

- (ii) Setting up of a separate National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).
- (iii) Implementation of Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).
- (iv) Implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations, including manual scavengers and those engaged in cleaning of manholes and open drains.

(b) Sanitation, including solid waste management is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government/Urban Local Bodies(ULBs) to plan, design, implement, operate and maintain the sanitation systems in the urban areas of the country. The Ministry of Urban Development is facilitating the State Governments and ULBs in implementing sanitation schemes in their cities and towns by way of providing guidelines in the form of 'Manuals on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment' and 'Municipal Solid Waste Management'.

These guidelines *inter-alia* stipulate that the local body should provide adequate protective clothing and health check up of the staff engaged in solid waste management, and also delineate the procedure for sewer cleaning, protection and safety measures during cleaning etc.

(c) The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana was launched on 1.10.07 for providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 per annum to BPL families in the unorganised sector, including safai karamcharis.

Constitutional status for NCSK

‡2974. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to give constitutional status to National Commission for Safai Karamcharis also, similar to National Minorities Commission;
- (b) whether Government feels that Balmiki, Safai Karamcharis are still a neglected lot of society in the country; and
- (c) whether Government has no sympathy for their plight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of special needs of Safai Karamcharis including manual scavengers, the Government has taken the following specific steps:—

- (i) Constitution of a National Commission for Safai Karamcharis;
- (ii) Setting up of a separate National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in unclean occupations, including manual scavengers and those engaged in cleaning of manholes and open drains; and
- (iv) Implementation of Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

Reservation of OBC

2975. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States where the Governments are unable to provide reservation for OBC in the State level services;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that OBC people of Tripura about 25 per cent of the population in the State, can not enjoy reservation in the State services because the reservation for SCs and STs has gone upto 48 per cent; and
- (d) whether Government is going to make suitable amendment in the constitution to overcome such extra-ordinary hurdles faced by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Neglect of old citizens

2976. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the old citizens in the country are neglected by their children;
- (b) whether Government proposes to bring any legislation to enforce children to look after their parents compulsorily; and
- (c) if so, the further reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) In view of the concerns pertaining to the care and protection of senior citizens, the Government has already enacted the [Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007]. The Act has to be brought into force through notification as provided under section 1(3) of the Act by individual State Governments. The Act *inter-alia* provides for the maintenance, health care, shelter and protection of life and property of the senior citizens.

Lifting area restriction in matter of extending SC/ST status

2977. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state whether Government could examine the problem of lifting area restriction in the matter of extending Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes status to those