

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1589  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.03.2020**

**CASES AND CONVICTIONS IN DEATHS OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS**

**1589. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:**

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

- (a) whether manual scavenging is still practiced across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the reported deaths of manual scavengers and people who died while cleaning septic tanks and sewers reported during last five years, State-wise;
- (c) the details of cases filed, conviction achieved, action taken against the guilty persons, compensation paid and rehabilitation of manual scavengers during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government is working on introducing technology for cleaning sewers and septic tanks, as the same is done by machines in foreign countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the roadmap for such technological intervention?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): Manual scavenging is prohibited under Section 5 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act 2013)" in all the States and Union Territories with effect from 06.12.2013, the date of coming into force of the Act. Under Section 6 of the MS Act, 2013 any contract, agreement or other instrument entered into or executed before the above date, engaging or employing persons for the purpose of manual scavenging shall, on the above date, be terminated and such contract, agreement or other instrument shall be void and inoperative. Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 5 or section 6 shall for the first contravention be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees or with both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.
- (b): There have been no reports of death of persons due to manual scavenging. However, States have reported death of persons while cleaning sewers and septic tanks. Details of such deaths during last five years as reported by States to the National Commission of Safai karamcharis are at **Annexure-I**.

(c): There has been no reported conviction under MS Act, 2013. However, State-wise details of compensation paid and First Information Reports filed during the last five years are at **Annexure-II**.

(d): Under Section 33 of the MS Act, 2013, it shall be the duty of every local authority and other agency to use appropriate technological appliances for cleaning of sewers, septic tanks and other spaces within their control with a view to eliminating the need for the manual handling of excreta in the process of their cleaning. Under Section 33 (2) it shall be the duty of the appropriate Government to promote through financial assistance incentives and otherwise, the use modern technology.

(e): An action plan has been formulated for mechanization of cleaning of sewers, septic tanks and septage in consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The Action Plan envisages appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority and setting up of well equipped Sanitation Response Unit in each district to ensure mechanical conveyance for desludging as well as cleaning of sewer/septic tanks.

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Annexure referred to part (b) of Rajya Sabha unstarred Question No 1589 for answer on 04.03.2020 "regarding cases and convictions in deaths of ~~Manual Scavengers~~ Manual Scavengers"

Annexure-I

S No	Name of State/UT	2014			2015			2016			2017			2018			2019			Grant Total			
		No. of Death	Compensation		No. of Death	Compensation		No. of Death	Compensation		No. of Death	Compensation		No. of Death	Compensation		No. of Death	Compensation		No. of Death	Compensation		
			Full	Partly		Full	Partly		Full	Partly		Full	Partly		Full	Partly		Full	Partly		Full	Partly	
1	Andhra Pradesh						3	2	1		2	2		9	7	0		2	0	0	16	11	1
2	Bihar			0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6		6	0	0		0	0	0	12	0	6
3	Chhatisgarh													1	1						1	1	0
4	Chandigarh									3	3										3	3	0
5	Delhi	1			2	2		1	0	0	13	12	0	10	10	0		8	8	0	35	32	0
6	Goa	4		4	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	6	0	6
7	Gujarat	6	3	1	7	0	6	7	0	1	7	3	0	2	1	1		16	2	11	45	9	20
8	Haryana	4	4		4	4					11	11		6	3	2		14	6	0	39	28	2
9	Kerala	2	2								1	1									3	3	0
10	Karnataka	2	2		14	13		9	9		4	4		1	1			7	7		37	36	0
11	Madhya Pradesh	4	4																		4	4	0
12	Maharashtra	2	0		0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	7	2	0		17	0	0	32	2	0
13	Punjab	1	1					2	2		4	0	2	2	0	2		3	3		12	6	4
14	Rajasthan	4		2	11	2	6	5	2	3	6	4	0	2	0	0		5	0	0	33	8	11
15	Tamil Nadu	14	14		8	7	1	10	10		7	7		9	8	0		15	10	0	63	56	1
16	Talengana				1	0	0	2	0	2				2	2	0		0	0	0	5	2	2
17	Tripura							2	0	2											2	0	2
18	Uttar Pradesh	6	3	2	10	0	8	3	2	0	18	7	5	11	5	4		21	8	10	69	25	29
19	West Bengal	1									7	7		0	0	0		2	0	0	10	7	0
	Total	51	33	9	57	28	21	48	27	11	93	61	13	68	40	9		110	44	21	427	233	84

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (c) of Rajya Sabha unstarred question No. 1589 for answer on 04.03.2020 regarding cases and convictions in deaths of manual scavengers.

Details of cases of death of persons died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks and First Information Reports and compensation paid to the families as reported by the States to National Commission of Safai Karamcharis of during the last five years.

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
Andhra Pradesh	16	11	1	16	4
Bihar	12	0	6	6	6
Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	1	0
Chandigarh	3	3	0	0	0
Delhi	38	30	1	34	7
Goa	6	0	6	6	0
Gujarat	46	20	6	37	20
Haryana	39	26	7	33	6
Karnataka	44	42	1	42	1
Kerala	11	11	0	8	0
Maharashtra	32	2	0	27	30
Madhya Pradesh	6	6	0	4	0
Punjab	12	6	3	4	3
Rajasthan	33	12	13	31	8
Tamil Nadu	60	51	1	24	7
Telangana	5	2	2	5	1
Tripura	2	0	2	2	0
Uttar Pradesh	72	29	29	22	14
West Bengal	13	8	1	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>111</b>