

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2685
ANSWERED ON - 18/12/2024

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR SEPTIC TANK WORKERS

2685. SMT MAMATA MOHANTA

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

- (a) whether it is fact that Government has taken many steps to launch schemes for welfare of Sewage and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the funds released for the State of Odisha to set up Responsible Sanitation Authority and Sanitation Response Units; and
- (d) the details of the funds disbursed and utilised under the NAMASTE scheme in Odisha since its inception?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with an objective to ensure safety and dignity to Safai Karmacharis and to empower them socially and economically has formulated the “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)” Scheme, which was launched in 2023-24 for its implementation in all 4800+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country. The goal of NAMASTE Scheme is as under:-

- i. To ensure safety and dignity of sanitation workers in India by creating an enabling ecosystem that recognizes sanitation workers as one of the key contributors in operations and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure thereby providing sustainable livelihood and enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.
- ii. Providing access to entitlements and livelihoods support to reduce the vulnerabilities of sanitation workers and enable them to access self-employment through providing capital subsidy for Sanitation Related Project to make them “ SANIPRENEUR” and skilled wage employment opportunities on receipt of occupational Safety Training and PPE Kits.

In addition, NAMASTE would bring about a behavior change amongst citizens towards sanitation workers and enhance demand for safe sanitation services, as all service seekers have to approach Sanitation Response Units (SRUs) for cleaning of Sewer Septic Tanks, no informal worker will be allowed to undertake such work.

(c) No Central Financial Assistance is earmarked for establishment of Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) and Emergency Sanitation Response Units (ESRUs) under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). Necessary establishment charges are borne by State or Commissionerate responsible for the rural urban cluster in the district.

(d) The “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)” scheme, is a Central Sector Scheme and there is no State-wise allocation of funds under the Scheme.
