

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 peer led intervention programmes for vulnerable adolescent and youth in the community.

The Ministry has also initiated focused 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.

In addition, the Ministry has also embarked on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 vulnerable districts encompassing 32 States which was asked to be launched by the States on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020, with the aim to generate awareness among the youth about ill effects of the substance use and to train responsible young population to increase community participation and public cooperation in reduction of demand for dependence-producing substances and promote collective initiatives to prevent the usage of drugs.

#### **Impact of pandemic induced lockdown on PwDs**

1263. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ascertained the impact of the pandemic induced lockdown imposition on Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiatives to ensure mental health and wellbeing of PwDs during the lockdown, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has announced any new welfare scheme during COVID-19 induced lockdown for PwDs, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) This Ministry has not conducted any

survey to assess the impact of the lockdown imposed, on Persons with Disabilities, during Covid-19 pandemic.

(b) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a toll-free (18005990019) Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline, 'Kiran' to meet the need of creating an access to emergency relief and support to the vulnerable population experiencing psychological issues. The main objectives of the Helpline are- early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental wellbeing, promoting positive behaviours, psychological crisis management etc. The helpline provides 1st stage advice, counselling and reference services in 13 languages to individuals, families, NGOs, Parent Associations, Professional Associations, Rehabilitation Institutes, Hospitals or anyone in need of support across the country.

(c) Ministry of Rural Development has informed that during COVID-19 induced lockdown ₹ 77.34 crore was released to the States/UTs under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKYP) for payment of *ex-gratia* of ₹ 1000/- in two instalments (₹ 500 each) to the 7.73 lakh existing beneficiaries of Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).

#### **National survey on manual scavenging**

1264. SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken a national survey to collect the data on 'Manual Scavenging';

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of scavengers died while on the job due to asphyxiation in the country during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken to provide protective gears like masks and other equipments while cleaning the drain; and

(e) whether Government has planned to make very stringent rule to end manual scavenging and rehabilitation of manual scavengers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): (a) Yes Sir, A national survey of