

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2073
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
. MANUAL CLEANING OF SEWERS
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose a ban on manual cleaning of sewers in which people get killed due to poisonous gases in the metropolitan and other urban areas in the country and provide alternative ways for the purpose with Central funding; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) & (b) Section 7 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013". (MS Act, 2013) lays down that no person, local authority or any agency shall, from such date as the State Government may notify, which shall not be later than one year from the date of commencement of this Act, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank.

As the MS Act, 2013 had come into force on 6.12.2013, hazardous cleaning of a sewer or septic tank is a prohibited activity with effect from 6.12.2014 in all the States and UTs except the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013" , which has come into force from 12.12.2013 stipulates the obligation of Employer towards employees who are engaged in cleaning of sewer or septic tanks to provide protective gear, safety devices and cleaning devices.