

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3064
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2023**

ELIMINATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

3064. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently made the claim that manual scavenging has been eliminated from the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of districts of the country where manual scavenging has been completely eliminated as on date;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that manual scavenging still continues to be prevalent in nearly 34 per cent of the districts in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

- (a): 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.
- (b): Data has been collated from 639 districts that have reported themselves as manual scavenging-free.
- (c): There is no report of practice of manual scavenging in any districts.
- (d): 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.
