

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2581  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2023**

**MANUAL SCAVENGING**

**2581. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly 60 districts in the country have missed the deadline to self-declare themselves manual scavenging free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the total number of districts which are still not 'manual scavenging free' in the country, State/UT-wise especially in the State of Punjab;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any measures to speed up the process to stop manual scavenging in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a) to (c): 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. All districts have been requested to either declare themselves free from manual scavenging or upload the data of insanitary latrine and manual scavengers associated with it on the Mobile App "Swachhta Abhiyan". There is no deadline for districts to declare themselves manual scavenging free. As on 10.12.2023, 38 districts of six states of the country have not reported themselves as manual scavenging-free; details thereof are at Annexure.

(d) and (e): There is no report of people currently engaged in manual scavenging in the country.

Manual scavenging as defined under Section 2 (1) (g) of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" is prohibited with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from that date.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Annexure**

**Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2581 for answer on 19.12.2023 regarding Manual Scavenging.**

**State-wise number of district, who have not reported manual scavenging free**

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Name of States/UTs</b> | <b>Number of District</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.           | Assam                     | 3                         |
| 2.           | Jharkhand                 | 1                         |
| 3            | Madhya Pradesh            | 10                        |
| 4.           | Manipur                   | 9                         |
| 5            | Meghalaya                 | 2                         |
| 6            | Telangana                 | 13                        |

\*\*\*\*\*