

O.I.H.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1623
TO BE ANSWERED ON JULY 29, 2021**

DEATH DUE TO SEWER CLEANING

No. 1623. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of State for HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that workers working in urban bodies across the country have died during sewer cleaning during the last five years;**
- (b) if so, the total number of workers died during above period, year and State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any concrete new plan to check manual cleaning of sewers and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide modern equipment, training and uniforms to the workers engaged in sewer cleaning, State-wise?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)

(a) and (b) : As on date, 309 sanitary workers have died during sewer and septic tank cleaning during the last five years. The States/ Union Territory (UT) Administration wise details are placed at Annexure-I.

(c) and (d) : The following programmes are implemented for the workers engaged in sewer/septic tank cleaning operations :-

(i) Under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh is provided to manual scavengers, sanitation workers and their dependants for sanitation related self employment projects.

(ii) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organizes workshops for officers, engineers, sanitary inspectors, supervisors, sanitation workers and contractors etc. on hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

(iii) NSKFDC conducts short duration Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training programmes for sanitation workers wherein they are trained in mechanized cleaning and safe & healthy cleaning practices.

(iv) Under Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY), NSKFDC provides concessional loan to the Urban Local Bodies etc. for procurement of sanitation related equipments/ machines/ vehicles.

Details of State-wise coverage under the above programmes are at Annexure-II.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge across 246 cities (Municipal Corporation, State Capitals and Smart Cities) to motivate Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for prevention of 'hazardous cleaning' of sewer and septic tanks and promote mechanized cleaning through (i) assigning dedicated helpline (14420) for sewer/ septic tank complaints; (ii) training to informal workers; (iii) inclusion of modern equipments for procurement through GeM; and (iv) providing designs of uniforms of the sanitary workers etc.

Annexure-I as referred to in reply to Part (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1623 due for reply on 29.07.2021

| S.No. | Name of State/UT | Total No. of death | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 2 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Bihar | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Chhatisgarh | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Chandigarh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Delhi | 13 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 7 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Haryana | 11 | 6 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Karnataka | 0 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 10 | Kerala | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Maharashtra | 4 | 7 | 15 | 4 | 0 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Punjab | 10 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Rajasthan | 6 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Tamil Nadu | 7 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 5 |
| 16 | Telangana | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Uttar Pradesh | 15 | 11 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | West Bengal | 7 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 88 | 71 | 118 | 19 | 13 |

Annexure-II as referred to in reply to Part (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1623 due for reply on 29.07.2021

| S. No. | State | No. of Safai karamchairs Trained under RPL (Started 2017-18) | No. of Workshops organised (Started 2017-18) | No. of Sanitation Related Projects provided Capital Subsidy (Started 2020-21) | No. of Sanitation Related Projects provided concessional loan under SUY (Started 2019-20) |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | A&N Islands | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 516 | 31 | 11 | 0 |
| 3 | Assam | 162 | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Bihar | 1,003 | 18 | 0 | 21 |
| 5 | Chandigarh | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Chhattisgarh | 386 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Delhi | 1,302 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Gujarat | 1,031 | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Haryana | 1,014 | 50 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 | Himachal Pradesh | 39 | 27 | 0 | 2 |
| 11 | J&K | 597 | 56 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Jharkhand | 244 | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Karnataka | 772 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Kerala | 0 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Madhya Pradesh | 1,948 | 33 | 3 | 131 |
| 16 | Maharashtra | 2,859 | 49 | 0 | 5 |
| 17 | Meghalaya | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Nagaland | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Orissa | 1,032 | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| 20 | Punjab | 309 | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Rajasthan | 1,775 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Sikkim | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Tamil Nadu | 885 | 93 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Telangana | 741 | 2 | 0 | 76 |
| 25 | Tripura | 172 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Uttar Pradesh | 3,704 | 114 | 2 | 4 |
| 27 | Uttarakhand | 0 | 8 | 0 | 56 |
| 28 | West Bengal | 817 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | 21,308 | 804 | 28 | 296 |