

Re: Need for policies to ensure the rehabilitation of people involved in manual scavenging -? laid

SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA (AMALAPURAM): The inhumane and discriminatory practice of Manual Scavenging involves individuals, from marginalized communities, being forced to manually clean human waste from dry latrines, sewers, and septic tanks. This practice violates the fundamental rights of life and equality of these individuals. The persistence of manual scavenging is a grave violation of human rights, dignity, and equality. Data from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment indicate that thousands of individuals, continue to engage in manual scavenging across the country as their only source of employment. The Supreme Court, in *Safai Karamchari Andolan v. Union of India* ¹ has highlighted the need for comprehensive rehabilitation measures, including alternative livelihood opportunities, skill development, and education for affected individuals. To combat this issue, strict adherence to existing laws, such as the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, is crucial. The Central Government must allocate sufficient funds for the development of mechanized cleaning technologies, proper sanitation facilities and ensure that it reaches the target beneficiaries. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to form policies to ensure the rehabilitation of people involved in manual scavenging.