

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.

State Governments have also been requested to make similar amendments in their Persons with Disabilities Rules and notify their medical authorities accordingly.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is not required, as the guidelines/criteria applicable in respect of all women regarding change of their surname after marriage would also apply in the case of women with disabilities.

#### **National Commission Report on Weaker Sections**

†3838. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the National Commission has submitted a report to the Government for the development of the economically weaker sections, if so, the action taken by Government in this regard, the details thereof?

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

#### **Schemes for SCs in the Country**

3839. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

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

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for the development of scheduled castes in the country, State-wise including Gujarat;

(b) whether these schemes are working as per the targets;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that these schemes are implemented as per Government directions?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Ministry is extending financial assistance to the States/UTs and other implementing agencies for

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.