

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -774
ANSWERED ON - 08/02/2023

NAMASTE SCHEME TO ERADICATE UNSAFE SEWER AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

774. SHRI VAIKO
SHRI M. SHANMUGAM

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

- (a) whether Government has introduced NAMASTE scheme to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic-tank cleaning practices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether subsidies of up to ₹ 5 lakh on sanitation machinery costing up to ₹ 15 lakh and interest subsidies on loans are being provided;
- (d) if so, number of people who have availed this benefit and the total amount disbursed in the last five years, State-wise; and
- (e) the details of persons who unfortunately died during septic tank cleaning process in the last five years and corrective steps being taken to stop such deaths?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) has formulated a scheme “National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem” (NAMASTE). The process of extending the Scheme to all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country has been initiated. Main features of the Scheme to be implemented in all ULBs are:-

- i. **Identification:** NAMASTE envisages identifying the Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).
- ii. **Occupational Training and distribution of PPE Kits to SSWs.**
- iii. **Assistance for Safety Devices to Sanitation Response Units (SRUs).**

- iv. **Extending Health Insurance Scheme Benefits** to identified SSWs and their families under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- v. **Livelihood Assistance:** The Action Plan will promote mechanization and enterprise development by providing funding support and subsidy (capital +interest) to the sanitation workers, to procure sanitation related equipments.
- vi. **IEC Campaign:** Massive campaigns would be undertaken jointly by the ULBs & NSKFDC to spread awareness about the interventions of NAMASTE.

(c) & (d) State-wise list of subsidies on sanitation machinery costing up to Rs 15 Lakh is given at **Annexure-I**.

(e) State-wise details of persons who are reported to have died due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks during the last five years are at **Annexure-II**.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also formulated “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem” (NAMASTE) particularly to stop deaths of Sewers and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) and to promote mechanisation of cleaning operations with a vision to reduce hazardous cleaning and ensure safety of sanitation workers.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 774 for 08.02.2023 regarding Namaste scheme to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning.

Statement showing the Year-wise Capital Subsidy released for sanitation related projects under Self Employment scheme for rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)

S.No.	State	Year - 2020-21*		Year - 2021-22		Year - 2022-23	
		Amount of capital subsidy (Rs. In Lakh)	No. of Sanitation Workers	Amount of capital subsidy (Rs. In Lakh)	No. of Sanitation Workers	Amount of capital subsidy (Rs. In Lakh)	No. of Sanitation Workers
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	1219.08	336	100.72	30
2	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	38.19	11	0	0
3	Haryana	0	0	9.88	2	0	0
4	Jharkhand	0	0	19.39	5	7.7	2
5	Madhya Praedsh	9.75	3	155.36	42	95.78	21
6	Maharashtra	0	0	7.9	2	0	0
7	Odisha	0	0	62.43	19	0	0
8	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	64.32	18	29.21	8
9	Telangana	0	0	101.85	26	0	0
	Total	9.75	3	1678.40	461	233.41	61

* The component was added under SRMS from the Year 2020-21

Annexure-II

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 774 for 08.02.2023 regarding Namaste scheme to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning.

Details of death of persons in sewers and septic tanks during the last five years (2018 to 2022)

S No	Name of State/UT	Number of death
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Chhatisgarh	1
3.	Delhi	33
4.	Dadra Nagar & Havili	3
5.	Gujarat	23
6.	Haryana	40
7.	Jharkhand	3
8.	Karnataka	23
9.	Maharashtra	38
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4
11.	Odisha	2
12.	Punjab	7
13.	Rajasthan	7
14.	Tamil Nadu	52
15.	Telangana	7
16.	Uttrakhand	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	46
18.	West Bengal	6
	Total	308