

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2722
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2015**

2722. MANUAL SCAVENGING

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the practice of manual scavenging within the country despite a law enacted in this regard, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any survey has been undertaken to determine the number of people/victims of manual scavenging, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of people punished, if any, under the existing law for this malpractice during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken to curb such inhumane practice and to replace manual scavenging with some alternative employment?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. 'Houselisting and Housing Census, 2011' data released by the Registrar General of India in March, 2012, has, inter alia, provided number of households by type of latrine facility, including latrines from which night soil is manually removed. According to this data, such latrines existed in all States/Union Territories except in the States of Goa, Sikkim, and the UTs of Chandigarh and Lakshadweep. Existence of manually serviced latrines in the States/UTs points to the fact that the practice of manual scavenging is yet to be eliminated there.

As per the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC-2011) data of manual scavengers released by the Ministry of Rural Development on 03.07.2015, there were 1,82,505 manual scavengers in the rural areas of the country. State-wise details age given in **Annexure-I** SECC-2011 data of manual scavengers is based on respondent input as revealed by the households to the enumerator. Under the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" which has come into force with effect from 06.12.2013, the claim of any person of being a manual scavenger is to be got verified by the local authority for inclusion in the list of identified manual scavengers to become eligible for rehabilitation as per the provisions of the MS Act, 2013. Accordingly, the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to verify the SECC-2011 data of manual scavengers and upload the list of identified manual scavengers on the website www.mssuvey.nic.in for their rehabilitation.

As per the latest information available on the basis of survey undertaken so far, 12,226 manual scavengers have been identified in 12 States, State-wise details of which are given in the **Annexure-II**.

(c): The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment does not maintain the statistics of such cases. As per Section 21 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013), Executive Magistrates who have been conferred judicial powers of first class are empowered to try any offences committed under the Act.

(d): The sole cause for manual scavenging is the existence of insanitary latrines. Section 5 of the MS Act, 2013 prohibits construction of insanitary latrines and engaging of manual scavengers

from the date of commencement of the Act i.e. 06.12.2013. The Act provides for identification of insanitary latrines and their demolition/conversion into sanitary latrines on a time bound basis. The Municipalities, Cantonment Boards and Railway authorities have been mandated to construct adequate number of community sanitary latrines within a period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act to eliminate the practice of open defecation. The Act also provides for identification and rehabilitation of the existing manual scavengers, which includes skill development training with stipend and concessional loan for taking up an alternative occupation on sustainable basis.

Annexure-I referred in reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2722 for 15.12.2015 regarding
Manual Scavenging

Annexure-I

Socio Economic and Caste Census-2011		
Number of Households Any Member Belonging to Manual Scavenger (Rural)		
Zone	Code with States/ UTs Name	Number of Manual Scavenger
All India		182505
North Total		14898
North	01 - JAMMU & KASHMIR	2904
North	02 - HIMACHAL PRADESH	1
North	03 - PUNJAB	11951
North	06 - HARYANA	42
East Total		14411
East	10 - BIHAR	7268
East	19 - WEST BENGAL	2526
East	20 - JHARKHAND	4153
East	21 - ODISHA	464
West Total		68681
West	08 - RAJASTHAN	3498
West	24 - GUJARAT	2
West	27 - MAHARASHTRA	65181
West	30 - GOA	0
South Total		16362
South	28 - ANDHRA PRADESH	388
South	29 - KARNATAKA	15375
South	32 - KERALA	100
South	33 - TAMILNADU	334
South	28 - TELANGANA	165
Central Total		41516
Central	05 - UTTARAKHAND	483
Central	09 - UTTAR PRADESH	17388
Central	22 - CHHATTISGARH	540
Central	23 - MADHYA PRADESH	23105
North Eastern Total		20083
North Eastern	11 - SIKKIM	51
North Eastern	12 - ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1286
North Eastern	13 - NAGALAND	274
North Eastern	14 - MANIPUR	1
North Eastern	15 - MIZORAM	1025
North Eastern	16 - TRIPURA	17333
North Eastern	17 - MEGHALAYA	113
North Eastern	18 - ASSAM	0
UT Total		6554
UT	04 - CHANDIGARH	0
UT	07 - NCT OF DELHI	6
UT	25 - DAMAN AND DIU	6277
UT	26 - DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	142
UT	31 - LAKSHADWEEP	1
UT	34 - PUDUCHERRY	66
UT	35 - ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	62

Annexure –II, referred reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 2722 for answer on 15.12.2015 regarding Manual Scavenging

Annexure-II

State-wise details of identified Manual Scavengers		
Urban-A		
S.No.	State	Identified Manual Scavengers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	124
2.	Bihar	137
3.	Chhattisgarh	3
4.	Karnataka	302
5.	Madhya Pradesh	36
6.	Odisha	237
7.	Punjab	86
8.	Rajasthan	577
9.	Tamil Nadu	462
10.	Uttar Pradesh	2404
11.	Uttarakhand	137
12.	West Bengal	104
Total-A		4609
Rural-B		
1	Punjab	5
2	Uttar Pradesh	7612
Total-B		7617
Grand Total (A+B)		12226