

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4089

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000

REHABILITATION OF SCAVANGERS

C. SREENVAASAN;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;RATTAN LAL KATARIA;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

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

- (a) whether the Government are committed for complete eradication of manual scavenging in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Scavengers rehabilitation Plan faces financial crunch` appearing in the Hindustan Times on February 14, 2000;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether it is a fact that Government has not sanctioned any fund during 1999-2000 for rehabilitation of scanvangers;
- (f) if so, the main reasons therefore; (g) whether it is a fact that despite having set up Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) many of the States are learnt to have faltered in following its guidelines; and (h) if so, the names of the States and corrective measures being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government launched the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents in March 1992, to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers and their dependents from the hereditary and inhuman occupation of manually removing night soil and filth. The objective of the scheme is to provide for and engage them in alternative and dignified occupations. Under the scheme, 1.35 lakh scavengers have been trained in alternate occupations and assistance given to 3.25 lakh scavengers for their rehabilitation upto 1998-99.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been pursuing States/UTs to aggressively promote the scheme and took the initiative of proposing to them, the adoption of concept of Sanitary Marts to provide alternate employment to scavengers. Several States accordingly came up with proposals and Central Assistance of Rs. 70 crores was sanctioned to them during 1999-2000, for setting up of 3336 Sanitary Marts covering 83,393 scavengers.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g)&(h) In the State of West Bengal, the recognised Placement Agencies have obtained a Stay Order from the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta exempting them from obtaining a No Objection Certificate from Central Adoption Resource Agency as is required under para 2.14 of the Revised Guidelines for Adoption of Indian Children. Steps are being taken for getting the said Order of the Hon'ble High Court vacated.