

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the States which have not been able to abolish the practice of manual scavenging;

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct any fresh survey to know the actual number of manual scavengers in the country;

(d) whether Government has prepared any action plan including introduction of a new legislation to eradicate manual scavenging in the country; and

(e) whether Government considers granting of a monthly pension of Rs.2000 to the manual scavengers who are rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As per the "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) The ongoing Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011, in rural India is, *inter alia*, capturing the data about the manual scavengers in the rural areas, including the non-statutory towns. A fresh survey of the manual scavengers in the statutory towns is also planned and a pilot has been initiated in 5 districts.

(d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has introduced "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012", in Lok Sabha, on 3.9.2012, to, *inter alia*, eliminate the manual scavenging in the country.

(e) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration.

**Effect of power restrictions and escalating costs on textiles industry**

1376. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry in Tamil Nadu alone is losing about Rs. 300 crore a day due to fall in production because of power restrictions and escalating costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry has written to the Ministry of Power and Ministry of Textiles for continuation of the previous liberal power purchase policy as the industry finds it extremely difficult to face the Double whammy of this regulation by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is overall shortage of power in the country including Tamil Nadu. Specifically for Tamil Nadu, for the period April, 2012 - October, 2012, the energy deficit is 16.2% as against all India average deficit of 8.6%. There are reports of considerable under-utilization of capacity by textiles mills due to power shortage in Tamil Nadu. In respect of National Textile Corporation (NTC), seven working units in the State reported fall in production and losses due to power cuts.

(c) Ministry of Textiles has no information in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Easing of jute packing norms for sugar**

1377. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has eased the jute packing mandatory norms for sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that henceforth 40 per cent of sugar output to be packed in jute material; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Textiles has notified that minimum 40% of the production of sugar shall be packed in jute packaging material manufactured in India from raw jute produced in India, for supply or distribution, during the Jute Year 2012-13 i.e. upto 30 June, 2013. The provision, however, shall not apply to:

(i) Sugar fortified with Vitamins;

(ii) Packaging for export of the commodities;

(iii) Small consumer packs of twenty-five kilograms and below; and

(iv) Bulk Packaging of more than one hundred kilograms.