

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1519
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021**

ERADICATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

1519. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for the Eradication of Manual Scavenging;
- (b) whether there is any existing national or statelevel body to monitor the implementation of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (prohibition) Act, 1993, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any State-wise data showing the casualties caused due to the manual scavenging, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the victims of manual scavenging?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Manual scavenging as defined under Section 2 (1) (g) of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” is prohibited 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.

(b) : Implementation of the MS Act, 2013 is being monitored at three levels viz District, State and Central. At the central level, Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) headed by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment has been constituted which reviews the implementation of the Act. Seven meetings of CMC have been held with concerned Departments of Central Government, State Governments and members of Civil Societies working in this field. As per provisions of the Act, various State Governments have constituted State Monitoring Committees under the chairmanship of the concerned Chief Ministers or the nominated Ministers to monitor the implementation of the Act.

(c) : No such casualties have been reported due to manual scavenging. However, there is a report of death of 321 persons due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks during the last five years.

(d) : Government is implementing a Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). The following are the provisions for providing assistance to the identified manual scavengers for their rehabilitation:-

- i. One Time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/- to one identified manual scavenger in the family.
- ii. Skill Development Training of manual scavengers and their dependants upto two years with stipend @ Rs. 3,000/- per month during the training period.
- iii. Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh for those who availed loans for Self Employment Projects including sanitation related projects.
- iv. Health insurance under Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to the families of all the identified manual scavengers.

The following are the achievements of coverage of manual scavengers and their dependants under the Scheme:-

S.No.	Provision	Coverage
1.	One Time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000	58098
2.	Skill Development Training	18,226
3.	Capital Subsidy for Self Employment Projects	1575
