

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2191
ANSWERED ON - 19/03/2025

TRAINING UNDER NAMASTE SCHEME

2191. SHRI NARHARI AMIN
SMT. REKHA SHARMA
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY
SHRI MADAN RATHORE

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

- (a) the manner in which Government will ensure that the training provided under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme is effective in preventing hazardous conditions for sanitation workers;
- (b) the manner in which Government plan to accelerate the distribution of Ayushman health cards to all eligible sanitation workers under the scheme;
- (c) the manner in which Government plan to involve worker unions and NGOs in the implementation and monitoring of the scheme; and
- (d) whether there is any plan to expand the scheme further to include all sanitation workers involved in hazardous waste management, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)” Scheme in 2023-24 for implementation in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country. The objective is to ensure safety and dignity of Safai Karmacharis and empower them socially and economically.

Capacity Building of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) is covered through (i) workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewers and (ii) occupational training as Junior Technician-Mechanized Sewer Cleaning and Desludging Operator.

(b) Following steps have been taken to accelerate the distribution of Ayushman cards to eligible sewer and septic tank workers under NAMASTE scheme.

- i. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Common Service Centres (CSC) for assistance in validation/eKYC .
- ii. eKYC camps have been conducted in various locations by CSC/Urban Local Bodies Staff.
- iii. To facilitate prompt eKYC, Operator Ids have been provided to State Project Management Units.
- iv. Finger Scanner has also been made available to State Project Management Units for eKYC.

(c) A Coordination Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Secretary, MoSJE for overseeing the implementation of NAMASTE scheme. In addition, there is a three tier working group at Centre, State and District level to monitor the activities undertaken for its implementation.

There is no plan to involve worker unions and NGOs in implementation and monitoring the scheme.

(d) Waste Pickers have been added as component under NAMASTE scheme from 2024-25. The objective is to provide safe, dignified and sustainable livelihoods to waste pickers engaged in Solid Waste Management by empowering them through various interventions.
