

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 30 per cent ships of the SCI are single hull ships, thereby are not able to go EU due to ban;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the changes in the regulations in other parts of the World would not erode the valuation of SCI's share in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. Only some European countries have banned entry of single hull ships over 20 years of age from carrying heavy crude and fuel oil in their ports. The ban is not expected to affect the Shipping Corporation of India tanker fleet as its single hull tankers do no call at European Union ports.

(b) and (c) The restriction on single hull ships is for tankers only. Shipping Corporation of India has only 23 nos. of single hull crude oil tankers and only 9 nos. of single hull product tankers.

(d) No, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India has been proactive in its tonnage replacement plans and all new tankers acquired after 1994 are double hull tankers. The future acquisition would be double hull tankers in its fleet which would also comply with the IMO guidelines to maintain its competitive position in the shipping industry.

National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

1613. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objectives of the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers setout for providing alternative, dignified and viable occupation to scavengers and their dependents have been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent on the scheme so far; and

(d) the steps taken for its effective implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers is a continuing process. As per the information provided by the States/UTs, 4.08 lakhs scavengers have been assisted for rehabilitation and 1.56 lakhs have been trained up to 2001-2002, out of 6.76 lakhs identified scavengers. The remaining scavengers are being rehabilitated by 2007 through the "National Action Plan for Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by 2007" prepared by the Planning Commission.

(c) As amount of Rs. 712.14 crores has so far been released to the State/UTs under the scheme.

(d) The Ministry reviews the scheme periodically with the States/ UTs with a view to making implementation of the scheme more effective. To revitalise the scheme, some of its parameters were modified in 1996. The concept of Sanitary Mart has been introduced for rehabilitation of scavengers in groups. A "National Action Plan for Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by 2007" is under implementation by the Government.

Old Age Homes in A.P. under NGOs

1614. SHRI N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Old Age Homes being operated by NGOs in Andhra Pradesh alongwith the names of the respective NGOs, which have sought Government's grant-in-aid during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 and the amounts sanctioned so far; and

(b) the details of the applications pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) District-wise details of the Old Age Homes operated by NGOs in Andhra Pradesh alongwith the names of the respective NGOs and grant in aid given by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 31.7.2003) under the scheme "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" (Plan Scheme) are given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) Details of the applications for setting up Old Age Homes in respect of Andhra Pradesh pending with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during last two years are given in Statement-II.