

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1883
ANSWERED ON - 07/08/2024

DEATHS DURING SEWER CLEANING

1883 # SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) the total number of manual scavengers in the country at present and the number of people who died during the last five years due to manual scavenging;
- (b) the category to which manual scavengers belong and break up of manual scavengers in reserved category and unreserved category; and
- (c) the budget allocated by Government for technical resources for the safe operation of sewer cleaning and the number of regular skilled employees appointed during the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) and (b) There is no report of practice of manual scavenging in the country.

No death has been reported due to Manual Scavenging which is lifting of human excreta from insanitary latrines.

Manual Scavengers are an occupation based identification rather than caste based identification.

(c) Sanitation is a State Subject under the Constitution of India and it is the responsibility of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for safe operation of sewer line. Government of India provides fund for procurement of desludging vehicles under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 as additional financial assistance to less than 1 lakh population cities. Based on requirements received from States, Rs. 371 crore as Central Financial Assistance has been approved for release for procurement of mechanical equipments.

The database of employees appointed by Urban Local Bodies is not maintained by the Central Government.
