

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:41

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

MANUAL SCAVENGING

Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) the details of the rehabilitation schemes being run by the Government for manual scavengers in the country along with the number of beneficiaries thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to put a blanket ban on manual scavenging in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has received a proposal from the Ministry of Railways that they may be exempted from the purview of the proposed legislation and if so, the reasons and the details thereof along with the response of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the newer forms of manual scavenging such as sewer manhole and septic tank cleaning are still in practice;and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to abolish the said practice?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI SELJA)

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

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 41 for 26.11.12 by Shri L. Raja Gopal and Shri Sugumar K. regarding `Manual Scavenging`.

(a) 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. Main components of the Scheme are skill training and financial assistance (loan and subsidy) for self-employment, as per following details:

(i) Skill training for a period upto one year, with payment of stipend @ Rs. 1,000 per month.

(ii) Loan at concessional rate of interest for self employment projects costing upto Rs. 5 lakh with provision of interest subsidy to provide for the gap between the banks` rate of interest and the rate of interest provided under the scheme (4-6% p.a.)

(iii) Capital subsidy @ 50% of the project cost, for projects upto Rs. 25,000, and @ 25% for projects above Rs. 25,000, with a minimum of Rs. 12,500 and maximum of Rs. 20,000.

79,454 beneficiaries have been covered under the scheme so far.

(b) `The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012` has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 3.9.2012. The main features of the Bill are given at Annexure.

(c) No specific request has been made by the Ministry of Railways for exemption from the purview of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012.

(d) & (e) The Bill, inter alia, prohibits the employment or engagement of persons for hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. It casts a responsibility on the employer to provide protective gear and other cleaning devices to such persons and ensure the observance of safety precautions.