

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.440  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2023**

**CLEANING OF MANHOLES**

**440. SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has deployed manhole cleaning robots, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government intends to conduct a survey on the number of manual scavengers and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of manual scavengers identified in the survey conducted in 2018, State-wise;
- (d) the number of deaths occurred while the person was cleaning sewer/septic tank during each of the last five years, State-wise;
- (e) the reasons for which 236 districts have not submitted a report regarding manual scavenging on the “Swachh Abhiyan” mobile app; and
- (f) whether any action/fine has been levied on these 236 districts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): Data of deployment of man hole cleaning robots is not maintained centrally.
- (b): Yes, Sir. Hon’ble Supreme Court of India vide Order dated 20.10.2023 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 324/2020 directed for Nationwide Survey of Manual Scavengers.
- (c): 44,217 manual scavengers have been identified in National Survey of Manual Scavengers initiated in 2018 at the behest of the NITI Aayog. State-wise details of identified manual scavengers is at **Annexure-I**.
- (d): The Number of death occurred while cleaning of sewer/septic tanks during last five years and current year is given at **Annexure-II**.
- (e) and (f): 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. All districts have been requested 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. As on 29.11.2023, out of 766 districts in the country, 714 districts, have reported themselves as manual scavenging-free.

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**Annexure-I**

**Annexure-I referred in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 440 for answer on 05.12.2023 regarding Cleaning of Manholes**

**Number of Manual Scavenges identified under National Survey in 2018**

<b>S.NO.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Identified Manual Scavenges</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	1734
2	Assam	3771
3	Gujarat	105
4	Jharkhand	192
5	Karnataka	2238
6	Kerala	518
7	Madhya Pradesh	474
8	Maharashtra	6325
9	Punjab	141
10	Rajasthan	2340
11	Tamil Nadu	56
12	Uttar Pradesh	20884
13	Uttarakhand	4854
14	West Bengal	585
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44217</b>

**Annexure-II referred in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 440 for answer on 05.12.2023 regarding Cleaning of Manholes**

**Details of death occurred in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks during last five years and Current year (2018-2023)**

S. No.	Name of State/UTs	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (As on 20.11.2023)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	0	0	2	3	0
2.	Bihar	0	0	0	2	0	2
3.	Chhatisgarh	1	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	11	12	4	4	6	0
6.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	0	0	0	3	0	0
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	10	22	5	5	7	9
9.	Haryana	6	16	1	6	22	2
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	3	0	0	1
11.	Karnataka	9	7	5	7	0	0
12.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Maharashtra	5	17	4	8	15	7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	0	5	0	2
15.	Odisha	0	0	0	2	0	0
16.	Punjab	2	3	0	2	0	1
17.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Rajasthan	2	5	0	1	4	10
19.	Tamil Nadu	10	21	13	5	16	7
20.	Telangana	3	0	0	4	0	0
21.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh	8	26	0	4	11	5
23.	Uttarakhand	0	1	0	0	0	0
24.	West Bengal	0	2	0	6	0	3
	<b>Total</b>	76	133	35	66	84	49

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