

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1582
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.03.2020**

DIRECTIVES TO STATES ON SAFETY OF SAFAI KARAMCHARIS

1582. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) whether Government maintains data on the number of safai karamcharis who have died due to health and safety hazards related to cleaning sewers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of when such a study is planned;
- (c) the measures in place to protect the health and safety of safai karamcharis cleaning sewers;
- (d) the details of the States that implement safety procedures for safai karamcharis; and
- (e) the directives issued to States that do not implement safety procedures for safai karamcharis?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b): The data regarding the number of persons died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks is collected from time to time from the States and Union Territories. State-wise details of such data furnished by States is at **Annexure**.
- (c): National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) has been organizing health-cum-awareness camps to provide free medical checkup and medicines. 142 such camps have been organized during 2017-19. NSKFDC organizes 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 MS Act, 2013 and MS Rules, 2013 regarding employer's obligations to provide safety gear/equipment and ensure safety precautions. 500 such workshops have been organized from 02nd October, 2018 to 25.02.2020. The Ministry is trying to ensure that tenets of MS Act & MS Rules regarding hazardous cleaning are implemented in totality. In light of the same, all Municipalities have been directed to ensure cleaning of sewer and septic tanks as per rules.
- (d) & (e): As per the provision of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013", it is the obligation of Employer towards employees who are engaged in cleaning of sewer or septic tanks to provide gear, safety devices, cleaning devices. The employer shall ensure that the assigned person has life insurance policy of at least ten lakh Rupees and the premium for which shall be paid by the employer. These Rules are to be complied by all the employers who engage person for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Workshops are organized in the municipalities from time to time to sensitize about the statutory provisions regarding safety measures to be ensured by the local bodies and contractors who engage sanitation workers.

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha unstarred question No. 1582 for answer on 04.03.2020 regarding Directives to States on safety of Safai Karamcharis.

Details of cases of death of persons died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks since 1993 upto 31.01.2020 and compensation paid to the families as reported by the States to National Commission of Safai Karamcharis.

S No	Name of State/UT	Total Number of sewer death	Status of payment of compensation in terms of Supreme Court Judgment dated 27.03.2014				
			10 Lac	Less than 10 Lac	FIR lodge under the Section or MS Act, 2013 or PoA Act	No Payment / payment not yet confirmed	Legal heir not traceable
1	Andhra Pradesh	23	12	4	22	7	0
2	Bihar	12	0	6	6	6	0
3	Chhatisgarh	1	1	0	5	0	0
4	Chandigarh	3	3	0	0	0	0
5	Delhi	89	48	25	46	16	0
6	Goa	6	0	6	6	0	0
7	Gujarat	161	55	44	125	32	30
8	Haryana	73	55	12	23	6	0
9	Karnataka	78	77	0	66	0	1
10	Kerala	13	13	0	8	0	0
11	Maharashtra	32	2	0	20	30	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	10	7	0	5	3	0
13	Punjab	36	28	4	4	4	0
14	Rajasthan	41	6	17	25	18	0
15	Tamil Nadu	206	190	1	28	9	6
16	Telangana	6	2	2	5	2	0
17	Tripura	2	0	2	2	0	0
18	Uttarakhand	6	1	2	3	3	0
19	Uttar Pradesh	103	44	35	21	24	0
20	West Bengal	19	14	1	0	4	0
	Total	920	558	161	420	164	37