

Fund for rehabilitation of manual scavengers

2698. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how much fund has the Centre allocated for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers;

(b) how much has been spent yet, the details thereof;

(c) what could be the reasons for prevalence of manual scavenging; and

(d) whether it is a fact that human excreta from whopping toilets are still removed manually, if so, why no action has been taken yet to prevent such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme, Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is implemented through National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) to provide rehabilitation benefits to the identified manual scavengers. The funds allocated in the budget and funds released to NSKFDC for implementation of the scheme in last three years:

(₹ in Crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	Funds released to NSKFDC
2017-18	5.00	5.00
2018-19	85.76	85.76
2019-20	110	69.80

An amount of ₹ 181.91 crores has been spent since 2013-14 and till date for providing rehabilitation benefits.

(c) The main reason for manual scavenging has been existence of insanitary latrines which required manual cleaning.

(d) Manual scavenging is prohibited under Section 5 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013)

with effect from 06.12.2013. No person, local authority or any agency shall, after the date of commencement of this Act,- engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, a manual scavenger, and every person so engaged or employed shall stand discharged immediately from any obligation, express or implied, to do manual scavenging.

Menace of drug mafia

2699. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that the menace of Drug Mafia preying over school children stops; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025. The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families. The activities under the NAPDDR, inter-alia, include awareness generation programmes in schools/colleges/Universities, workshops/seminars/with parents, community based peerled intervention programmes for vulnerable adolescent and youth in the community.

The Ministry has also initiated focussed intervention programmes in vulnerable districts across the country with an aim to increase community participation and public cooperation in the reduction of demand for dependence-producing substances and promote collective initiatives and self-help endeavour among individuals and groups vulnerable to addiction or found at risk.

Further, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 prohibit, the manufacture, production, trade, use etc. of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances, except for medical or scientific purposes. The Act provides for stringent penalties/rigorous provisions for illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.