

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4435
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
MANUAL SCAVENGERS
Udhayakumar Shri M.

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

- (a) the number of manual scavengers in the country;
- (b) the names of the States which have not yet adopted the 'Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act';
- (c) whether the Ministry has accepted the recommendations of the Sub-Group on Safai Karamcharis constituted by the Working Group on the 'Empowerment of Scheduled Castes'; and
- (d) if so, the status of implementation thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) As per the latest information available on the basis of survey undertaken in States /Union Territories, 12753 manual scavengers have been identified in 13 States.
- (b) Parliament had enacted "The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 under Article 252 of the Constitution. This Act was subsequently adopted by various States/Union Territories except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir & Rajasthan, which had their own Acts in this regard.
- (c) & (d) On the basis of the recommendations of the Sub-Group of the 12th Plan Working Group on "Empowerment of Scheduled Castes", the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) has been revised with effect from November, 2013. The main provisions of the revised SRMS are:
 - (i) Payment of Onetime Cash Assistance of Rs. 40000/- to one identified Manual Scavenger per family.
 - (ii) Skill Development Training programme with stipend of Rs. 3000/- per month for courses upto 2 years