

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4394

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

MANUAL SCAVENGING

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

- (a) the effective steps taken by the Union Government to impose ban on the dangerous task of manual cleaning of sewers etc.;
- (b) the total number of cases of manual scavenging reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the action taken by the Government on the reported cases of manual scavenging;
- (d) the schemes being implemented by the Government for the welfare of manual scavengers along with the financial allocation made thereunder during the said period, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the number of manual scavengers benefited under these schemes during the said period, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

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

(a) Parliament has enacted "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavenger and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) which has come into force in all the States and Union Territories except Jammu & Kashmir with effect from 06.12.2013. Under this Act no persons 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 septic tank.

(b & c) Under section 5 of the MS Act, 2013, no person, local authority or any agency shall, from the date of commencement of this Act, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, a manual scavenger, and every person so engaged or employed shall stand discharged immediately from any obligation, express or implied, to do manual scavenging. Under section 8 of the MS Act, any contravention of the above provisions for the first time shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to five years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees or both. No cases of contravention of Section 5 of the Act, have been reported to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, " Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" for the rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers:

Being a Central Sector Scheme, no allocation under the scheme is made to the States/ Union Territories. The scheme is implemented through National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

(e) 1404 identified manual scavengers have been provided onetime cash assistance as per details given below

S. No. State Number of manual scavengers who have been provided onetime cash assistance during the last three years (including current year 2014-15 (as on 31.03.2015)

1	Andhra Pradesh	45
2	Chhattisgarh	3
3	Karnataka	143
4	Uttar Pradesh	1118
5	West Bengal#	95
	Total	1404

#In addition, 97 identified manual scavengers in West Bengal are also provided skill development training with stipend and loans at concessional rate of interest with capital and interest subsidy for taking up alternative self employment projects.