

50 <i>Written Answers to</i>		[RAJYA SABHA]	<i>Starred Questions</i>	
1	2	3	4	5
26.	Goa	250		
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			
28.	Mizoram			
29.	Puducherry	250	500	250
30.	Meghalaya		250	
TOTAL		75000	30000	51750

Conviction against employing manual scavengers

*279. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 is still a valid Act;

(b) if so, whether there has been any conviction made against people engaging them and the number of manual scavengers in Assam; and

(c) the details of action Ministry is taking to upgrade the manual scavengers in terms of equipments and better working conditions?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, which is the nodal Ministry of the Government of India for "The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993", no data is available in respect of convictions.

Under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) 8,434 manual scavengers and their dependents were identified by the Government of Assam for their rehabilitation in alternative occupations, out of which all eligible and willing 5,543 manual scavengers and their dependents were provided assistance by March, 2010, for their rehabilitation in alternative occupations.

However, the "Houselisting and Housing Census, 2011 data" released by the Registrar General of India in March, 2012, shows that there are 22,139 households in Assam, which had latrines serviced by humans.

Presently, no other data is available in respect of the number of manual scavengers.

(c) Manual scavenging is totally prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. Therefore, the question of upgrading the manual scavengers in terms of equipments and better working conditions does not arise.

Helping the handloom sector

*280. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handloom sector is facing stiff competition from powerloom and mill sector due to inherent disadvantage of low productivity and high labour component;

(b) if so, how his Ministry proposes to address this problem and help handloom sector;

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare handloom sector as priority sector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of success that the Ministry has achieved through its schemes such as Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Marketing and Promotion Scheme, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom agencies to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers. 10% Price subsidy on Hank yarn on Cotton and Silk yarn to handloom weavers and their cooperative societies is also provided under the scheme. To enable handloom weavers to access the subsidized credit, the Government has approved Weavers Credit Card and is providing margin money assistance @ Rs. 4200/- per weaver, 3% interest subvention