

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:267
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
MANUAL SCAVENGING
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey to identify the manual scavengers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has prepared any action plan including introduction of an appropriate legislation to eradicate manual scavenging in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time frame fixed to implement the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b) Union Government has, so far, not conducted any survey to identify the manual scavengers in the country. However, the ongoing Socio Economic Caste Census, 2011, in rural India is, inter alia, capturing the data about the manual scavengers in rural areas, including the non-statutory towns. A fresh survey of the manual scavengers in the statutory towns is also being planned.

(c) & (d) A multi-pronged strategy has been followed for eradication of manual scavenging. This, inter-alia, consists of :-

- (i) Administration of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993;
- (ii) Conversion of dry latrines into water seal toilets; and
- (iii) Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers and their dependents, into alternative occupations.

The Government has introduced 'The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation, Bill, 2012' in Lok Sabha on 3.9.2012.

The elimination of manual scavenging has been given top priority.