

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1232
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018**

DEATH DUE TO MANUAL SCAVENGING

1232. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of deaths have been reported of workers engaged in manual scavenging/sewer cleaning;
- (b) if so, the number of such people who died during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) what action has been taken by Government to provide support to the affected families including employment; and
- (d) whether Government would consider making it mandatory for all corporations and institutions to use machines for cleaning deep sewers and septic tanks?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a): No Sir. Deaths reported are not due to Manual Scavenging but due to hazardous cleaning of septic tank/sewer.

(b) and (c): State-wise details of death of persons in sewers/septic tanks which have come to the notice of the Ministry from individuals and through press reportings are at **Annexure**. These cases have been referred to the concerned State Government for providing compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each to the family members of the victims in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 27.03.2014 in Civil Writ Petition No. 583 of 2003.

(d): Under Section 7 of "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) 'no person, local authority or any agency shall, from such date as the State Government may notify, which shall not be later than one year from the date of commencement of this Act, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank'. Under Rule 3 of "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013" (MS Rules, 2013), No person shall be allowed to clean a sewer manually, with the protective gear and safety devices under these rules except:

- (i) for the removal of concrete or FRP (Fibre Reinforced Plastic) or damaged manhole door where mechanical equipments cannot be put into operation.

- (ii) for inter-linking the newly laid sewer main with the existing sewer main, in case of sewer of size of more than 300 mm diameter.
- (iii) for removal of submersible pump sets fixed at the bottom of the suction wells.
- (iv) for the reconstruction of the manhole or rectification of the sewer main.
- (v) any circumstance, when it is absolutely necessary to have manual sewage cleaning, after the Chief Executive Officer of the local authority has permitted to do so after recording in writing the specific valid reasons for allowing such cleaning.

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD)

(a) No. 25 - Issue reported is not due to manual scavenging but due to irregular cleaning of sewage tank.

(b) and (c) State has decided to shift its focus on sewerage tanks which have come to the notice of the Ministry from individuals and through press reports etc. At present these cases have been referred to the concerned State Government for providing compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each to the family members of the victims in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 25.07.2014 in Civil Writ Petition No. 287 of 2012.

The Hon'ble Section 7 of the Act of employment as manual scavenger and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, which is in force, local authority or any agency shall from such date as the State Government may notify, which shall not be later than one year from the date of commencement of this Act, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for manual scavenging or a waste or a sewage tank. Under Rule 3 of the Rules of 2013, State Government may employ, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for manual scavenging and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. The Hon'ble Section 7 of the Act of employment as manual scavenger and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, which is in force, local authority or any agency shall from such date as the State Government may notify, which shall not be later than one year from the date of commencement of this Act, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for manual scavenging or a waste or a sewage tank. Under Rule 3 of the Rules of 2013, State Government may employ, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for manual scavenging and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

(d) In the event of occurrence of fire, fire fighting equipment should be put in operation immediately when the fire outbreak occurs.

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to Parts (b) and (c) of Rajya Sabha unstarred Question No. 1232 for answer on 20.12.2018 regarding death due to manual scavenging.

Details of cases of death of persons in sewers/septic tanks which have come to the notice Department from individuals/through Press.

Sl. No.	State/UT	District/Place	Year	Number of cases	Reported by	Date of reporting	Date of reference to the State Government
1	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	2011	1	Chandigarh Dalit Welfare Association	March 2016	05.04.2016
		Chandigarh	2012	1	-do-	-do-	-do-
2		Chandigarh	2014	1	-do-	-do-	-do-
3		Panchkula	2015	3	-do-	-do-	-do-
4	Total			6			
5	Chhattisgarh	Surajpur, Chhattisgarh	2017	4	Newspaper	23.08.2017	12.09.2017
6		Jashpur District	2018	5	Newspaper	16.09.2018	24.09.2018
		Total		9			
7	NCT Delhi	Swaroop Nagar, Delhi	2015	2	Newspaper	August, 2015	27.08.2015
8		Keshopur, Delhi*	2015	1	Newspaper	13.11.2015	17.11.2015
9		Ghitroni, Delhi	2017	4	Newspaper	15.07.2017	17.07.2017
10		Lajpat Nagar	2017	3	Newspaper	07.08.2017	07.08.2017
11		Anand Vihar	2017	2	Newspaper	13.08.2017	24.08.2017
12		Loknayak Jaiprakash Hospital	2017	1	Newspaper	21.08.2017	07.09.2017
13		Mundka	2017	2	Newspaper	18.09.2017	05.10.2017
14		Vivanta by Taj Ambaessdor hotel, Khan Market	2018	2	Newspaper	30.04.2018	07.05.2018
15		DLF Capital Greens Apartment in Moti Nagar, New Delhi.	2018	4	Newspaper	10.09.2018	12.09.2018
16		Jahangir Puri, Delhi	2018	1	Newspaper	21.10.2018	22.10.2018
		Total		22			
17	Gujarat	Mehasna,	2014	3	Member, NCSK	16.04.2014	17.04.2014
18		Thangadh	2017	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	11.12.2017	01.01.2018
		Total		5			
19	Haryana	Dabwali, Sirsa	2014	2	Newspaper	26.05.2014	28.05.2014
20		Hero Honda Chowk,	2017	3	Newspaper	30.09.2017	05.10.2017

		Gurugram					
21		Palwal	2018	2	Newspaper	-	08.02.2018
22		Sewer Treatment Plant, MTS Surya Vihar Colony, Sector-9A, Gurugram	2018	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	18.05.2018	11.06.2018
	Total			8			
23	Karnataka	Jayamahal, Bengaluru	2015	2	Newspaper	August, 2015	24.08.2015
24		ND Septal Apartment, Somasundarapalya in HSR layout	2018	3	Safai Karamchari Andolan	January, 2018	08.02.2018
25		Yumluk Restaurant at AECS Layout, Marathahalli,	2018	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	13.02.2018	23.02.2018
	Total			7			
26	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	1993	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
27		Bhopal	2008	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
28		Reeva	2012	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
29		Shivpuri	2014	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
30		Morena	2014	2	Member, Madhya Pradesh State Safai Karamchari Commission	19.06.2014	25.07.2014
31		Bhopal	2015	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
32		Devas	2017	4	Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan	30.07.2017	07.09.2017
	Total			14			
33	Maharashtra		2017	1	Website of thequint.com	31.10.2017	21.11.2017
34		Khambalpada, Dombivli MIDC	2018	3	Newspaper	26.10.2018	30.10.2018
	Total			4			
35	Punjab	Patti	2017	2	Newspaper (The Tribune)	03.05.2017	09.05.2017
36		Shimlapuri, Ludhiana	2018	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	13.03.2018	13.04.2018
35		Firozepur	2018	2	Newspaper	03.06.2018	12.06.2018
	Total			5			
37	Rajasthan	Pushkar	2015	3	State Government, Rajasthan	09.12.2015	22.12.2015
38		Udaipur	2017	4	Newspaper (Rajasthan Patrika)	-	28.04.2017
	Total			7			
39	Tamil Nadu	Ramnad	2004	1	Representation of victims mother	20.07.2015	31.07.2015
40		Okkiyam Pettai, Chennai	2016	4	Newspaper	20.01.2016	22.01.2016
41		Chennai	2006	1	Representation of victims mother	21.04.2006	19.02.2018
42		Kanchipuram, Chennai	2018	3	Safai Karamchari Andolan	14.02.2018	14.03.2018
	Total			9			

43	Telangana	Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad	2014	2	Website of Asian Human Rights Commission	06.6.2014	22.07.2014
44		Madhapur, Hyderabad	2016	4	Newspaper	14.08.2016	23.08.2016
45		Sanathnagar, Hyderabad	2018	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	18.12.2017	10.01.2018
	Total			8			
46	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	2010	2	Representation of victims mother	10.07.2015	16.07.2015
47		Max Hospital, Dehradun	2013	3	Website of ibnlive.in.com Through Member, NCSK	20.05.2014	22.05.2014
	Total			5			
48	Uttar Pradesh	Noida	2014	2	Website of indiatvnews.com through Member, NCSK	24.02.2014	19.03.2014
49		Lucknow	2014	1	Representation received from Sh. Ram Singh Balmiki	July, 2016	05.07.2016
50		Goverdhan, Mathura	2015	3	Newspaper	18.12.2015	22.12.2015
51		Allahabad	2015	1	Newspaper	10.04.2015	01.05.2015
52		Varanasi	2015	1	Newspaper	18.04.2016	02.05.2016
53		Sector 54, Noida	2017	1	Newspaper	15.04.2017	28.04.2017
54		Sector-110, Noida	2017	3	Newspaper	21.09.2017	10.10.2017
55		Loni, Ghaziabad	2018	3	Newspaper	11.07.2018	19.07.2018
	Total			15			
55	Andhra Pradesh	Poultry Farm of Venkateswara Hatcheries Limited in Moram village, Chittoor	2018	7	Newspaper	16.02.2018	19.02.2018
	Total			7			
	Grand total			131			