

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2522
ANSWERED ON - 22/03/2023

DEATHS IN MECHANIZED SCAVENGING

2522. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA

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

- (a) whether any deaths of sanitation workers have been reported in States/cities where scavenging is done by machines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of cities with mechanized scavenging equipment, State-wise details;
- (d) whether Government provides any safety equipments to prevent injury/death among sanitation workers engaged in mechanical scavenging; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b) Mechanized cleaning is an organised sector operation of cleaning of sewer and septic tanks with prescribed machines and safety gear and thus cannot be termed as “scavenging”.

Deaths have occurred in State/UTs due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and non observance of safety precautions as prescribed under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and MS Rules, 2013”.

Details of Sanitation workers who have lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning are enclosed in **Annexure-I**.

(c) State-wise details of number of SafaiMitra “Surakshit Shehar (Cities which have declared themselves to have achieved adequacy in terms of institutional mechanisms, manpower and equipments) is at **Annexure-II**.

(d) & (e) As per Section 33 of the MS Act, 2013 every local authority and other agency are supposed to use appropriate technological appliance for cleaning of sewer and septic tanks. Government has to promote the use of modern technology through financial assistance, incentives and otherwise.

As per “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules,2013 (MS Rules, 2013)” it is mandatory for the employer to provide the safety gear, devices and ensure safety precautions as prescribed in the Rules.

In addition, Under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 launched on 1st October, 2021 across all the states, Central Financial Assistance is provided to all the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for taking up following activities.

- setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants(STPs)/ STP-cum- Fecal Sludge Treatment plants FSTP; for used water treatment.
- laying Interception and Diversion (I&D) structures including provision of pumping stations and pumping main/gravity main upto STP;
- procuring adequate numbers of septic tank desludging equipments;
- deploying Digital (IT enabled) tools for real time monitoring of efficiency parameters during the operational phase of STPs and allied equipments.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred in reply to parts (a) to (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2522 for 22.03.2023 regarding Deaths in Mechanized Scavenging.

Details of death of persons while cleaning of sewers and septic tanks during the last three years (2020-2022)

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of persons deaths
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Delhi	12
3.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	3
4.	Gujarat	7
5.	Haryana	18
6.	Jharkhand	3
7.	Karnataka	7
8.	Maharashtra	16
9.	Madhya Pradesh	3
10.	Odisha	2
11.	Punjab	2
12.	Tamil Nadu	30
13.	Telangana	4
14.	Uttar Pradesh	10
15.	West Bengal	4
Total		124

Annexure-II

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2522 for 22.03.2023 regarding Deaths in Mechanized Scavenging.

SafaiMitra Surakshit Shehar

Sr. No.	State	Number of Cities
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	1
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	7
3	BIHAR	2
4	CHANDIGARH	1
5	CHHATTISGARH	169
6	DELHI	3
7	GUJARAT	57
8	HARYANA	1
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	3
10	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	37
11	JHARKHAND	4
12	KARNATAKA	33
13	LADAKH	1
14	MADHYA PRADESH	192
15	MAHARASHTRA	58
16	MIZORAM	1
17	ODISHA	11
18	PUNJAB	7
19	RAJASTHAN	16
20	TAMIL NADU	35
21	TELANGANA	23
22	UTTAR PRADESH	422
23	UTTARAKHAND	5
	Total	1089
