

- (i) Proposals of NGOs for release of grant-in-aid are considered on the basis of recommendations of the State Governments/UTs, Satisfactory reports of inspection carried out annually and completeness of the proposal in all respect as per the norms and guidelines of the Scheme.
- (ii) Subsequent grant are released to the implementing agencies only on receipt of audited statement of accounts and utilization certificates of the grants received in the previous year.
- (iii) Further, to bring about transparency and timely disposal of cases of release of funds, while sanctioning the grants to NGOs, this Ministry has started processing of proposals online from 2014-15.

The Government of India announced the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), 1999. The Policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, healthcare, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

Subsequently, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act was passed in 2007 to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act provides for maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals; revocation of transfer of property by senior citizen in case of negligence by relatives; penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens; establishment of Old Age Homes for indigent senior citizens; adequate medical facilities and security for senior citizens and protection of life and property.

Demand for eradication of manual scavenging

586. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Association of Safai Karmachari has met Hon'ble Prime Minister and demanded eradication of manual scavenging, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether they have staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar demanding eradication of manual scavenging, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for alleviation of their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) No Sir.

(b) No communication has been received by this Ministry in this regard. However, it has been reported in the media that a dharna was held at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 13.04.2016 by Safai Karamcharis on the occasion of culmination of their “Bhim Yatra”.

(c) As regards steps taken by the Government to address the problems of manual scavengers, Parliament has enacted “The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” in September, 2013, which has come into force with effect from 06.12.2013 in whole of the country, except Jammu and Kashmir. This Act intends to, *inter-alia*, achieve the following objectives:-

- (i) Eliminate the Insanitary Latrines
- (ii) Prohibit:—
 - (a) Employment as Manual Scavengers.
 - (b) Hazardous Manual Cleaning of Sewer and septic tanks.
- (iii) Survey of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation.

The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers has been revised as per the provisions of MS Act, 2013 to provide rehabilitation to the identified manual scavengers. The benefits under the scheme include onetime cash assistance of ₹ 40000/- each, skill development training with stipend of ₹ 3000/- per month and loans at concessional rate of interest and with capital subsidy for taking up alternative self employment projects. of the 12,226 manual scavengers reported by the States, 10,031 identified manual scavengers have been paid onetime cash assistance of ₹ 40,000/- each upto 18.04.2016. In addition, financial assistance for comprehensive rehabilitation has been provided to 97 manual scavengers and proposal for skill development training for 2390 candidates have been sanctioned.

Closure of Government run hostels for SC and OBC

587. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many Government run hostels are there in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to close down hostels being run for SC and OBC students in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) Under this Ministry's Scheme