

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:59

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

PROHIBITION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

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

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has requested the Union and State Governments to implement the Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993;
- (b) if so, the response of the Union and States and Governments thereto;
- (c) the details of progress made so far in this regard;
- (d) the details of the Steps taken to stop the dehumanising practice of manual scavenging during the 11th Five Year Plan Period; and
- (e) the details of the achievements made so far in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had organized a National Workshop on Manual Scavenging and Sanitation in New Delhi on 28th August, 2008 as a part of programme to commemorate 60th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Based on deliberations in the workshop, the NHRC inter alia recommended that Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi must quicken the pace of adoption of the Act which should be done at the earliest. The Commission also recommended that the definition of manual scavengers is different from sanitary workers and all authorities may restrict to the definition of manual scavenging as given in the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.

(b) & (c): The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 has been adopted by 23 States and all Union Territories. Of the remaining 5 States, two States namely Manipur and Mizoram have reported that there are no dry latrines in the State or they are scavenger free. The States of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have enacted their own Acts. Confirmation from the state of Jammu & Kashmir as to adoption of Act is awaited.

(d) & (e): Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing the Revised Guidelines of the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (ILCS) which primarily envisages conversion of all existing dry latrine of the urban area of the country into twin pit pour flush latrine and thereby liberating manual scavengers from obnoxious practice of carrying night soil. 25% fund under the scheme is also earmarked for construction of new latrines for the Economically Weaker Section households who have no latrine in the urban areas of the country. So far, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has sanctioned projects for conversion of 251963 dry latrines and construction of 50698 new units in 12 States namely, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.