

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

**STARRED QUESTION NO.*126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021**

MANUAL SCAVENGING

***126. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS:**

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

- (a) whether there is an official estimate of the number of manual scavengers in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is true that the Government has not been able to achieve the target of abolition of manual scavenging as prescribed by the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether many manual scavengers have benefited from the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers and if so, the details thereof, Statewise;
- (d) whether the Ministry maintains a database of sanitation workers in the country and if so, the Statewise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for answer on 07.12.2021 raised by Shri Kesineni Srinivas regarding "Manual Scavenging".

(a): Two surveys have been conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the identification of Manual Scavengers during the year 2013 and 2018. As per these two surveys, 58098 eligible manual scavengers have been identified. State-wise details are given at **Annexure-I**.

(b): No, Sir. Government has been able to achieve the target of abolition of manual scavenging. As per Section 2 (1) (g) of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)", manual scavenging means manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of, or handling in any manner, human excreta in an insanitary latrine, is prohibited with effect from 6.12.2013. As per the provisions of the Act, two surveys have been conducted for identification of manual scavengers in the country and identified 58098 manual scavengers. All identified and eligible manual scavengers have been provided assistance for their rehabilitation. On 24.12.2020 a Mobile App has been launched to identify existing insanitary latrines and manual scavengers if any engaged, therein. After field verification of the data uploaded on the App, no existence of insanitary latrine has been verified. Therefore, there is no report of practice of manual scavenging currently in the country.

(c): State-wise details of manual scavengers and their dependants provided benefits under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) are given at **Annexure-II**.

(d): No, Sir. Sanitation is state subject and no such database is maintained centrally by this Ministry.

(e): The fatal accidents in sewers and septic tanks are due to non compliance of the prescribed safety measures and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). A National Policy on Mechanised Sanitation Eco-system has been formulated and circulated to the States for implementation. This policy, inter-alia, envisages appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in each district and a Sanitation Response Unit in each municipality, which shall be fully equipped with necessary machines, devices and vehicles for mechanised cleaning and professionally trained manpower to ensure safe cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has made compliance of these requirements as a mandatory condition for release of funds under SBM-U 2.0.

In addition, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also taken the following steps to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks:-

- i. Under Swachhta Udyami Yojana of National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, concessional loans are provided to safai karamcharis, manual scavengers & their dependants and the Urban Local Bodies & other agencies responsible for cleaning, for procurement of sanitation related instruments/vehicles.
- ii. Under Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), in addition to the manual scavengers, the sanitation workers and their dependants are also provided capital subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh for procurement of instruments/vehicles for mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- iii. Workshops are organised in municipalities with the officers, engineers, contractors, sanitation workers etc. of urban local bodies to sensitise them about safe and healthy cleaning practices and mechanised cleaning of sewers & septic tanks.
- iv. A short duration training programme (RPL) is organised for the sanitation workers wherein they are trained in safe and mechanised cleaning practices.

Annexure-I referred in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for answer on 07.12.2021 regarding Manual Scavenging.

State-wise identified number of Manual Scavengers

S. NO.	Name of State/UT	No. of Manual Scavengers Eligible and paid OTCA
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1793
2.	Assam	3921
3.	Bihar	131
4.	Chhattisgarh	3
5.	Gujarat	105
6.	Jharkhand	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

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for answer on 07.12.2021 regarding Manual Scavenging.

Number of beneficiaries covered under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers as on 30.11.2021

S. NO.	Name of State/UT	No. of Manual Scavengers Eligible and paid OTCA	No. of beneficiaries released Capital Subsidy	Skill Development Training Coverage
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	A&N Islands	0	11*	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1793	56	252
3.	Assam	3921	0	487
4.	Bihar	131	0	18
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	0	0
6.	Gujarat	105	0	19
7.	Haryana	0	2*	0
8.	Jharkhand	192	3	34
9.	Karnataka	2927	294	349
10.	Kerala	518	0	314
11.	Madhya Pradesh	510	38	98
12.	Maharashtra	6325	2	1490
13.	Odisha	230	92	66
14.	Punjab	231	41	62
15.	Rajasthan	2673	0	952
16.	Tamilnadu	398	78	29
17.	Telangana	0	8*	0
18.	Uttar Pradesh	32473	779	12155
19.	Uttarakhand	4988	74	1670
20.	West Bengal	680	97	231
	Total	58098	1575	18226

*After SFC, the SRMS scheme has been revised suitably with effect from 01.04.2021. Now under SRMS, Sanitation workers and their dependents are also made eligible for capital subsidy for procurement of sanitation related equipments.
