

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.491  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024**

**DEATH OF MANUAL SCAVANGERS**

**491. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:**

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

- (a) whether a number of employees working in urban bodies in Maharashtra have lost their lives while cleaning sewers/septic tanks;
- (b) if so, the total number of people who lost their lives while engaging in sewer cleaning process during last three years;
- (c) the reasons for non-observance of safety precautions prescribed under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013; and
- (d) whether National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation is providing modern equipment, training and also implementing programmes to prevent manual cleaning for sewers and septic tanks and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a)& (b): 33 deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks have been reported from the State of Maharashtra during the last three years (i.e, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024). The data of 33 deaths also includes the cases of death of the employees of urban local bodies.
- (c): The Government of India issues instructions to the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to enforce the safety precautions prescribed in the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013.
- (d): National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is providing financial assistance to sanitation workers through capital subsidy as individual and as a group, to procure sanitation equipments and vehicles under Swacchta Udyami Yojana (SUY) for the mechanization of cleaning operations, apart from providing training to sanitation workers.

\*\*\*\*\*