

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1580
ANSWERED ON - 12/03/2025

MANUAL SCAVENGING IN THE COUNTRY

1580. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several instances of deaths of individuals due to manual scavenging have happened in the country in the recent past, if so, the total number of deaths due to manual scavenging recorded in the period January 2021 to January 2025; and
- (b) the reason, the criminal practice of manual scavenging has not yet been entirely eliminated in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) No death has been reported due to Manual Scavenging which is lifting of human excreta from Insanitary latrines.

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

No report of the practice of manual scavenging has been received from States/UT Governments.
