

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.786
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2023**

ISSUES OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

786. DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR:

SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:

DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) the budgetary allocations made during the last five years to eliminate manual scavenging;
- (b) whether the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers has been removed from the budget for the year 2023-24, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether an alternative or replacement scheme has been proposed to ensure the continued rehabilitation and empowerment of manual scavengers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total number of cleaning workers killed in sewers during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (e) the number of cleaning workers that have been assisted by Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) since the inception of the scheme, State/UT-wise;
- (f) whether the newly found robot 'Bandicoot' technology is operational and feasible to use pan India; and
- (g) if so, whether the Government has a tangible plan to implement the technology and eliminate manual scavenging in the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): Manual scavenging as defined under Section 2 (1) (g) of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" is prohibited with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from that date.

The details of Funds allocated for implementation of Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers during the last five years are as under:-

(Rs. In Crore)

Year	Funds allocated
2018-19	85.76
2019-20	99.93
2020-21	30.00
2021-22	43.31
2022-23	70.00

(b) and (c): The nomenclature of the Scheme has been changed as “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem” (NAMASTE) from the earlier name of “Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers” (SRMS).

To tackle hazardous cleaning specially, the Government has formulated a new scheme called ‘National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem’ (NAMASTE) whose objectives are as under:-

- i. Formalization and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (MS) and Persons Engaged in Hazardous Cleaning of Sewer and Septic Tank (SSWs).
- ii. Promotion of safe and mechanised cleaning of sewers and septic tanks through trained and certified sanitation workers

NAMASTE aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- a. Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India
- b. All sanitation work to be performed by formalized skilled workers
- c. No sanitation workers to come in direct contact with human faecal matter
- d. Strengthening and capacitating Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) to ensure safe delivery of mechanized sanitation services
- e. Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises
- f. Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) and their dependents also have access to livelihoods by providing capital subsidy for purchase of sanitation related equipments.
- g. Increased awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered Private Sanitation Service Organizations (PSSOs) and skilled & certified sanitation workers only.
- h. Extending Health Insurance Scheme benefits under AB-PMJAY to SSWs & manual scavengers and their family members.
- i. Occupational safety training to SSWs.

(d): Deaths have occurred in State/UTs due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and non observance of safety precautions as prescribed under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and MS Rules, 2013”.

Details of cleaning workers who have lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer/septic tanks during last five years and current year are enclosed in **Annexure-I**.

(e): NSKFDC has released loans of Rs 86.84 Cr to the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) for procurement of mechanized cleaning equipments/ vehicles to 2509 number of beneficiaries under Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) as on 30.06.2023. A Statement showing Year-wise & State-wise funds disbursed and beneficiary covered to SCAs under Swachhta Udyami Yojana is given at Annexure-II.

Further, Capital Subsidy of Rs. 22.93 Cr has been released for procurement of 286 units of sanitation related equipments/ projects by 641 Safai Karamcharis under SRMS. A statement showing State-wise & Year-wise details of beneficiaries covered and capital subsidy released under SRMS is given at Annexure-III

(f): The requirement which products like Bandicoot deals with, is limited to removal of accumulated grit and deposits at bottom of a manhole, which could cause choking and sewer overflows. Thus local bodies have been advised to acquire appropriate manhole de-gritting machines which can be operated without need to enter inside a manhole and also set up an appropriate cleaning periodicity. The need of periodic as well as emergency de-gritting manholes can be completed by adopting much simpler machines, easily locally fabricated which will give almost the same. If not better, output while ensuring similar level of safety for sanitation workers.

Cities have been advised to use simple, cost effective mechanical products for management of their manholes and sewers.

(g): As per Section 33 of the MS Act, 2013 every local authority and other agency are supposed to use appropriate technological appliance for cleaning of sewer and septic tanks. Government has to promote the use of modern technology through financial assistance, incentives and otherwise.

As per "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules, 2013)" it is mandatory for the employer to provide the safety gear, devices and ensure safety precautions as prescribed in the Rules.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has issued Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for cleaning of sewer and septic tanks. In addition, to this, NAMASTE scheme is being implemented in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the country as mentioned in parts (b) and (c) above.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 786 for answer on 25.07.2023 regarding Issues of manual scavengers

States/UTs and years wise details of death of persons in sewers and septic tanks during the last five years and current year (2018 to 2023)

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
		Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	0	0	0	3	0
2.	Chhatisgarh	1	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Delhi	11	10	4	4	6	0
4.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	0	0	0	3	0	0
5.	Gujarat	2	14	0	5	4	3
6.	Haryana	6	16	0	5	17	0
7.	Jharkhand	0	0	3	0	0	1
8.	Karnataka	9	7	2	5	0	0
9.	Maharashtra	5	17	4	8	15	5
10	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	0	5	0	0
11	Odisha	0	0	0	2	0	0
12	Punjab	2	3	0	2	0	0
13	Rajasthan	2	5	0	0	0	0
14	Tamil Nadu	9	15	9	5	13	0
15	Telangana	3	0	0	4	0	0
16	Uttar Pradesh	8	26	0	4	8	0
17	Uttarakhand	0	1	0	0	0	0
18	West Bengal	0	2	0	6	0	0
	Total	67	117	22	58	66	9

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 786 for answer on 25.07.2023 regarding Issues of manual scavengers

Statement showing Year-wise & State-wise funds disbursed and beneficiary covered to CAs under SwachhtaUdyamiYojana (SUY) as on 30.06.2023

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	SCA	(Rs. In Lac)																			
			2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		Total	
			Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy
1	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes, Cooperative Finance Corporation Ltd. (APSCFC)	0.00	0	172.25	13	807.30	207	0.00	0	0.00	0	4494.75	1383	0.00	0	1622.70	270	385.20	420	7482.20	2293
2		Canara Bank	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	17.33	2	0.00	0	0.00	0	17.33	2
3	Jammu & Kashmir	J&K SC, ST & BC Development Corporation Ltd.(JKSCDC)	270.00	100	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	270.00	100
4		Kerala Gramin Bank (KGB)	0.00	0	76.50	10	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	76.50	10
5	Nagaland	Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.(NIDC)	0.00	0	0.00	0	9.00	3	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	9.00	3
6		Narmada JhabuaGramin Bank (NJGB)	0.00	0	112.5	7	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	112.50	7
7	Odisha	Odisha Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribe Development Finance Co-operative Corporation Ltd. (OSDC)	76.50	7	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	76.50	7
8	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Finance & Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd.(RSTFDC)	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	207.90	33	0.00	0	0.00	0	119.70	19	327.60	52
9	West Bengal	West Bengal SCs, STs & OBCs Development & Finance Corporation (WBSCDFC)	0.00	0	0.00	0	87.50	25	225.00	10	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	312.50	35
Total			346.50	107	361.25	30	903.80	235	225.00	10	0.00	0	4702.65	1416	17.33	2	1622.70	270	504.90	439	8684.13	2509

Annexure-III

Annexure-III referred in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 786 for answer on 25.07.2023 regarding Issues of manual scavengers

State & Year-wise details of capital subsidy released under SRMS as on 30.06.2023

		<u>(Rs. In Lakh)</u>
2020-21		
State	No. of Beneficiaries	Capital Subsidy released
Madhya Pradesh	3	9.75
Total-A	3	9.75
2021-22		
State	No. of Beneficiaries	Capital Subsidy released
Andhra Pradesh	336	1219.08
Odisha	19	62.43
Madhya Pradesh	42	155.36
Haryana	2	9.88
Maharashtra	2	7.9
Telangana	26	101.85
A & N Islands	11	38.19
JharKhand	5	19.39
Uttar Pradesh	18	64.32
Total-B	461	1678.4
2022-23		
State	No. of Beneficiaries	Capital Subsidy released
Uttar Pradesh	14	52.82
Jharkhand	2	7.70
Andhra Pradesh	106	342.28
Madhya Pradesh	32	133.95
Telangana	23	68.53
Total-C	177	605.28
Grand Total (A+B+C)	641	2293.43
