

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†3850
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2021**

DEATH OF MANUAL SCANVENGERS

†3850. SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether a number of employees working in urban bodies have lost their lives while cleaning sewers/ septic tanks across the country during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the total number of people who lost their lives while engaging in sewer cleaning process; the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any new concrete policy to discontinue the manual cleaning of sewers; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the latest measures taken by the Government to provide modern equipment, training and uniform to the people engaged in sewer cleaning; the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): State-wise and year-wise details of persons who are reported to have died due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and non observance of safety precautions prescribed under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013” during the last five years are at **Annexure-I**.

(c): 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 Response unit (SRU) 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.

(d): National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) has been implementing the following programmes to prevent manual cleaning for sewers & septic tanks and also to provide modern equipment, training etc. to the people engaged in sewer/septic tank cleaning:-

- i. Under the Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) concessional loans are provided to sanitation workers and their dependants and the urban local bodies for procurement of sanitation related equipments, machines and vehicles costing upto Rs. 50.00 lakh.
- ii. The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) has been revised from 2020-21 to provide capital subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh to sanitation workers and their dependants for sanitation related projects.
- iii. Under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme, free short duration upskilling training is provided to the sanitation workers. The candidates are taught about mechanized cleaning and safety precautions for safe and healthy cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- iv. Workshops are organised with officers, engineers, sanitary inspectors, supervisors, contractors and sanitation workers etc. of urban local bodies and authorities responsible for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. During the workshops the participants are made aware about the provisions under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013”, the rules framed thereunder and other provisions for safe and healthy cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- v. State-wise details of SUY scheme is at **Annexure-II** and workshops regarding upskilling training is at **Annexure-III**
- vi. Under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation rules, 2013”, the employer, who engages the workers for cleaning of sewers/septic tanks, is obliged to provide the safety gear, safety devices and ensure safety precautions as prescribed under the Rules.

Annexure-I referred in reply to parts (a) to (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3850 for answer on 21.12.2021 regarding Death of manual scavengers.

Year-wise and State-wise details of death of persons during last five years in sewers and septic tanks

S. No.	Name of State/UT	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
		No. of death	No. of death	No. of death	No. of death	No. of death
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	10	4	4
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	7	2	16	0	3
8.	Haryana	11	6	14	0	2
9.	Karnataka	3	9	7	2	5
10.	Kerala	1	0	0	0	0
11.	Maharashtra	5	6	15	4	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0	0
13.	Punjab	10	2	3	0	1
14.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Rajasthan	6	2	5	0	0
16.	Tamil Nadu	7	9	13	9	5
17.	Telangana	1	2	0	0	2
18.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	15	11	25	0	0
20.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0
21.	West Bengal	7	0	6	0	0
Total		93	70	117	19	22

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3850 for answer on 21.12.2021 regarding Death of manual scavengers.

State-wise details of sanitation workers assisted during last three years and current financial year for procurement of sanitation related equipments/vehicles:

(i) Concessional loan to sanitation workers through the State Channelising Agencies:

S.No.	State	No. of sanitation workers assisted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1383
2.	Rajasthan	33
	Total	1416

(ii) Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh provided to sanitation workers against the loans sanctioned by banks for procurement of sanitation related equipments/vehicles:

S.No.	State	No. of sanitation workers assisted
1.	A & N Islands	11
2.	Andhra Pradesh	56
3.	Haryana	2
4.	Jharkhand	3
5.	Madhya Pradesh	38
6.	Maharashtra	2
7.	Odisha	9
8.	Telangana	8
9.	Uttar Pradesh	13
	Total	142

Annexure-III

Annexure-III referred in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3850 for answer on 21.12.2021 regarding Death of manual scavengers.

State-wise details of sanitation workers provided upskilling training (RPL) in sanitation work during last three years and current financial year:

Achievement RPL training from 2018-19 to 2021-22 (as on 15.12.2021)		
S. No.	State/UT	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	516
2	Assam	1422
3	Bihar	2000
4	Chandigarh	200
5	Chhattisgarh	454
6	Delhi	401
7	Gujarat	1446
8	Haryana	1014
9	Himachal Pradesh	270
10	Jharkhand	529
11	J&K	441
12	Karnataka	624
13	Madhya Pradesh	3163
14	Maharashtra	1953
15	Odisha	642
16	Punjab	701
17	Rajasthan	1183
18	Tamil Nadu	489
19	Telangana	580
20	Tripura	260
21	Uttar Pradesh	4095
22	Uttarakhand	191
23	West Bengal	2035
	TOTAL	24609