

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1232
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
REHABILITATION OF SCAVENGERS
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

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

- (a) whether the number of scavengers has declined in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the funds allocated and spent by the Government on rehabilitation of such persons during each of the last three years.State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

(a) & (b) : A Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was introduced in January, 2007 for rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations, in a time bound manner. At the time of preparation of the scheme, the estimated no.of manual scavengers and their dependents to be rehabilitated was 3.42 lakh. As per updated reports received from State Governments, the no.of eligible beneficiaries identified under SRMS is 1.15 lakh, State-wise details of which are at Annexure-1. Out of the identified beneficiaries some have already been rehabilitated, including rehabilitation of all identified beneficiaries in Karnataka and Puducherry.

(e) Under SRMS, State-wise allocation of funds is not done. Funds are released to State Govts. as per their demand. State-wise details of funds released during the last three years for implementation of SRMS are given at Annexure-II.