

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2019**

DEATHS OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

1481. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of death of workers engaged in sewer cleaning;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) whether compensation has been given to the families of the victims and action taken against the responsible persons/officials in such cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the measures taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b): There has been no report regarding the increase of such incidents. However, State-wise details of death of persons in sewers/septic tanks which have come to the notice of the Ministry from individuals and through press reportings are at **Annexure-I**.
- (c): Such cases are referred to the concerned State Government for providing compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each to the family members of the victims in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 27.03.2014 in Civil Writ Petition No. 583 of 2003 and also to take action against the persons/agencies responsible in accordance with the provisions of "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013). In addition States have also been asked to identify the cases of such deaths that have occurred since 1993 and ensure payment of compensation as per the Supreme Court verdict.
- (d): Details of cases of sewerage related deaths identified by the States and compensation paid to the families of the victims are at **Annexure-II**. Details of first information report filed against persons/agencies responsible are at **Annexure-III**.
- (e): Under Section 7 of "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 Government may notify, which shall not be later than one year from the

date of commencement of this Act, engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank. 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'. Government has also framed and notified "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013" (MS Rules, 2013) which prescribe the obligation of the employers towards workers engaged for cleaning and sewer/septic tank to provide safety gear and devices and observe safety precautions as detailed in the Rules.

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) in coordination with Skill Council Green Jobs organizes training of 35 hours duration on usage of mechanized sanitation equipment, precautions for hazards cleaning, life skills and income generation activities to sanitation workers employed contractually or on ad hoc basis by municipalities.

NSKFDC also organizes sensitization workshops in municipalities for engineers, sanitary inspectors, sanitary workers and contractors on safe cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and also create awareness about the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 and MS Rules, 2013 regarding employer's obligations to provide safety gear/equipment and ensure safety precautions.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has released Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks on 19.11.2018, which prescribes the procedure for cleaning, its frequency, equipment needed, protective and safety gear to be used, emergency preparedness, procedures to be followed for emergency during inspection and cleaning and also the roles and responsibility of various stakeholders. SOP is advisory in nature to guide the States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the process of cleaning sewers and emptying septic tanks in scientific ways.

Annexure-I referred in reply to Parts (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 1481 for answer on 12.02.2019 regarding death of manual scavengers.

Details of cases of death of persons in sewers/septic tanks which have come to the notice Department from individuals/through Press.

Sl. No.	State/UT	District/Place	Year	Number of cases	Reported by	Date of reporting	Date of reference to the State Government
1	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	2011	1	Chandigarh Dalit Welfare Association	March 2016	05.04.2016
		Chandigarh	2012	1	-do-	-do-	-do-
2		Chandigarh	2014	1	-do-	-do-	-do-
3		Panchkula	2015	3	-do-	-do-	-do-
4	Total			6			
5	Chhattisgarh	Surajpur, Chhattisgarh	2017	4	Newspaper	23.08.2017	12.09.2017
6		Jashpur District	2018	5	Newspaper	16.09.2018	24.09.2018
		Total		9			
7	NCT Delhi	Swaroop Nagar, Delhi	2015	2	Newspaper	August, 2015	27.08.2015
8		Keshopur, Delhi*	2015	1	Newspaper	13.11.2015	17.11.2015
9		Ghitroni, Delhi	2017	4	Newspaper	15.07.2017	17.07.2017
10		Lajpat Nagar	2017	3	Newspaper	07.08.2017	07.08.2017
11		Anand Vihar	2017	2	Newspaper	13.08.2017	24.08.2017
12		Loknayak Jaiprakash Hospital	2017	1	Newspaper	21.08.2017	07.09.2017
13		Mundka	2017	2	Newspaper	18.09.2017	05.10.2017
		Jhangiri puri, Delhu	2018	1	Newspaper	21.10.2018	22.10.2018
	Total			16			
14	Haryana	Dabwali, Sirsa	2014	2	Newspaper	26.05.2014	28.05.2014
15		Hero Honda Chowk, Gurugram	2017	3	Newspaper	30.09.2017	05.10.2017
16		Palwal	2018	2	Newspaper	-	08.02.2018
17		Sewer Treatment Plant, MTS Surya Vihar Colony, Sector-9A, Gurugram	2018	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	18.05.2018	11.06.2018
	Total			8			
18	Karnataka	Jayamahala, Bengaluru	2015	2	Newspaper	August, 2015	24.08.2015
19		ND Septal Apartment, Somasundarapalya in HSR layout	2018	3	Safai Karamchari Andolan	January, 2018	08.02.2018
20		Yumlok Restaurant at AECS Layout, Marathahalli,	2018	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	13.02.2018	23.02.2018
	Total			7			
21	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	1993	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
22		Bhopal	2008	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
23		Reeva	2012	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
24		Shivpuri	2014	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
25		Morena	2014	2	Member, Madhya Pradesh State Safai Karamchari Commission	19.06.2014	25.07.2014

26		Bhopal	2015	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	19.10.2015	28.10.2015
27		Devas	2017	4	Rashatriya Garima Abhiyan	30.07.2017	07.09.2017
	Total			14			
28	Maharashtra		2017	1	Website of thequint.com	31.10.2017	21.11.2017
29		Khambalpada, Dombivli MIDC	2018	3	Newspaper	26.10.2018	30.10.2018
	Total			4			
30	Punjab	Patti	2017	2	Newspaper (The Tribune)	03.05.2017	09.05.2017
31		Shimlapuri, Ludhiana	2018	1	Safai Karamchari Andolan	13.03.2018	13.04.2018
32		Firozpur	2018	2	Newspaper	03.06.2018	12.06.2018
	Total			5			
33	Rajasthan	Pushkar	2015	3	State Government, Rajasthan	09.12.2015	22.12.2015
34		Udaipur	2017	4	Newspaper (Rajasthan Patrika)	-	28.04.2017
	Total			7			
35	Tamil Nadu	Ramnad	2004	1	Representation of victims mother	20.07.2015	31.07.2015
36		Okkiyam Pettai, Chennai	2016	4	Newspaper	20.01.2016	22.01.2016
37		Chennai	2006	1	Representation of victims mother	21.04.2006	19.02.2018
38		Kanchipuram, Chennai	2018	3	Safai Karamchari Andolan	14.02.2018	14.03.2018
	Total			9			
39	Telangana	Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad	2014	2	Website of Asian Human Rights Commission	06.6.2014	22.07.2014
40		Madhapur, Hyderabad	2016	4	Newspaper	14.08.2016	23.08.2016
41		Sanathnagar, Hyderabad	2018	2	Safai Karamchari Andolan	18.12.2017	10.01.2018
	Total			8			
42	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	2010	2	Representation of victims mother	10.07.2015	16.07.2015
43		Max Hospital, Dehradun	2013	3	Website of ibnlive.in.com Through Member, NCSK	20.05.2014	22.05.2014
	Total			5			
44	Uttar Pradesh	Noida	2014	2	Website of indiatvnews.com through Member, NCSK	24.02.2014	19.03.2014
45		Lucknow	2014	1	Representation received from Sh. Ram Singh Balmiki	July, 2016	05.07.2016
46		Goverdhan, Mathura	2015	3	Newspaper	18.12.2015	22.12.2015
47		Allahabad	2015	1	Newspaper	10.04.2015	01.05.2015
48		Varanasi	2015	1	Newspaper	18.04.2016	02.05.2016
49		Sector 54, Noida	2017	1	Newspaper	15.04.2017	28.04.2017
50		Sector-110, Noida	2017	3	Newspaper	21.09.2017	10.10.2017
51		Loni, Ghaziabad	2018	3	Newspaper	11.07.2018	19.07.2018
	Total			15			
52	Andhra Pradesh	Poultry Farm of Venkateswara Hatcheries Limited in Moram village, Chittoor	2018	7	Newspaper	16.02.2018	19.02.2018
	Total			7			
	Grand total			120			

Annexure-II referred in reply to Part (d) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 1481 for answer on 12.02.2019 regarding death of manual scavengers.

Details of cases of death of persons in sewers/septic tanks reported by States upto 31.12.2018.

Sl. No.	State	Number of cases identified/ reported	Compensation pending	Compensation paid	
				Full Compensation of Rs.10 lakh each	Partial compensation
1	Tamil Nadu	144	3	141	0
2	Telangana	2	0	2	0
3	Punjab	32	0	32	0
4	Karnataka	62	38	16	8
5	Haryana	5	2	3	0
6	Kerala	12	10	0	2
7	Rajasthan	7	2	3	2
8	Uttar Pradesh	71	22	25	24
9	Delhi	23	4	19	0
10	Gujarat	5	0	4	1
11	West Bengal	31	21	10 (claims in 18 cases rejected by enquiry authority and enquiry in 3 cases is pending)	0
	Total	394	102	255	37

Annexure-III

Annexure-II referred in reply to Part (d) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 1481 for answer on 12.02.2019 regarding death of manual scavengers.

S.No.	State	No. of FIRs filed
1.	Karnataka	28 FIRs involving 60 deaths
2.	Rajasthan	1 FIR involving 3 deaths
3.	Delhi	7 FIRs involving 13 deaths