

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3260
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012
MANUAL SCAVENGING IN RAILWAYS
Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have sought an exemption from the proposed law for the ban on manual scavenging;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether proposed law would give nine months to make the transition from the present system of dry latrines and manual cleaning to scientific disposal of human waste; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to meet the provisions of proposed law and ensure hygiene and proper sanitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d): On Indian Railways, there are no dry latrines in railway stations, offices or residential quarters and therefore, there is no manual scavenging in Indian Railway controlled area. Concrete aprons have been provided for the tracks at platforms and mechanized cleaning through high-powered water jets is undertaken. In order to address the problem of open discharge of human waste on tracks, significant efforts have been put in by Railways for elimination of the problem in a phased manner by introduction of bio-toilets in railway coaches.