

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding manual scavenging in India -laid.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): It is perturbing to understand that the inhuman practice of manual scavenging is widely practiced throughout the country even today. Every year hundreds die due to asphyxiation of the poisonous gases, the death of five manual scavengers in Delhi on September 10 testifies to the fact. In 2013, the government acknowledged the cleaning of dry toilets as manual scavenging and made it an illegal offence. However, so far no convictions have been made under the law. Yet, over 20,500 people have been identified as involved in manual scavenging according to a survey conducted by Ministry Of Social Justice and Empowerment, of them the majority are Dalit women.

Under the Swacchh Bharat Mission, many septic tanks are being built in rural India. If the government do not take up faecal sludge management as a priority, it will again put the burden on manual scavengers to clean millions of dry toilets and things could go much worse.

Therefore, I urge the Government to look into this matter extensively and put a complete end to this and rehabilitate the workers immediately providing them with alternative job opportunities.