

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 55  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2021**

**DEATH OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS**

**55. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:**

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

- (a) the details and the total number of people who have died due to sewer cleaning/entering into sewers across the country during the last five years, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any new plan to prevent manual cleaning of sewers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to provide modern equipment, training and uniform to the people engaged in sewer cleaning?

**ANSWER**

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

**(A):** State- wise details of persons who are reported to have died while cleaning sewers during the last five years upto 31.12.2020 are at **Annexure**.

(b): A National Policy for mechanized Sanitation Eco-system has been formulated in consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Drinking water and Sanitation which envisages, inter alia, the following:

- i. Appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in every District.
- ii. Setting up of Sanitation (SRU) Response unit in each municipality.
- iii. Equipping SRUs with necessary devices, machines and vehicles required for mechanized cleaning.
- iv. Professionally trained manpower for mechanized cleaning.
- v. 24x7 helpline to receive complaints regarding blockage of sewers and septic tanks.
- vi. Setting up facilities for evacuation, transportation and treatment of sludge from septic tanks.
- vii. Training to the staff of municipalities and contractors in the mechanized cleaning of sewers/septic tanks.

(c): National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation is implementing a Scheme, "Swachhata Udyami Yojana" under which loans are provided to manual scavengers, safai karmacharis engaged in hazardous cleaning and their dependents to procure mechanised equipment upto the cost of Rs.5 lakhs with a subsidy of 50%.

NSKFDC is providing upskilling training to safai karmacharis to improve their skilling potential for handling mechanised equipment.

Under the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013" the employer who engages the workers for cleaning sewers / septic tanks is obliged to provide the safety gear, devices and ensure safety precautions as prescribed in the Rules.

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**Annexure**

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred question No. 55 for answer on 02.02.2021 regarding death of manual scavengers.

Details of cases of death of persons died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks during the last five years as reported by the States/Union Territories upto 31.12.2020.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Total Number of sewer deaths
1	Andhra Pradesh	16
2	Bihar	8
3	Chhatisgarh	1
4	Chandigarh	3
5	Delhi	36
6	Goa	2
7	Gujarat	31
8	Haryana	31
9	Karnataka	24
10	Kerala	3
11	Maharashtra	34
12	Madhya Pradesh	2
13	Punjab	17
14	Rajasthan	18
15	Tamil Nadu	43
16	Telangana	4
17	Tripura	2
18	Uttar Pradesh	52
19	West Bengal	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>