

- (b) whether a few of the State Governments have also demanded the same steps from the Centre;
- (c) if so, the response of the Centre in this regard;
- (d) the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has any time bound plan to implement this programme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Commission for Economically Backward Classes has submitted its report to the Government. Recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

(b) to (f) No such proposal/demand has been received from the State Governments during the last year.

#### **Manual Scavenging**

3836. DR. T.N. SEEMA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that manual scavenging is still continuing in the country despite it is banned under the law;
- (b) the estimate of the number of people engaged in manual scavenging, State-wise;
- (c) how many cases have been charged against the officials who do not enforce the implementation of the laws against manual scavenging;
- (d) how many convictions have taken place in the cases of related offences during the past five years; and
- (e) whether Government is aware that caste discrimination is still forcing the dalits in many parts of the country to resort to manual scavenging for a living?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN HE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) As per 'Houselisting and Housing Census, 2011, data released by the Registrar General of India, there were

7.94 lakh latrines in the country from which night soil was removed by humans. However, the number of persons still engaged in manual scavenging is not available.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is the nodal Ministry for 'The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993', and as per information provided by it, no data is available in this regard.

(e) A report of 2002 of the National Human Rights Commission entitled "Report on Prevention of Atrocities Against Scheduled Castes", *inter alia*, had stated that "...those involved in manual scavenging do not have the real freedom to withdraw from the arrangement of servicing dry latrines on their own will as they are forcibly dragged to this work by those who have dry latrines in their houses..."

#### **Process of obtaining the disability certificate**

3837. SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to simplify the process of obtaining disability certificate;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that accordingly Government is considering to amend the Persons with Disabilities Rules, 1996;

(c) whether Government will include the clause whereby a lady can easily change her surname after marriage; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996 have been amended and simplified vide this Ministry's notification no. 16-02/2007-DD-III dated 30-12-2009. The amended rules enable a simplified and decentralized procedure for issue of disability certificate. Disability certificate can now be issued by a single Doctor in respect of obvious disabilities at the level of Primary Health Centre (PHCs)/Government Medical Practitioner, Community Health Centres and Hospitals at the Sub-Divisional level. In case of non obvious disabilities, certificate can be issued by a specialist. Only in case of multiple disability, a multi member Board is required. Further, Disability Certificate is to be issued as far as possible within 7 days from the date of application but in any case not later than one month.