

Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra).

The next speaker is Shri Harnath Singh Yadav on 'Need to impose Uniform Civil Code in the country to maintain communal harmony'. उपस्थित नहीं हैं। The next speaker is Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas on 'Need to end deaths due hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks'.

Need to stop deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, recently four migrant workers from Bihar died while cleaning a septic tank in Surat, Gujarat. The Union Government has stated that there have been no deaths due to manual scavenging in the country. However, the Government's own data states that over 300 people have died in the last five years due to accidents while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Manual scavenging has been prohibited in India since 2013. However, *dalits* and tribles are forced to take up these jobs mainly due to poverty and lack of employment elsewhere. The historical repression and marginalization of these groups still exists, leaving them no other source to earn a living. The Government needs to take urgent measures to ensure that no person should have to demean himself by cleaning sewers and septic tanks manually. The law should be enforced strictly in this regard, especially on private firms who employ such persons on *per diem* basis which do not show them on their rolls, often without providing them any protective gears.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

The technological solutions need to be enhanced and mechanical desludging and the use of robots should become the norms. Self-employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers need to be revived. Besides one-time cash component, the emphasis needs to be put on skilling and providing them soft loans to enable them to carve out alternative means of earning, livelihood or other career. We must ensure dignity of life and livelihood for every Indian citizen. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah (Karnataka), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra)

and Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra). The next speaker is Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde.

Need to prohibit the use of all bannable pesticides immediately by prohibiting its production, import, export, marketing and use in India

SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE (Bihar): Sir, I want to speak on an important issue 'Demand for prohibiting the use of all bannable pesticides immediately by prohibiting their production, import, export, marketing and the use in India'.

There are enough research reports about the havoc being caused by herbicides world-over. The issue is much bigger. In fact, India continues to have nearly 150 pesticides that have been banned or disallowed in one or more countries. There is a large body of scientific evidence, both on the ill-effects of synthetic pesticides as well as well as positive impacts of organic and natural farming. I welcome the hon. Prime Minister's stand urging the farmers to give up toxic chemicals and save the Mother Earth. But it is unfortunate that deadly chemicals, like monocrotophos, etc., are not being banned by the Minister of Agriculture. In May, 2020, the Government of India published draft ban order on 27 hazardous pesticides, that too after consulting with the pesticides industry representatives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal). Now, Question Hour.

12.00 Noon

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

* Q. No. 46. [*The questioner was absent.*]

Foreign visits by Union Ministers

*46. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: