

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:877  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013  
FAMILIES ENGAGED IN MANUAL SCAVENGING  
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

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

- (a) whether the practice of manual scavenging is still in vogue in several parts of the country inspite of it being banned legally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of families engaged in manual scavenging in the country, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enact a new legislation for them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the effective measures taken by the Government to eliminate this social problem from the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(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.

Although 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, this data did not provide data of families engaged in manual scavenging.

(c) to (e) The `Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act,2013` has come into force with effect from 6.12.2013 in all the States/Union Territories, except Jammu & Kashmir. This Act intends to, inter alia, achieve the following objectives:-

(i) Eliminate the insanitary latrines.

(ii) Prohibit-

(a) Employment as Manual Scavengers (b) Hazardous manual cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

(iii) Survey of Manual Scavengers and their rehabilitation.