

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:41
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
ERADICATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING
Acharia Shri Basudeb;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey recently to ascertain the number of dry toilets and manual scavengers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan including introduction of a new legislation to eradicate manual scavenging in the country and rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their family members;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilized for various programmes/schemes for eradication of manual scavenging during the last three years;
- (e) whether the guidelines issued by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharies for utilization of funds, are effectively being complied with; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective action taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 41 for 13.8.12 by Shri Pradeep Majhi and Shri Basudeb Acharia regarding 'Eradication of Manual Scavenging`.

(a) & (b): Houselisting and Housing Census Data-2011 released by the Registrar General of India in March, 2012, has, inter alia, provided the number of Households (HHs) having latrines from which night soil is removed by humans. The number of such HHs is 7,94,390. The State/UT wise details are given at Annexure.

The ongoing Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011, in rural India is, inter alia, capturing the data about the manual scavengers in rural areas, including the non-statutory towns. A fresh survey of the manual scavengers in the statutory towns, is also being planned.

(c) & (d): A multi-pronged strategy has been followed for eradication of manual scavenging and rehabilitation of manual scavengers. This, inter-alia, consists of:-

- (i) Administration of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993;
- (ii) Conversion of dry latrines into water seal toilets, and
- (iii) Rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their dependents, into alternative occupations.

The Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was launched in January, 2007 for providing financial assistance to the manual scavengers and their dependants for undertaking alternative occupations, through the State Channelising Agencies. Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs.173.50 crore has been released to the State Channelizing Agencies. Utilization of Rs.147.61 crore has been confirmed by them so far.

Under the "Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme", subsidy is provided to Households, in urban areas, belonging to the economically weaker sections for conversion of dry latrines into low cost pour flush latrines and to construct new ones where none exist. During the last three years, an amount of Rs.215.16 crore (Central subsidy under the Scheme) has been released to the States/UTs for this purpose, out of which Rs.113.91 crore has been utilized by the States.

Total Sanitation Campaign (now revised and renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan(NBA)), inter-alia, aimed to accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas by providing access to toilets to all. During the last three years, an amount of Rs.4009.25 crore has been

released to the States/UTs, as Central share under the Scheme, out of which an expenditure of Rs. 3844.86 crore has been incurred, including Rs.2568.72 crore as Central share of incentive for individual household latrines.

The Government is contemplating bringing a new legislation with more stringent provisions for eliminating manual scavenging.

(e): The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has not issued any guidelines for the utilization of funds.

(f): Does not arise.