

**Eradication of manual scavenging**

\*167. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has recently taken up the cause of eradicating manual scavenging, an inhuman and outlawed practice that still exists in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been given any directions and assistance in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the entire country will be free from the menace of manual scavenging?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (d) There are various ongoing measures and schemes which are being implemented for eliminating manual scavenging. In addition, the Government has introduced "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2012". in the Lok Sabha on 3.9.2012. The Bill, *inter alia*, seeks to prohibit the insanitary latrines and provides for comprehensive rehabilitation of manual scavengers. It also stipulates a strict time frame for ensuring complete elimination of manual scavenging.

(b) and (c) State Governments have been requested to review the situation of manual scavenging, in their respective States, in the light of the "Houselisting and Housing Census data, 2011", and take immediate corrective actions to eliminate manual scavenging.

Central assistance is released to the States, under the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for conversion of dry latrines into sanitary latrines and construction of new sanitary latrines in urban areas. The States/UTs are also released Central assistance under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (earlier Total Sanitation Campaign), which, *inter alia*, includes a component for conversion of dry latrines in rural areas. Manual scavengers and their dependents, in various States/UTs, are also provided financial assistance for their rehabilitation in alternative occupations, under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.