

Mechanism to identify the persons working as manual scavengers

2107. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any effective mechanism to identify the large number of persons still working as manual scavengers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to set up a mechanism in coordination with State/UT Governments to work at grassroot level to identify manual scavengers and ensure their liberation and proper rehabilitation for their socio-economic development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): (a) and (b) Under "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality/Municipal Corporation and Gram Panchayat is responsible for survey and identification of manual scavengers in urban and rural areas respectively under his jurisdiction. The mechanism for survey and identification of manual scavengers is prescribed in the MS Act, 2013 under Sections 11 and 12 for urban areas and under 14 and 15 for rural areas.

(c) Detailed guidelines for the survey of manual scavengers have been provided in the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules, 2013)". In addition, village level details of insanitary latrines as reported in Census-2011 and household-wise details of manual scavengers as reported in Socio-Economic Caste Census-2011 have been provided to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to facilitate survey and identification of manual scavengers. A Central Sector Scheme, "Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)" is implemented to liberate the identified manual scavengers from their traditional occupation and provide skill development training and provide financial assistance through loans with subsidy and at concessional rate of interest for taking up alternative livelihood projects on sustainable basis. 11,149 identified manual scavengers have been provided one time cash assistance to wean them away from their traditional occupation of manual scavenging. 4263 proposals for skill development training programmes for identified manual scavengers and their dependants have also been sanctioned upto 30.06.2016.