

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2096
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any financial assistance is provided by the Government for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their dependents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any educational and skill development schemes for the children of manual scavengers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

- (a) & (b) Sections 13 and 16 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013) provide, inter alia, for the following measures for the rehabilitation of the identified manual scavengers:
- i. an initial one-time cash assistance, ii. scholarship to the children of manual scavenger;
 - iii. allotment of residential plot and financial assistance for house construction or a ready built house
 - iv. training in a livelihood skill to manual scavenger/ dependent with payment of stipend of at least Rs. 3000 per month per person, during the period of training,
 - v. provision for subsidy, alongwith concessional loans, to at least one adult member of the family, for taking up an alternative occupation on a sustainable basis.

For implementing the above measures Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is operating " Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)" for the rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers and their dependents. This Scheme, inter alia, provides onetime cash assistance, livelihood- skill development training with stipend, and loans with subsidy for alternative employment to identified manual scavengers and their dependents. Statewise details of financial assistance provided under SRMS since 6.12.2013, the date of coming in to force) of MS Act, 2013, through National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) are annexed.

The Department of SJ&E is also implementing a scholarship scheme for the children of persons engaged in cleaning related occupations having health hazard. Children of manual scavengers are also eligible for the benefit under this scheme.