

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1271

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

MANUAL SCAVENGING

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

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that manual scavenging is still in place in several States despite legislative measures and guidelines to State Governments to abolish the practice of manual scavenging and to provide employment and alternative opportunity for their rehabilitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present measures being taken by the Union Government to eradicate this practice; and

(c) the achievements made so far in eradication of manual scavenging, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) 'Houselisting and Housing Census, 2011' data released by the Registrar General of India in March, 2012, has, inter alia, provided number of households by type of latrine facility, including latrines from which night soil is manually removed. According to this data, such latrines existed in all States/UTs except in the States of Goa & Sikkim, and the UTs of Chandigarh and Lakshadweep.

Existence of manually serviced latrines in the remaining States/UTs points to the fact that the practice of manual scavenging is yet to be eliminated there.

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.

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

(c) Since 2007, 79,454 manual scavengers and their dependents have been assisted for taking up alternative occupations. State/UT-wise figures in this regard are at Annexure.