

SC asks states to ban manual scavenging

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New Delhi, Jan 12, DHNS:

Taking serious view over continuation of manual scavenging in some parts of the country, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said that those states who did not implement the law should immediately issue notifications in their territory to ban the profession.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice S H Kapadia took serious view of the matter when a petitioner submitted before it that some of the states did not ban manual scavenging despite a law banning such inhuman act was enacted in 1993.

The Supreme Court bench directed the high courts of the respective states to monitor the ban which has been imposed after enacting a law in Parliament.

Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA), an Non-Governmental Organisation, submitted that the states that had not banned manual scavenging were Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Manipur Dadra Nagar and Haveli. The presence of manual scavenging in some parts of India had got widespread condemnation, even from across the globe.

The Safai Karmachari Andolan had provided evidence that the practice of manual scavenging still existed, 16 years after the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines Prohibition Act was passed by the Union Government in 1993.

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