

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2022**

WELFARE OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

2120. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of total deaths occurred due to manual scavenging in the country during each of the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) the number of family members of manual scavengers who received compensation after death of their family member during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any special measures for the welfare and rehabilitation of the manual scavengers families after the death of their family members, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any action among the contractors who engaged humans as scavengers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details and name of States which have banned the manual scavenging?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): No death has been reported due to engaging in Manual Scavenging (which is lifting of human excreta from insanitary latrines as defined in Section 2(1) (g) of the MS Act, 2013). However, 325 persons have died due to accidents while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks during the last five years and family members of 276 persons have received compensation during the said period. Details are given at **Annexure**.

(c): In accordance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Judgment dated 27.03.2014 in Civil Writ Petition No. 583 of 2003, compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each is paid to the families of those who have died while cleaning sewers/septic tanks. Central and State Governments are providing rehabilitation benefits, as per their schemes to the family of persons who died due to hazardous cleaning.

In addition, Government is implementing a Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). The following are the provisions for providing assistance to the identified manual scavengers for their rehabilitation:-

- i. One Time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/- to one identified manual scavenger in the family.
- ii. Skill Development Training of manual scavengers and their dependants upto two years with stipend @ Rs. 3,000/- per month during the training period.
- iii. Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh for those who availed loans for Self Employment Projects including sanitation related projects.
- iv. Health insurance under Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to the families of all the identified manual scavengers.

(d): As per the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" manual scavenging is a prohibited activity in the country with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from the above date. Any person or agency who engages any person for manual scavenging in violation of the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 is punishable under Section 8 of the above Act, with imprisonment upto 2 years or fine upto Rs. One Lakh or both.

(e): Manual Scavenging is a banned activity under the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" throughout the country.

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2120 for answer on 15.03.2022 regarding Welfare of Manual Scavengers.

Details of death of persons in sewers and septic tanks during the last five years (2017 to 2021)

| Status of payment of compensation in terms of Supreme Court Judgment dated 27.03.2014 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| S No | Name of State/UT | Total Number of sewer death | 10 Lac | Less than 10 Lac |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 13 | 10 | 0 |
| 2 | Bihar | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 3 | Chhattisgarh | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | Chandigarh | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 | Delhi | 42 | 37 | 0 |
| 6 | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 28 | 23 | 0 |
| 8 | Haryana | 33 | 23 | 6 |
| 9 | Karnataka | 26 | 26 | 0 |
| 10 | Kerala | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Maharashtra | 30 | 11 | 0 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | Odisha | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 14 | Punjab | 16 | 10 | 6 |
| 15 | Rajasthan | 13 | 11 | 1 |
| 16 | Tamil Nadu | 43 | 43 | 0 |
| 17 | Telangana | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| 18 | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Uttrakhand | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Uttar Pradesh | 52 | 27 | 17 |
| 21 | West Bengal | 13 | 8 | 1 |
| | Total | 325 | 245 | 31 |
