

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.245
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2022**

PROHIBITION ON PRACTICE OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

245. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to undertake a survey to identify the exact number of manual scavengers in the country and account for the disproportionality between the number of manual scavengers and the number of insanitary latrines and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the number of persons penalized under the Act for flouting its provisions by engaging any person for manual scavenging; State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a): 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. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from the above date. Any person or agency who engages any person for manual scavenging in violation of the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 is punishable under Section 8 of the above Act, with imprisonment upto 2 years or fine upto Rs. One Lakh or both.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, since October 2, 2014, more than 10.99 crore sanitary toilets have been constructed in rural areas and over 62.65 lakh in urban areas and insanitary toilets have been converted into sanitary toilets. This work made a huge contribution towards ending the practice of manual scavenging. After receiving reports from the social institutions working in this field, about continuation of this practice, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a mobile app "Swachhata Abhiyaan" on 24.12.2020 to capture the data of insanitary latrines still existing and manual scavengers associated with their cleaning. 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): The cases filed in this regard are at different stages and have not come to the logical conclusion.
