

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3793
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025**

UNAVAILABILITY OF SAFETY GEAR TO SANITATION WORKERS

3793. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that in 49 out of 54 sewer-related deaths in 2022 and 2023, the deceased workers were not provided any safety gear or PPE kits;
- (b) if so, the reasons for such gross neglect of mandatory safety measures; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure strict enforcement of safety protocols by all agencies involved in sewer and septic tank cleaning, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) & (b): Audit reported that majority of the sanitation workers were engaged by the private individuals through unorganized sector without the availability of appropriate protective gears.

(c): Sanitation is a State Subject under VIIth scheduled of the Constitution of India.

As per “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules, 2013)” it is mandatory for the employer to provide the safety gear, devices and ensure safety precautions as prescribed in the Rules.

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)” Scheme in 2023-24 for implementation in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country. The objective is to ensure safety and dignity of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) and empower them socially and economically.

The scheme envisages provision of :-

- PPE Kits, AB-PMJAY cards to SSWs and Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs). The State-wise details are at **Annexure**.
- Occupation safety training to sewer and septic tank workers.
- Upfront Capital Subsidy for sanitation related machinery to sanitation workers and their groups of maximum five persons.
- Organising Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

In addition, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has also issued the following advisory for safe cleaning of sewer and septic tanks:-

- i. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for cleaning of Sewer or Septic tank.
- ii. Advisory for technical and managerial interventions for ensuring safety during sewer and septic tank cleaning through Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU).
- iii. Ready Reckoner for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for ensuring safety of sanitation workers.
- iv. Organising Safaimitra Suraksha Shivirs nationwide through ULBs to provide health checkups and linkage to social welfare schemes.

Annexure referred in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3793 for answer on 12.08.2025 regarding Unavailability of Safety Gear to Sanitation Workers.

S.No.	State	PPE kits Issued	Safety devices Issued to ERSUs	Number of Beneficiaries covered under AB-PMJAY and State Health Scheme
1	Andaman And Nicobar	40	1	48
2	Andhra Pradesh	2124	25	3479
3	Arunachal Pradesh	86	2	56
4	Assam	308	31	299
5	Bihar	2626	22	2621
6	Chandigarh	252	1	232
7	Chhattisgarh	634	21	1213
8	Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli	116	0	97
9	Delhi	135	0	1046
10	Goa	93	2	166
11	Gujarat	4295	17	2374
12	Haryana	2193	0	1790
13	Himachal Pradesh	180	0	301
14	Jammu & Kashmir	700	2	566
15	Jharkhand	707	11	679
16	Karnataka	667	19	3856
17	Kerala	1589	14	1322
18	Ladakh	21	2	17
19	Lakshadweep	86	0	81
20	Madhya Pradesh	1908	24	1981
21	Maharashtra	7135	32	3604
22	Manipur	110	1	162
24	Meghalaya	0	0	78
23	Mizoram	140	0	43
25	Nagaland	10	4	80
26	Odisha	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	242	2	207
28	Punjab	4407	11	3258
29	Rajasthan	3299	21	1384
30	Sikkim	95	5	95
31	Tamil Nadu	0	0	6975
32	Telangana	1198	15	2306
33	Tripura	110	8	235
34	Uttar Pradesh	10092	55	7356
35	Uttarakhand	119	6	503
36	West Bengal	154	0	7590
	Total	45871	354	56100
