

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 440
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2018**

PROTECTION OF CLEANLINESS WORKERS

440. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

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

- (a) what schemes/projects are being undertaken to protect the health and life of cleanliness workers cleaning the underground sewage system in the light of recent deaths; and
- (b) whether there is any scheme to provide them with safety gear for work?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): under Section 7 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks is prohibited. Under "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013" (MS Rules, 2013) the employer is required to ensure protective gear and safety precautions to the persons engaged for cleaning sewers/septic tanks and also ensure post cleaning safety precautions after a session of cleaning.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under Atal Mission of Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) provides Central Assistance to States for projects relating to sewerage and septage management. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission promotes construction of twin leach pit toilets eliminating the need for underground sewage/drainage system.

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) in coordination with Skill Council Green Jobs organizes training of 35 hours duration on usage of mechanized sanitation equipment, precautions for hazards cleaning, life skills and income generation activities to sanitation workers employed contractually or on ad-hoc basis by municipalities. It also organizes health camps for sanitation workers.

NSKFDC also organizes sensitization workshops in municipalities for engineers, sanitary inspectors, sanitary workers and contractors on safe cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and also create awareness about the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 and MS Rules, 2013 regarding employer's obligations to provide safety gear/equipment and ensure safety precautions.
