

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1813
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023**

LABOURERS WORKING IN CONSTRUCTION SITES

1813. SHRI M. SELVARAJ:

DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many labourers at construction sites are working without any safety measures and not provided safety equipments and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether many sanitary workers are also working without any safety measures such as gloves, masks etc.;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to issue a SOP (Standard Operation Procedure) for the safety measure to be taken for labourers and safai Karamcharis/sanitary workers; and**
- (e) the necessary steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the safety of labourers and sanitary workers across the country?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (d): The Central Government is committed to protect and promote the welfare, social security, safety and health of labourers. Central Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 [BOCW (RE&CS) Act, 1996] and their rules to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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The regular inspections are conducted by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Organisation in the Central Sphere and appropriate action taken where necessary under the provisions of the Building and Other Construction Workers (RE&CS) Act, 1996.

Moreover, the provisions as stipulated in Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and Building and Other Construction Workers (REACS) Act, 1996 ensuring the safety measures of workers working in sanitation in the Central Sphere is regularly monitored through inspections conducted by the O/o Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and appropriate action is taken by the Inspecting Authorities including initiation of prosecution cases against defaulters under the extant laws.

Further, as per information received from Department of Social Justice & Empowerment vide O.M. dated 25-07-2023 Central Government has also notified “Prohibition on Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules, 2013)” under which it is mandatory for the employer to provide the safety gear, devices and ensure safety precautions as prescribed in the Rules. Under these Rules, the worker engaged for cleaning sewer or septic tank is also required to be provided life insurance cover for Rs. 10 lakhs for which the premium shall be paid by the employer.

(e): The following initiatives have been taken by the Central Government so as to ensure safety of labourers and sanitary workers across the country as per inputs received from Department of Social Justice & Empowerment vide O.M. dated 25-07-2023:-

(i) Under Swachhta Udyami Yojana of NSKFDC, concessional loans are provided to safai karamcharis, manual scavengers & their dependants and the Urban Local Bodies & other agencies responsible for cleaning for procurement of sanitation related instruments/vehicles for complete mechanization of all cleaning operations.

(ii) Under Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) in addition to the manual scavengers, the sanitation workers and their dependants are also provided capital subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh for procurement of instruments/vehicles for mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

(iii) Workshops are organized in municipalities with the officers, engineers, contractors, sanitation workers etc. of urban local bodies to sensitize them about safe and healthy cleaning practices and mechanized cleaning of sewers & septic tanks. About 203 such workshops have been organized in the F.Y. 2022-23 in various urban local bodies (ULBs) pan India.

(iv) A short duration training programme (RPL) is organized for the sanitation workers wherein they are trained in mechanized cleaning, safe & healthy cleaning practices, safety precautions, use of PPE kits. Such training has been provided to about 26946 sanitation workers in F.Y. 2021-22 and 2022-23 PAN India.

Further, for the welfare of the labourers i.e. construction workers, a 'Model Welfare Scheme for Building and Other Construction Workers and Action Plan for strengthening Implementation Machinery' was prepared and forwarded by this Ministry to all the States/UTs for its strict compliance vide its O.M. dated 30-10-2018.

Moreover, several instructions under Section 60 of the BOCW(RE&CS) Act, 1996 have been issued from time to time to State/UT BOCW Welfare Boards for optimum utilization of the cess funds for the social security and other welfare measures of the BOC workers which include the benefits of welfare schemes of the State Welfare Boards and social security schemes of the Central/State Governments like Health Insurance Scheme through PM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat), Life and Disability Cover through PM-Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, PM-Suraksha Bima Yojana and Life-long Pension after 60 years through PM-Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana and subsistence allowance during unemployment, illness, epidemics, natural calamities by using cess fund collected for the welfare of BOC workers.

In order to provide old age protection, Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme in 2019.
