

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1988**  
ANSWERED ON – 17/12/2025

**SUCCESS OF NAMASTE SCHEME**

1988. SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE  
DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE  
SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN  
SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA  
SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

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

- (a) how has Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) coverage and the supply of PPE kits improved healthcare access and reduced occupational risks for validated Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs);
- (b) what effective models have emerged for formally integrating Waste Pickers and how are capital subsidies supporting their entrepreneurship; and
- (c) how is the enhanced capital subsidy for Sanipreneurs encouraging adoption of mechanized cleaning over manual methods?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme links validated Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) to Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) health coverage so that they can access cashless secondary/tertiary care in empanelled hospitals.

Access to healthcare has improved as validated SSWs avail cashless treatment for a wide range of illnesses and injuries at PMJAY-empanelled hospitals. Pre-authorizations recorded in the Transaction Management System further confirms that the SSWs are taking medical facilities.

The distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits under NAMASTE scheme has strengthened occupational safety and saves the SSWs from respiratory and skin diseases and has a direct effect on their wellbeing.

PMJAY coverage has made healthcare more accessible, reduced out-of-pocket expenditures and PPE distribution has enhanced workplace safety for SSWs.

(b) Profiling of Waste pickers under NAMASTE scheme aims to integrate them in the Solid Waste Management value chain by helping them to set up and manage Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) with support of Resource Organizations and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Waste Pickers collectives are eligible to receive upfront capital subsidy upto Rs. 5 Lakh per DWCC for procurement of Dry Waste Collection vehicles.

(c) There is a provision of upfront Capital Subsidy under NAMASTE scheme to Sanitation workers for procurement of mechanized cleaning equipments / vehicles to help them transform into 'SANIEPRENEUR'.

Capital Subsidy of Rs. 23.91 Crore has been released to 782 sanitation workers and their dependents for procurement of mechanized cleaning equipment's /vehicles under NAMASTE scheme.

Upfront capital subsidy has been revised upward from August, 2025 to encourage greater uptake and inclusion and to push for mechanization.

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