

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2546  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2025**

**STATUS OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS AND ACTION ON VIOLATIONS**

**2546. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:**

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

- (a) the number of persons presently engaged in manual scavenging in the country, Statewise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has engaged manual scavengers for sewer or septic-tank cleaning work and has posted such activities on social media and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken or proposed/to be taken against the agencies or officials responsible for employing manual scavengers in Delhi, including any penalties imposed and rehabilitation measures provided to the affected workers; and
- (d) the measures adopted by the Union Government to eliminate manual scavenging nationwide, promote mechanised cleaning, rehabilitate identified manual scavengers and monitor compliance by State and local authorities?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): No report of the practice of manual scavenging has been received from States/UT.
- (b) & (c): Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that they have contracted for the routine desilting of storm water drains. Hence, the provisions of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" are not attracted.
- (d): As per provision of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" manual scavenging is a banned 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.

Two surveys for identification of Manual Scavengers have been conducted in 2013 and 2018 and 58,098 eligible manual scavengers have been identified.

Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), now subsumed in NAMASTE scheme, stipulates for provision of following to identified manual scavengers and their dependents:-

- i. One-time Cash Assistance.
- ii. Skill Development Training with stipend.
- iii. Upfront Capital Subsidy for Self Employment Projects and purchasing Sanitation related Mechanised Equipments.
- iv. Health Insurance coverage under AB-PMJAY.

Central Monitoring Committee, State Monitoring Committee and District Vigilance Committees constituted under the provisions of MS Act, 2013, monitor the implementation of MS Act, 2013.

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