

mechanism and FPS automation has been taken up.

States/UTs have prepared their action plans regarding computerisation. Detailed guidelines and timelines for achieving specific milestones have been sent to States/UTs. A Plan Scheme for providing infrastructural and financial support has been approved.

Inclusion of manual scavengers under NRLM

*337. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to include manual scavengers under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM); and

(b) the manner in which Government is going to identify them for the purposes of NRLM, when it denies their existence?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) is being implemented across the country in a mission mode in a phased manner for targeted and time bound delivery of results. There are estimated 7.0 crore rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) households (2010 projections of BPL households). NRLM's mandate is to reach out to all the poor families, link them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities and nurture them till they come out of abject income poverty. In order to ensure that no poor family is left out, NRLM would use differential strategies for social inclusion and mobilization of all identified BPL households into functionally effective and self-managed institutions, with particular focus on more vulnerable sections like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, particularly vulnerable tribal groups, single women and women headed households, disabled, landless, migrant labour, isolated communities and communities living in disturbed areas. It would identify the poorest and the most vulnerable amongst the BPL, which would also include manual scavengers, through participatory vulnerability assessment and ranking. The poorest and the most vulnerable will be prioritised for imparting the benefits under NRLM.