

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:498

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

ERADICATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

Arunmozhihevan Shri A.;Radhakrishnan Shri T.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make India a manual scavenging free nation by 2019, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government has issued instructions/directives to various States to conduct a comprehensive survey on manual scavengers, both in rural and urban areas, if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereon;
- (c) the funds provided for the purpose, State-wise;
- (d) the measures being taken to have an authentic data of manual scavengers in the country; and
- (e) the number of manual scavengers rescued/rehabilitated under the provision of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAWAAR CHAND GEHLOT)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 498 for 28.04.2015 by Shri T. Radhakrishnan and Shri A. Arunmozhihevan regarding Eradication of Manual Scavenging.

(a) The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), has been enacted by the Parliament to eliminate the twin evils of insanitary latrines and manual scavenging. This Act has come into force in all the States and Union Territories except the State of Jammu & Kashmir with effect from 06.12.2013. Manual Scavenging is a prohibited activity from this date.

(b) to (d) Houselisting and Housing Census, 2011 data released by the Registrar General of India, inter-alia, provided the number of households by type of latrine facility, including latrines from which night soil is manually removed. On the basis of this data, the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were requested to undertake the survey of manual scavengers in 3546 Statutory Towns. A statement showing funds released to State and Union Territories for this purpose is annexed. In addition, data on manual scavengers in rural areas is being captured under the ongoing Socio- Economic Caste census (Rural) undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Development. Also, MS Act, 2013 casts a responsibility on the Chief Executive Officers of the Municipalities and Panchayats to cause a survey to be undertaken to identify manual scavengers, if they have reason to believe that some persons are engaged or employed in manual scavenging in their jurisdiction.

(e) As per the last information available on the basis of quarterly progress reports received from States/Union Territories, 12753 manual scavengers have been identified in 13 States. On the basis of proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, 2112 identified manual scavengers have been provided onetime cash assistance of Rs. 40000/- each. In addition, 97 identified manual scavengers have also been provided Skill Development Training/loans at concessional rates with capital/interest subsidy for undertaking alternative employment.