

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6544
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
MANUAL SCAVENGERS
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether it is true that not even a single person has been prosecuted under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993, so far whereas the problem of manual scavenging in the country is widely prevalent;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for effective implementation of the Act and eradication of this practice in the country;
- (d) whether the Union Government is providing any skill development/vocational training to manual scavengers so that they are able to shift to other occupations; and
- (e) if so, the details of the manual scavengers who have been imparted skill development/vocational training so far, State-wise?

Answer

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

- (a) and (b): As per the information provided by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA), which is the nodal Ministry of the Government of India for `The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act J 993` . while information about prosecution of cases under the Act has been received by it from some States, no data is available in respect of convictions,
- (c) The matter is regularly pursued with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for effective Implementation of the Act. Under the `Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for conversion of dry latrines into sanitary latrines` projects have been sanctioned for conversion of all reported 2,51,963 dry latrines to liberate the manual scavengers. The States have confirmed successful conversion of all these dry latrines into sanitary latrines.
- (d) and (e): Government launched the `Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengersu(SRMS) in January, 2007 under which skill development training and financial assistance are provided to the eligible identified manual scavengers for taking up self employment. State-wise details of such beneficiaries are given in the annexure.