

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2717
ANSWERED ON - 11/08/2021

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD TO MANUAL SCAVENGERS

2717. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

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

- (a) the timeline that the Ministry is looking at to provide alternate livelihoods to persons earning their livelihood through manual scavenging, the details thereof;
- (b) what percentage of the manual scavengers have benefited from the self employment scheme since its launch, the details thereof;
- (c) how Ministry plans to execute the scheme further, given that the budget allocation for the same has been reduced by 9 per cent for the current financial year 2021-22, the details thereof; and
- (d) how Ministry assures that the reduction in budget allocation won't affect the beneficiaries adversely, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b) Government is committed to provide assistance for alternate livelihood to identified manual scavengers. The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) has been extended by the Government upto 31.03.2026 to provide assistance to the identified manual scavengers and their dependants for their rehabilitation in alternate occupations.

Efforts are made to rehabilitate those identified manual scavengers in alternate suitable and sustainable employment, who express their willingness for availing assistance for skill development training or self employment. Details of manual scavengers who have been provided assistance for their rehabilitation in alternate occupations under SRMS Scheme, are as under:-

S. No.	Component	Number of beneficiaries covered	Percentage of beneficiaries covered
1.	One Time Cash Assistance	58098	100%
2.	Skill Development Training	16057	27.6%
3.	Capital Subsidy for Self Employment Projects	1387	2.4%

Evaluation studies undertaken to review the Scheme indicate increase in the household income of the beneficiaries and positive effect on their lives after skill training.

(c) & (d) There is no shortage of funds for the alternative livelihoods of the rehabilitated manual scavengers. Payment of One Time Cash Assistance to identified manual scavengers, which is a major component of the scheme, has been fully implemented. Other benefits are provided only to those who are ready.
