

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3354

TO BE ANSWERED ON AUGUST 07, 2018

CLEANING OF SEWAGE DRAINS

No. 3354. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the rising number of deaths of Safai Karamcharis who are deployed to clean the sewage drains due to lack of proper safety mask and gears for their use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to prohibit the deployment of Safai Karamcharis into the sewage drains without proper masks, body gears and equipments and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering to award stringent punishment including life imprisonment to such employers who deployed Safai Karamcharis for cleaning of drains without providing them with safety masks and gears?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has reported that there is no report of rising number of deaths of Safai Karamcharis who are deployed to clean the sewage drains.

(c): Under Section 7 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) no person, local authority or any agency shall, from such date as the State

...2/-

Government notifies, which shall not be later than one year from the date of commencement of the above Act, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank.

(d): Under Section 9 of the MS Act, 2013 whoever contravenes the provisions of section 7 shall for the first contravention be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or with both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to five years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees or with both.

\*\*\*\*