

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1360
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
BAN ON MANUAL CLEANING OF SEWERS
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) the effective steps taken by the Government to impose ban on the dangerous task of manual cleaning of sewers etc;
- (b) the scheme being implemented by the Government for the welfare of manual scavengers along with the financial allocation made there under during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of manual scavengers benefited under these schemes during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) 'The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012' has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 3.9.2012. 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.

(b) & (c) 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 (SCAs). The Scheme is demand driven. The State-wise financial allocation is not made.

A statement showing the State/UT-wise financial assistance released to the States/UTs (through State Channelising Agencies) and the number of beneficiaries covered under the Scheme, since its inception, is at Annexure.

During the years 2010-11 and 2011-12 no State had sought financial assistance under the Scheme. During the current year, an amount of Rs. 12.50 crore has been released to Uttar Pradesh based on the requirement projected by it.