

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.442
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2025**

PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT AS MANUAL SCAVENGERS

442. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 in the country to abolish the practice of manual scavenging;
- (b) whether these provisions are scrupulously observed by all the states;
- (c) whether there are any violations by any States, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any spot in any state where removal of human waste by hands is still in practice, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the modern techniques are being used in our country to collect and disposal of human waste?

ANSWER

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

- (a): Parliament enacted the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013) to abolish the practice of manual scavenging in the country.
- (b): Provisions of the MS Act, 2013 are to be observed by States.
- (c): No report of violation has been received from any State.
- (d): As per the provision of "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.

No report of the practice of manual scavenging has been received from States/UT.

(e): Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 launched on 1st, October, 2021 includes a component i.e. Used Water management (UWM) whose one of the objective is the eradication of hazardous entry into sewers and septic tanks, and total elimination of manual scavenging and promotion of mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations, for which Central share funds for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with population less than 1 lakh are released for procuring adequate numbers of septic tank desludging equipments.

Under UWM component of SBM-U 2.0, central share funds of Rs. 358.26 crores have been approved so far for procurement of 317 desludging vehicles, 1617 CESS pool tankers and 517 other cleaning equipments.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has issued SOP containing procedures to be followed during mechanical and manual cleaning of sewers and emptying of septic tanks along with training module for Sanitary workers on Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks.
