

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 256
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.11.2019**

DEATH OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

256. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that manual scavenging is still continuing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of States which has certified manhole cleaners in the country alongwith the number of manhole workers in each State;
- (d) whether the Government has the data of manhole cleaners who died while cleaning the manholes and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the current status of the ban on manual scavenging in the country;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure complete ban on manual scavenging; and
- (g) whether the Government has taken any initiative to bring alternative methods like machines for cleaning manholes and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) & (e): Manual scavenging is prohibited under “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act 2013)” in all the States and Union Territories with effect from 06.12.2013. However, the persons who were engaged as manual scavengers have been identified as per the provisions of the Act and through National Survey of manual scavengers undertaken during 2018-19. State-wise details of manual scavengers identified upto 31.10.2019 are at **Annexure-I.**

(c): Sanitation being a State subject, sanitation workers including manhole cleaners are engaged by the local bodies like Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Gram Panchayats. No data regarding the sanitation workers including manhole cleaners is maintained by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(d): No separate data regarding the manhole cleaners who have died while cleaning manholes is maintained by the Ministry. However, details of the persons who have died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks as reported by the States to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis are at **Annexure-II.**

(f): The Government is ensuring that the provisions of the Act are implemented in totality. Under section 6 of the MS Act, 2013 any contract, agreement or other instrument entered into or executed before the date of commencement of this Act, engaging or employing a person for the purpose of manual scavenging shall, on the date of commencement of this Act, be terminated and such contract, agreement or other instrument shall be void. Under Section 8 of the MS Act, 2013 whoever contravenes the provisions of section 5 or section 6 shall for the first contravention be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees or with both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.

The Act also provides for identification of Insanitary latrines and their conversion into sanitary latrines so as to eliminate the need for manual scavenging. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission implemented by the Ministries of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Housing and Urban Affairs the insanitary latrines in Rural and Urban areas have been identified and converted into sanitary latrines to eliminate manual scavenging.

(g): The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have circulated the Standard Operating Procedure for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks to all States and Union Territories and also requested the States to setup appropriately staffed and equipped Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) under Responsible Sanitation Authority in major cities and State capital and promote mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. In addition, National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organizes 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 MS Act, 2013 and “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules 2013)” regarding employer’s obligations to provide safety gear/equipment and ensure safety precautions. 453 such workshops have been organized from 02nd October, 2018 to 25.10.2019.

NSKFDC is also implementing a scheme, Swachhta Udyami Yojana under which loan upto Rs. 50 lakh is provided to the municipalities for purchase of equipment/vehicles for mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. The State Governments have been requested to issue instructions to the municipalities to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with NSKFDC in this regard.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred in reply to Parts (a), (b) and (c) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 256 for answer on 19.11.2019 regarding Death of Manual Scavengers.

Details of identified manual scavengers upto 31.10.2019

S. NO.	Name of State/Union Territory	Identified manual scavengers
1	Andhra Pradesh	2042
2	Assam	696
3	Bihar	131
4	Chhattisgarh	3
5	Gujarat	108
6	Jharkhand	201
7	Karnataka	2466
8	Kerala	600
9	Madhya Pradesh	598
10	Maharashtra	7378
11	Odisha	234
12	Punjab	232
13	Rajasthan	2923
14	Tamilnadu	409
15	Uttar Pradesh	31675
16	Uttarakhand	6167
17	West Bengal	732
Total		56595

Annexure-II referred in reply to Part (d) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 256 for answer on 19.11.2019 regarding Death of Manual Scavengers.

Information received from States by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) about number of sewer deaths and compensation paid since 1993 to 30.06.2019.

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Total number of sewer death	Full compensation of Rs. 10 lakh paid	Partial compensation paid	No compensation paid
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	14	4	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	12	0	6	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	1	0	4
6.	Goa	6	0	6	0
7.	Gujarat	130	50	15	44
8.	Haryana	66	49	9	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	73	64	2	3
13.	Kerala	3	0	0	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7	7	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	19	0	0	19
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	35	25	8	2
22.	Rajasthan	36	8	13	15
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	213	160	1	29
25.	Telangana	3	2	0	1
26.	Tripura	2	0	2	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	75	23	37	15
28.	Uttarakhand	3	1	2	0
29.	West Bengal	18	13	0	5
30.	A & N 'Islands	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	3	3	0	0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	NCT Of Delhi	49	24	4	21
36.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
	Total	776	444	109	175