

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3907  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012  
LEPROSY AFFLICTED PEOPLE  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the laws and regulations relating to marriage, insurance and elections have discriminatory provisions against leprosy afflicted people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(D.NAPOLEON)

(a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 279 for 12.12.12 by Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita regarding 'Conviction against employing manual scavengers'

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): As per the information provided by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, which is the nodal Ministry of the Government of India for 'The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993', no data is available in respect of convictions. Under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) 8,434 manual scavengers and their dependents were identified by the Government of Assam for their rehabilitation in alternative occupations, out of which all eligible and willing 5,543 manual scavengers and their dependents were provided assistance by March, 2010, for their rehabilitation in alternative occupations. However, the 'Houselisting and Housing Census, 2011 data' released by the Registrar General of India in March, 2012, shows that that there are 22,139 households, in Assam}which had latrines serviced by humans.

Presently, no other data is available in respect of the number of manual scavengers.

(c): Manual scavenging is totally prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. Therefore, the question of upgrading the manual scavengers in terms of equipments and better working conditions does not arise.