

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO -191  
ANSWERED ON – 06/08/2025**

**SEWAGE AND SEPTIC TANK WORKERS**

191 SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken many steps and launched 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 for setup of Responsible Sanitation Authority and for set up of Sanitation Response Units; and
- (d) the details regarding funds disbursed and utilised under the NAMASTE scheme in Odisha during the last three years?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR.VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 191 FOR REPLY ON 06.08.2025 REGARDING SEWAGE AND SEPTIC TANK WORKERS ASKED BY SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA.**

(a) & (b) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) in convergence with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) 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 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) and to empower them socially and economically.

The NAMASTE scheme envisages provision of:-

- i. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits; Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana cards and occupational safety training to SSWs;
- ii. Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs);
- iii. Upfront Capital Subsidy for sanitation related machinery to sanitation workers and their self help groups; and
- iv. Workshop on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

MoHUA launched Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 on 1st, October, 2021. It includes a new component i.e. Used Water management (UWM) with one of the objectives of eradication of hazardous entry into sewers and septic tanks, and sustaining elimination of manual cleaning, through mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.

Further, MoHUA has issued:-

- i. Advisory on Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU).
- ii. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) containing procedure to be followed during mechanical and manual cleaning of sewer and emptying of septic tanks.
- iii. Model Empanelment and Contract documents to guide Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in engaging Private Sanitation Service Operators (PSSOs).

(c) Emergency Sanitation Response Unit (ERSUs) are set-up by States/UTs as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2019. No funds are released for setting-up of Responsible Sanitation Authorities (RSAs) and Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) by DoSJE or MoHUA. Safety Devices are provided to the ERSUs free of cost as a Central grant, under NAMASTE scheme.

(d) Under NAMASTE scheme, funds are released to States/UTs mainly for the activities of profiling of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) and Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaign. Since Government of Odisha is running its own Scheme for the welfare of Sanitation Workers, no funds has been released to State of Odisha under NAMASTE scheme. However, PPE Kits and Safety Devices are supplied to the State under the NAMASTE scheme.

Under UWM component of SBM-U 2.0, Central Share (CS) funds to the tune ₹491 crores have been allocated to the State of Odisha, out of which ₹122.75 crores of CS fund have been claimed by the State.

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