

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 297
ANSWERED ON - 24/07/2024**

ELIMINATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

297. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has miserably failed to make all 766 districts in the country as 'Manual Scavenging-free';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has drawn any comprehensive/elaborate plan to eliminate manual scavenging in the country completely;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (e) There is no report of practice of manual scavenging in any districts.

Parliament enacted "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" which became effective with effect from 06.12.2013. As per the provisions of the Act, manual scavenging is prohibited and no person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from that date. Provisions of the MS Act 2013 mentions that contraveners shall be punishable with fine or imprisonment or with both.

Under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) envisaged for rehabilitation of manual scavengers, the following benefits have been extended:-

- a. One-time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/- per family has been provided to all identified and eligible 58098 manual scavengers.

b. Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5,00,000/- has been provided to 2507 manual scavengers and their dependents to take up alternate self employment projects.

c. Skill Development Training has been provided to 24294 identified manual scavengers and their dependents with a stipend @ Rs. 3,000/- per month during the training period.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment have requested all districts either to declare themselves free from manual scavenging or upload the data of insanitary latrine and manual scavengers associated with it on “Swachhta Abhiyan” mobile app. However, no credible data has been uploaded on the app so far.
