

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3742
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2021**

NATIONAL SURVEY ON MANUAL SCAVENGING

**3742. DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR:
SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to undertake a survey to identify/collect data on the exact number of manual scavengers in the country, if so, the number of manual scavengers present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of scavengers died while on the job due to asphyxiation in the country during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has planned to make very stringent rule to end manual scavenging and the rehabilitation of manual scavengers, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the list of safety/protective equipment/gear provided to manual scavengers like mask etc.;
- (e) the details of the schemes and their allocations for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers for the last three years; and
- (f) the number of persons penalized under the Act for flouting its provisions by engaging any person for manual scavenging?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per reports, no person is currently engaged in manual scavenging. However, two surveys have been conducted in 2013 and 2018 to identify manual scavengers. State-wise details of manual scavengers identified during these surveys is given at **Annexure**.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also launched a mobile app “Swachhata Abhiyaan” on 24.12.2020 to capture the data of still existing insanitary latrines and manual scavengers if any associated with them. Any person can upload the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers on the mobile app. Thereafter, the data is verified by the concerned district administration. However, not a single insanitary latrine has been confirmed so far.

(b): There have been no reports regarding death of persons due to manual scavenging. However, as per reports received from States, 158 persons have died while cleaning sewers or septic tanks during the last three years.

(c): Under Section 5 of the MS Act, 2013 no agency or person can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging with effect from 06.12.2013. Whosoever violates the provisions of the Act is punishable with imprisonment upto two years or fine upto Rs.1 lakh or both. The Ms Act, 2013 also prohibits engagement of any person for hazardous cleaning of sewer or septic tank. Whosoever engages any person for such hazardous cleaning in violation of the provisions of the Act is punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years or with fine of Rs. 5 lakhs or both.

Government is implementing a Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers:-

- i. One Time Cash Assistance of Rs.40,000/- to one identified manual scavenger in the family.
- ii. Skill Development Training of manual scavengers and their dependants upto two years with stipend @ Rs.3,000/- per month during the training period.
- iii. Capital Subsidy upto Rs.5.00 lakh for those who availed loans for Self Employment Projects including sanitation related projects.
- iv. Health insurance under Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to the families of all the identified manual scavengers.
- v. Loan upto 15 Lakh at concessional rate with a maximum subsidy of Rs.5 lakh for procurement of mechanized equipment for cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

(d): Government have notified "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules,2013 (MS Rules, 2013)"under which it is mandatory for the employer to provide the safety gear, devices and ensure safety precautions as prescribed in the Rules.

(e): Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is implemented for rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers, details of the scheme has already been indicated in the part (c) of the question. Total budget of Rs. 197.83 crore has been allocated under the Scheme during the last three years.

(f): The cases filed in this regard are at different stages and not came to logical conclusion.

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3742 for answer on 21.12.2021 regarding National Survey on Manual Scavenging.

State-wise number of manual scavengers identified

S. NO.	Name of State/UT	No. of Eligible Manual Scavengers identified
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1793
2	Assam	3921
3	Bihar	131
4	Chhattisgarh	3
5	Gujarat	105
6	Jharkahand	192
7	Karnataka	2927
8	Kerala	518
9	Madhya Pradesh	510
10	Maharashtra	6325
11	Odisha	230
12	Punjab	231
13	Rajasthan	2673
14	Tamilnadu	398
15	Uttar Pradesh	32473
16	Uttarakhand	4988
17	West Bengal	680
	Total	58098