

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1430  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021**

**CLEANING HUMAN EXCRETA**

**1430. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that nearly 500 people died while cleaning human excreta during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop this inhuman activity in the country;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to make stricter laws prohibiting engagement of people for cleaning human excreta; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): There is no report of death due to cleaning of human excreta (Manual Scavenging). However, there is a report of death of 321 persons due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks during the last five years. Details are given at **Annexure**.

(c): The fatal accidents in sewers and septic tanks are due to non compliance of the prescribed safety measures and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). A National Policy on Mechanised Sanitation Eco-system has been formulated and circulated to the States for implementation. This policy, inter-alia, envisages appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in each district and a Sanitation Response Unit in each municipality, which shall be fully equipped with necessary machines, devices and vehicles for mechanised cleaning and professionally trained manpower to ensure safe cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

In addition, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also taken the following steps to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks:-

- i. Under Swachhta Udyami Yojana of National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, concessional loans are provided to safai karamcharis, manual scavengers & their dependants and the Urban Local Bodies & other agencies responsible for cleaning, for procurement of sanitation related instruments/vehicles.
- ii. Under Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), in addition to the manual scavengers, the sanitation workers and their dependants are also provided capital subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh for procurement of instruments/vehicles for mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- iii. Workshops are organised in municipalities with the officers, engineers, contractors, sanitation workers etc. of urban local bodies to sensitise them about safe and healthy cleaning practices and mechanised cleaning of sewers & septic tanks.
- iv. A short duration training programme (RPL) is organised for the sanitation workers wherein they are trained in safe and healthy mechanised cleaning practices.

(d) & (e): No, Sir.

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Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1430 for answer on 07.12.2021 regarding Cleaning Human Excreta.

Year-wise details of death of persons during the last five years, while cleaning sewers and septic tanks

S. No.	Years	Total Number of deaths
1	2017	93
2	2018	70
3	2019	117
4	2020	19
5	2021	22
	<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>

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