

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1513  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2025**

**COMPENSATION FOR MANUAL SCAVENGING WORKERS**

**1513. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:**

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

(a) whether the Government has data on the number of deaths of manual scavenging workers during the last ten years and if so, the details thereof, year and State/Union Territory-wise, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any compensation has been granted to the families of the deceased workers and if so, the details of such compensation, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any audit or assessment regarding the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and if so, the findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time-bound roadmap along with milestones prepared by the Government to completely eradicate manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning and make sanitation work fully mechanised?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): No death has been reported due to Manual Scavenging.

(c): No, Sir.

Various provisions of “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)” stipulate for constitution of the following Commission/Committees for monitoring and effective implementation of the Act:-

- i. Central Monitoring Committee, State Level Monitoring Committee and Vigilance Committee at District and Sub-Division Level.
- ii. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) is mandated to monitor implementation of various provisions of the MS Act, 2013.
- iii. State Commission for Safai Karamcharis or State Commission for the Scheduled Castes or such other statutory institution to perform the function of State Commission for Safai Karamcharis.
- iv. State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to implement the provisions of the Act.

(d): As per the provisions of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)”, manual scavenging is a banned activity in the country with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging after 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.

No report of the practice of manual scavenging has been received from States/UT.

To tackle hazardous cleaning of Sewer and Septic Tanks, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs 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 to empower them socially and economically. The aim is to achieve zero fatality in sanitation work and to ensure that no sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter.

The scheme envisages the provision of :-

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) cards and occupation safety training to sewer and septic tank workers.
- Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)
- Upfront Capital Subsidy for sanitation related machinery to sanitation workers; their groups of maximum five persons and Private Sanitation Service Operators (PSSOs).
- Organising Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 on 1st, October, 2021. It includes a new component i.e. Used Water Management (UWM) with one of the objectives of eradication of hazardous entry into sewers and septic tanks and sustaining elimination of manual cleaning, through mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.

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 linkages to social welfare schemes.

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