

(a) the number of cities and towns in India which have become scavenging-free; and

(b) by when India will be free from this most enslaving, degrading and dehumanising occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), 18 States/UTs had identified 1.18 lakh manual scavengers and their dependents. As reported by the States/State Channelising Agencies, all the eligible and willing beneficiaries have been given loan under the Scheme for taking up alternative occupations. However, the States/U.Ts have been requested to confirm that all the beneficiaries have been suitably rehabilitated in their alternative occupations.

Under the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme(ILCS) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, dry latrines are converted into pour flush latrines for liberating manual scavengers from the practice of carrying night soil. Only Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have reported existence of dry latrines in their States. ILCS aims at conversion of all dry latrines by December, 2010.

Death of sweeper due to poisonous gases

‡511. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year sweepers die due to poisonous gases while cleaning sewers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to move any proposal to provide suits, masks and security equipments to those workers who work in main holes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis 13 such deaths took place throughout the country during the years 2009 and 2010.

The Government has constituted a working Group in the Ministry of Labour and Employment to look into the issue pertaining to Sanitation Workers and Leather Workers in the country, and of

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

framing legislation for certain matters relating to such workers.

Schemes for SCs/STs/OBCs

512. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing schemes for the welfare of SCs/STs/OBCs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the funds released and spent for each schemes and year-wise and State-wise; and
- (d) the new schemes which are under consideration for the welfare of minorities especially in the rural areas to benefit the women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme-wise, State-wise details of some of the major centrally-sponsored schemes being implemented by the Government for the welfare and development of SCs/STs & OBC during the last 3 years are given in Statement-I (a) to (d), statement-II (a) to (c) and Statement-III (See below)

(d) There is no new scheme under consideration for welfare of minority women. A scheme of leadership development of minority women has been launched by Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2009-10.

Statement-I

A. State-wise and year-wise details of Central Assistance released under the scheme for implementation of the PCR Act 1955 and the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 during 2007-08 to 2009-10

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2007-2008	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	310.49	787.56	878.79
2.	Assam	09.50	-	-
3.	Bihar	26.63375	27.28	55.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	53.27	40.748	40.644