

This Ministry has released grant-in-aid to 24 NGOs amounting to ₹ 2.03 crore located in the State of Tamil Nadu under the Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse during the financial year 2014-15 for running of de-addiction and rehabilitation centres.

Manual scavenging in Gujarat

868. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of manual scavenging has been reported from Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported in last two years and in the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the State Government to enforce the prohibition on manual scavenging and outcome of these steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) No case of manual scavenging has been reported from Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government of Gujarat has taken various measures for the implementation "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013), which include:

- (i) Declaring the Social Justice Department as Nodal Department.
- (ii) Instructions to all the concerned agencies for strict implementation of the MS Act, 2013.
- (iii) Constitution of District and Taluka level vigilance committees and State and District level survey committees.

Proposals for including caste in list of Scheduled Castes

†869 SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH; Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the request of State Government of Uttar Pradesh in December, 2014 for inclusion of 17 other backward castes in the list of Scheduled Castes is being

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.