

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3013
ANSWERED ON - 26/03/2025

**INITIATIVES REGARDING NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SAFAI
KARAMCHARI (NCSK)**

3013. DR K LAXMAN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) state level meetings & communications led to the prompt disbursement of compensation in 35 sewer death cases, including 19 cases in 2024;
- (b) the manner in which NCSK's advocacy for mechanizing sewer and septic tank cleaning contributed to the prevention of hazardous manual cleaning practices, thereby safeguarding sanitation workers' lives; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the NCSK's emphasis on convening State Level Monitoring Committee and District Vigilance Committee meetings facilitated the effective implementation of the Manual Scavengers Act, 2013, & improved grievance redressal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) work with State/District authorities for prompt disbursement of full compensation in compliance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court directions dated 20.10.2023 and also adhering to the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013) to avoid any unfortunate incidents of deaths due to hazardous cleaning. The NCSK regularly communicates with Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of UTs, Police authorities of States. CMD's/CEOs of Public & Private Sector Banks, PSUs etc on issues related to safai karamcharis.
- (b) The NCSK conducts regular meetings with the State/District authorities and representatives of agencies employing safai karamcharis for the need to promote mechanized cleaning of sewer/septic tank. Further, mechanization also prevents the need of human intervention and therefore the lives of sanitation workers are safeguarded.
- (c) Provisions of the MS Act, 2013 stipulates for constitution of State level Monitoring Committee and District Vigilance Committees and for convening their meetings on a regular basis. NCSK follows up with all States and UTs to convene the meetings and to provide a platform for effective grievance redressal.
