

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Confronting Marginalisation

Q1. Why did the Safai Karamchari Andolan file a PIL in 2003? What did they complain about in their petition? What did the Supreme Court do on hearing their case in 2005?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q2. How did Dalits assert themselves?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Confronting Marginalisation

Q1. Why did the Safai Karamchari Andolan file a PIL in 2003? What did they complain about in their petition? What did the Supreme Court do on hearing their case in 2005?

Ans. In 2003, the Safai Karamchari Andolan and 13 other organisations and individuals, including seven scavengers, filed a PIL in the Supreme Court. The petitioners complained that manual scavenging still existed and it continued in government undertakings like the railways. The petitioners sought enforcement of their Fundamental Rights.

The court observed that the number of manual scavengers in India had increased since the 1993 law. It directed every department/ministry of the union government and state governments to verify the facts within six months. If manual scavenging was found to exist, then the government department has to actively take up a time-bound programme for their liberation and rehabilitation.

Q2. How did Dalits assert themselves?

Ans. Dalits asserted themselves in the following ways:

i. During 1970s and 1980s, in parts of southern India, a number of assertive Dalit groups came into being and asserted their rights – they refused to perform their so-called caste duties and insisted on being treated equally.

ii. Dalit groups demanded new laws that would list the various sorts of violence against dalits and prescribe stringent punishment for those who indulge in them.

iii. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s Adivasi people successfully organised themselves and demanded equal rights and for their land and resources to be returned to them.