

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 296
ANSWERED ON - 24/07/2024

MANUAL SCAVENGING INCIDENTS

296. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE

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

- (a) the total number of incidents of manual scavenging in the country that have been identified/brought to the notice of the Ministry in the last five years, year-wise; and
- (b) the total number of manual scavenging cases/incidents year-wise that have been reported to the Ministry from the year 2020 till date through the Ministry's 'Swachhata Abhiyaan' mobile app?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) As per the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" manual scavenging is a prohibited activity in the country 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.

There is no report of practice of manual scavenging in the country in the last five years.

(b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had launched a mobile app "Swachhata Abhiyaan" on 24.12.2020 to capture the data of insanitary latrines still existing and manual scavengers associated with them. Total 6,256 cases were uploaded on mobile app from 114 districts. All cases were verified and none of the cases were found to be credible.
