GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3349**
ANSWERED ON - 24/03/2021

## TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT SANITATION WORKERS

3349. # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI

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

(a) the number of temporary and permanent sanitation workers employed in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a difference between the allowances and facilities provided to the regular and casual sanitation workers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sanitation workers are provided with adequate safety equipments while working;

(d) if so, the reasons for their death due to suffocation during the sewage cleaning work; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government for ensuring their safety?

## ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) No such statistics are maintained by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(b) Sanitation is a State subject, Sanitation workers are engaged by either the local bodies or organisations requiring sanitation services. The wages are accordingly decided by the employer who engages the workers.

(c) Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules stipulate that the Employer is required to provide the safety gear, devices and ensure safety precautions prescribed under the Rules. In addition, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have also circulated the Standard Operating Procedure to be observed while cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

(d) The fatal accidents in sewers and septic tanks are due to non compliance of the prescribed safety measures and Standard Operating Procedure.

(e) A National Policy on Mechanised Sanitation Eco-system has been formulated and circulated to the States for implementation. This policy, inter-alia, envisages appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in each district and a Sanitation Response Unit in each municipality, which shall be fully equipped with necessary machines, devices and vehicles for mechanised cleaning and professionally trained manpower to ensure safe cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

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