Abolition of manual scavenging

426. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has set a dead line of six months to end manual scavenging, as Government has renewed its focus on the abhorrent practice which has eluded compete abolition for over six decades;

(b) which are the States, districts and villages in India where manual scavenging is still going on, ever after nearly 65 years since we achieved our independence;

(c) whether Government would immediately ban manual scavenging on a war footing by an Act, punishing the offenders; and simultaneously rehabilitating the scavengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) During a Conference of State Ministers of Welfare and Social Justice held in June, 2011, the Prime Minister had, in his inaugural address, urged States to eliminate manual scavenging within the next six months.

(b) Certain instances of manual scavenging have been brought to this Ministry's notices, which have been refereed to concerned State Governments viz. Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, for verification and rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers.

(c) and (d) Employment of persons as manual scavengers is already prohibited under "The Employment of Mannual Scavengers and Consturction of Dry Latrins (Prohibition) Act, 1993", and is a criminal offence under it. Remaining manual scavengers, identified by concerned State/UT, are meant to be rehabilitated under the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabiliation of Mannual Scavengers.

Rehabiliation of mentally challenged persons

427. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented a specific shemes for rehabilitation of mentally challenged persons in the country with proper medical facilities by providing assitance to NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has also contemplated any other scheme for providing periodical medical facilities to those mentally challenged people; and