

**Need to address Solid Waste Management treatment in the country.-laid**

**SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA):** A pungent smell of burnt plastic is haunting Kerala's commercial capital Kochi even a fortnight after the Brahmapuram Waste Management Plant under the City Corporation caught fire. The garbage mounds pose severe challenges to Solid Waste Management in the State. The state of the rest of India too is not satisfactory. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a flagship programme of the Government of India aimed at freeing the country from open defecation was launched in 2019. But the Mission does not address the need to rework the underground sewage system and the eradication of manual scavenging and the rehabilitation of manual scavengers. According to the Multiple Indicator Survey by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, 21.3% of rural households had no access to a toilet-whether a latrine exclusively for the household, a common-use facility for the building, or a community toilet. In 2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister declared rural India as open-defecation free during a Swachh Bharat Diwas program. Hence, I request the Government of India to address the menace of solid waste in an effective way using modern technology. Manual scavenging, which is highly prevalent in India, must be eradicated and workers must be rehabilitated.