

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1183
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2025

MEASURES TO ENSURE WELFARE OF SANITATION WORKERS

1183. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister for HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will mandate free medical insurance for sanitation workers, considering their hazardous working conditions;
- (b) measures taken to ensure that contract sanitation workers receive minimum wages, social security benefits, and protective gear, details thereof;
- (c) steps taken to ensure compliance with labour laws by employers/contractors when recruiting sanitation workers;
- (d) the details of caste and gender-wise sanitation workers engaged in door-to-door waste collection in urban local bodies (ULBs), State-UT-wise;
- (e) whether these workers are directly hired by ULBs or contractors, State/UT-wise, including migrant status and gender distribution; and
- (f) action taken to ensure education for children accompanying parents engaged in waste collection?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) & (b) : Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) is the nodal Ministry which formulates and implement schemes for the welfare of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers. National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Schemes is a central Sector Scheme, implemented by MoSJE, since 2023-24. As per MoSJE, components of the erstwhile 'Self-Employment Schemes for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (MS) have been subsumed in the scheme. Waste Pickers have been added as a target group under the schemes from the financial year 2024-25.

Components of the NAMASTE Schemes are as under:

1. For Sewer and Septic Tank Workers:-
 - i. PPE Kits for surface cleaning SSWs.
 - ii. Upfront capital subsidy Mechanised cleaning equipments/machines to SSW.
 - iii. Capacity Building Occupational Training to Surface SSWs.
 - iv. Health Insurance coverage under AB-PMJAY.
2. Manual Scavengers:-
 - i. Skill Development Training of Identified Manual Scavengers and their Dependents.
 - ii. Upfront Capital Subsidy for Self Employment Projects to manual Scavengers and their Dependents.
 - iii. Health Insurance coverage under AB-PMJAY

3. Waste Pickers:-
 - i. Occupational Safety Training
 - ii. PPE Kits.
 - iii Capital Subsidy for Waste collection vehicles for Dry Waste Collection Center.
 - iv Health Insurance coverage under AB-PMJAY.

(c) : As informed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Government has set up Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), which is the nationwide network of Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) under the control of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). This network ensures the enforcement of various labour laws in the Central Sphere. Inspections are carried out to ensure compliance and appropriate action is taken in the event of any violations or contraventions.

(d) to (f) : As per MoSJE, sanitation is a State subject and therefore, details on sanitation workers in the States/UTs is not maintained centrally.
