

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:354
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS
Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Singh Shri Ratan

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently revised the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS);
- (b) if so, the salient features of the revised scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has launched awareness campaigns to educate the existing manual scavengers regarding the benefits of the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure effective implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 by all the States/UTs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

Statement in answer to part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.354 by Shri Yashbant N.S. Laguri and Shri Ratan Singh regarding 'Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers'.

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) Salient features of the Revised "Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" (SRMS) are :

(i) The definition of manual scavenger has been widened to include a person engaged or employed by an individual or a local authority or a public agency, for manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of, or otherwise handling in any manner, human excreta in an insanitary latrine or pit into which human excreta from an insanitary latrine is disposed of, or on a railway track, before the excreta fully decomposes.

(ii) Onetime cash assistance of Rs.40,000 to one identified manual scavenger in a family.

(iii) Provision of subsidized loans to the target group. Maximum project cost has been increased from Rs. 5 Lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs.15 lakhs in case of sanitation related projects. Maximum rate of capital subsidy has been increased to Rs.3,25,000 depending on the project cost.

(iv) Moratorium period has been increased upto 2 years.

(v) Maximum vocational training period has been increased to 2 years.

(vi) Stipend during training period has been increased to Rs.3,000 per month.

(vii) Maximum repayment period of loan including moratorium has been increased to 7 years.

(c) and (d): Concerned State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) have been requested to give wide publicity to the revised Scheme and ensure converge of all eligible beneficiaries in the shortest possible time as per the provisions of the Scheme. National Safai Karmachari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), the Nodal agency for implementation of the Scheme, has been asked to facilitate in organizing camps by States/UTs to provide single window for rehabilitation under SRMS.

(e) The "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 has come into force w.e.f. 6.12.2013. The rules under the Act have been gazetted on 12.12.2013, which would also serve as model rules for the States. A meeting was held on 20.01.2014 with the concerned State /UTs, in which the progress of implementation of the Act was reviewed. A Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) has been constituted under Section 29 of the Act to, inter alia, monitor the progress of implementation of the

Act,2013". The first meeting of the CMC was held on 28.1.2014 to monitor the progress of implementation of the Act.