

(a) whether any window of hope has been launched by Mayurbhanj District which offers a single window system with decentralization of service delivery at block level and has re-engineered complex procedures/processes to suit the needs of physically challenged people to get the prescribed disabilities certificates on the camp site, free of cost; and

(b) if so, whether Government would study this system and replicate its application throughout the country to enable 100 per cent issuance of disabilities certificates, so that a suitable database could be created for such persons at district, State and national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) 'Window of Hope' was a special mission launched in 2006-07 in Mayurbhanj District, Orissa. Under this mission, single window camps were organized at the block level to provide various services to physically challenged persons free of cost, including issue of disability certificates. Similar services were provided at the block level all over the State of Orissa in 2007-08 and 2008-09. The system can be adapted suitably by other States.

Safai Karamcharis

†2973. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of efforts have been made to bring the Safai Karamcharis into the mainstream to abolish untouchability in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the workers of this category are not provided proper facilities due to which they suffer from several diseases and they die a sudden death; and

(c) whether Government proposes to make any plan to give compensation to them and for the welfare of such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) With a view to effectively implement the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities), Act, 1989, to check instances of untouchability and atrocity, Central assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for strengthening of the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, inter caste marriages, awareness generation, and relief and rehabilitation of the persons affected.

In addition, Government has taken following steps to bring the Safai Karamcharis into mainstream of the society:—

(i) Setting up of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (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.