

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3294
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023**

MANUAL SCAVENGING IN RAILWAYS

3294. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any cognizance of sweepers employed in performing manual scavenging in Railways, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the sweepers are mandated to wear gloves and protective equipment, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sweepers are provided with hygiene awareness workshops, if so, the details thereof and the number of workshops held in the past three years, State-wise, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any technology is used to clean train toilets and tracks, if so, the details thereof and the details of trains using it and the percentage of tracks cleaned through this technology, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3294 BY SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S. TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.08.2023 REGARDING MANUAL SCAVENGING IN RAILWAYS

(a) to (c) There is no manual scavenging being done on Indian Railways.

(d) The station/platform cleaning activities at major railway stations are carried out through mechanized means by using high pressure jets, mechanized floor scrubber, walk behind automatic scrubber dryer, battery operated ride on scrubber, vacuum cleaner, flippers, wet and dry vacuum cleaner etc., along with the requisite manpower. Wherever, concrete washable aprons are provided on platform tracks, they are cleaned with water jet whenever necessary.

With the installation of bio-toilets in all passenger coaches of Indian Railway System, no human waste fall on the tracks and the bio-tanks have sufficient microbes to convert the fecal matter into gas and treated water only is released onto ground. External cleaning of coaches is progressively done at Automatic coach washing Plants (ACWP). For internal cleaning of coaches, proper tools and equipments are used along with handheld scrubbing machines, vacuum cleaners. Toilets are cleaned using high pressure jets with prescribed chemicals.
