
