

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6032
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
SANITATION WORK
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people engaged in sanitation work all across the country work under highly insanitary and hazardous conditions;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide protective gears to these workers under the Swachh Bharat Mission and provide financial assistance to States and Union Territories for this purpose; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (c) Under Section 7 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013"(MS Act, 2013), no person, local authorities 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, employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank.

The MS Act, has come into force w.e.f. 6.12.2013 in all the States/UTs except Jammu & Kashmir. Accordingly, engaging or employing any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or septic tank is a prohibited activity from 6.12.2014 or an earlier date, if any, notified by any State/UT under section 7 of the MS Act, 2013.

"Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 framed under the Act and notified in the Gazette of India dated 12.12.2013 specify the obligation of the employer towards the employee engaged for cleaning of sewer or septic tank. Under the Act and Rules, employers have to provide protective gears to these workers.