

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2412
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS
Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

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

- (a) the total number of families presently involved in manual scavenging in the country; State-wise;
- (b) the measures adopted by the Union Government to ensure rehabilitation of these families by State Governments; and
- (c) the target set for reduction in the number of families employed in manual scavenging?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) to (c) The continuance and construction of dry latrines and employment of manual scavengers is prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. However, for rehabilitation of erstwhile manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched a new Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers. As per reports received from State Governments/UT Administrations, there were 3.42 lakh erstwhile manual scavengers and their dependents to be rehabilitated, at the time of formulation of the scheme.