

Plan to overcome the problems of begging

†277. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on any comprehensive action plan to overcome the problem of begging in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is special focus on transparency and accountability in the implementation of the plan if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) The States are responsible for taking necessary preventive and rehabilitative steps. As per available information, 20 States and 2 Union Territories have either enacted their own Anti-Beggary Legislation or adopted legislations enacted by other States/UTs. Presently, there is no scheme of the Central Government on Beggary. National Consultation Meetings were held with the representatives of Central/State Governments, NGOs, Institutes and Individual Experts in the field of Beggary to discuss the issues related to Beggary. In these meetings, it was *inter-alia*, recommended to explore the feasibility of framing a Central Scheme for rehabilitation of Beggars. Accordingly, a Scheme for Protection, Care and Rehabilitation of Destitutes is under formulation.

Fresh policy for jobs to differently abled persons

278. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a fresh policy framework to help differently abled persons to get jobs;

(b) whether such a policy framework has been attempted by some State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far this would help such handicapped persons to get relief in employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) In order to scale up skill training of persons with disabilities (PwDs), the National Action Plan (NAP) for skill development

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of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) has been launched in 2015. The NAP envisages skilling of PwDs through a network of empanelled training partners comprising of Government organisations and non-government organisations. The guidelines for skill development of PwDs have been framed as a part of the scheme of SIPDA {Scheme of Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995)}.

(b) and (c) State-Government specific data are not maintained in this Department.

(d) Imparting skill training to Persons with Disabilities will enhance their employability and employment prospects, both wage and self employment in trades suitable to their types of disabilities.

Rehabilitation of manual scavengers

279. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their families including the details of skill training provided to them along with the number of beneficiaries covered and funds spent there under during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of prosecutions, if any, under the laws enacted for prohibition of manual scavenging in the country during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the further steps proposed to be taken by Government for eradication of manual scavenging, in coordination with the States, in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) The Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) has been revised in accordance with the provision of "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013" (MS Act, 2013) to provide the following benefits to the identified manual scavengers and their dependants:

(i) Onetime cash assistance of ₹ 40000/- to identified manual scavengers.

(ii) Loans for project cost upto ₹ 15.00 lacs on concessional rates of interest.