

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2453

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2006

MANUAL SCAVENGING

Baxla Shri Joachim;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan;Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu;Singh Shri Sugrib

**Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether manual scavenging is still a disgusting reality in most of the States despite the enforcement of Act banning it ;
- (b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto ;
- (c) Whether the workers who clean open gutters, manholes and septic tanks are exposed to great risks are not covered by the Act ;
- (d) If so, the reasons therefor ;
- (e) The measures being taken by the Government for effective implementation of Act ;
- (f) Whether there is any programme to demolish dry latrines across the States ; and
- (g) If so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

- (a) : Water flush latrines are not available to the entire population in the country and dry latrines and manual scavenging still exists in some parts of the country.
- (b) : Planning Commission has formulated a National Action Plan for total Eradication of Manual Scavenging.
- (c)&(d) : The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 prohibits to engage or employ a person for manually carrying human excreta.
- (e) : States have been requested to implement the Act effectively.
- (f)&(g) : The Act, 1993 provides that the State Governments may by notification specify that no person shall construct or maintain a dry latrine.