

**Implementation of Manual Scavengers Act**

412. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is effectively implementing the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013;

(b) the number of local authorities that have completed survey of insanitary latrines within their jurisdiction, details thereof;

(c) the number of dry latrines that have been demolished after the commencement of the Act;

(d) the number of persons that have been rehabilitated under different schemes under the Act; and

(e) the challenges faced by Government in the implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) The primary responsibility for implementing the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 lies with the States/Union Territories. The issue of effective implementation of the Act has been vigorously pursued by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment with the States/UTs.

(b) and (c) As per the information received from 12 State Governments/UT Administrations, 77,985 local authorities have completed the survey of insanitary latrines, which include dry latrines, and have demolished/converted 1, 39,615 insanitary into sanitary latrines.

(d) Under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), so far 1,390 identified and eligible persons have been provided onetime cash assistance of Rs. 40,000/-.

(e) The process of survey of the insanitary latrines and manual scavengers across all the States/UTs is at varying stages, which needs to be completed on priority. Comprehensive rehabilitation of all identified manual scavengers is also to be ensured.

**Revamping of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh**

413. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

KUMARI SELJA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to revamp Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and scrap Women Self Help Groups: and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) It has been decided to extend skill development/capacity building for livelihood creation activities through training/workshop besides lending credit to women through Intermediary organizations (IMOs) for their empowerment with a view to strengthen and revamp RMK. However, there is no proposal to scrap Women Self Help Groups.

#### **Rehabilitation of sex workers**

†414. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to legalise the prostitution, if so, the details thereof:

(b) whether Government is also willing to rehabilitate sex workers, if so, whether Government intends to amend Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 for them;

(c) whether Government has also made an assessment of the enforcement of the above law and its impact on the lives of sex workers; and

(d) If so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government is implementing 'Ujjawala' — a comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation since 04th December, 2007. The scheme is envisaged for women and children who are vulnerable to trafficking and those who are victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Sex workers who wish to be rehabilitated can also avail of rehabilitation services provided under this Scheme.

Further, the Government is implementing a number of programmes/schemes for welfare and economic empowerment of women. Sex workers who fulfil the criteria laid down in the respective programmes / schemes can avail the benefits under them. There is no proposal to amend the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 for this purpose.

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