

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 127  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2021**

**MANUAL SCAVENGERS**

**127. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any mechanism to identify manual scavengers across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any training initiatives have been undertaken to ensure proper use of machines for cleaning sewers instead of human labor; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Under Section 11 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the municipality, as and when there are reasons to believe existence of manual scavengers in areas under his jurisdiction, shall cause a survey to identify the manual scavengers. Similarly, Under Section 14 of the Act, the CEO of Gram Panchayat shall carry out survey to identify manual scavengers in rural areas. Under Section 12 of the Act, any person who claims to be a manual scavenger shall submit application in prescribed form to the concerned CEO for being identified as manual scavenger.

A National Survey of manual scavengers was carried out in 2018 in 194 districts of 18 States.

To identify any other manual scavenger hitherto uncovered in the survey, a Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhyaan" has been launched on 24.12.2020 for uploading the data relating to insanitary latrines and manual scavengers by any citizen or social/Non Governmental organisation to enable eradication of insanitary latrines and rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

(b) and (c): A National policy for Mechanised sanitation Eco-system has been formulated which envisages, inter alia, appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in each district and setting up of Sanitation Response Units (SRUs) in each municipality. These SRUs equipped with trained manpower will ensure mechanised cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. The training of such sanitation workers equipped to handle mechanised cleaning is being undertaken by Municipalities and is underway.

\*\*\*\*\*