

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (d) All port projects are undertaken by Major Ports after getting the Environmental/CRZ Clearances from Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF). After undertaking of detailed Comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study as per Rules and Regulations of MoEF's and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, the port projects are taken up.

**New law to manual scavenging**

580. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Manual (Scavengers) and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 has failed to eradicate the dehumanizing practice even 18 years after its enactment;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether in view of its failure, Government has a proposal to enact a new law to end manual scavenging in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Certain instances of manual scavenging have been brought to this ministry's notice, which have been referred to concerned State Governments for verification and rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers.

(c) and (d) The matter is being examined.

**Evaluation of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship**

581. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) total number of amount disbursed under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST students in higher education;

(b) whether the Ministry or the UGC has evaluated the scheme since its inception in 2005-06;

(c) whether there have been cases where SC/ST students' applications for Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship got rejected; and

(d) if yes, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) During 2010-11, an amount of Rs. 141.71 crore for SC students and Rs.70.35 crore for ST students was released by University Grants Commission (UGC) under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) Schemes for them.

(b) No Sir. However, the implementation of the Scheme is periodically reviewed. The RGNF Scheme for SCs has been revised with effect from 1-4-2010. The number of fellowships to be awarded each year has been increased from 1333 to 2000. The rates of fellowship awarded under the Scheme have also been increased.

(c) and (d) There are 2000 and 667 fresh fellowships available every year for allotment to SC and ST students respectively. The selection is made on the basis of inter-se merit of the applicants, by an Expert Committee constituted by UGC and the applications exceeding the prescribed seats get rejected.

#### **Rehabilitation centre in Madhya Pradesh**

†582. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposal received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up and operating deaddiction-cum-rehabilitation centre and the total number of pending proposal at present;

(b) the quantum of amount involved in the State Government proposal at present and the action taken by the Ministry after receiving the proposal till date; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for disposal of proposals? and

(d) if yes, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) During 2010-11, 17 proposals for grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.157.68 lakhs were received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for running of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.