

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2626
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2025**

AMENDMENT OF BILL FOR MANUAL SCAVENGERS

2626. SHRI S VENKATESAN:

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

- (a) the reasons for dropping the bill for complete mechanisation of sewer cleaning through the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 ;
- (b) whether any alternate efforts in place of the proposed Bill have been successful; and
- (c) if so, the details of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is aiming at complete mechanization of cleaning sewers and septic tanks?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Prohibition of Employment and Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill 2020 envisaged for creation of Sanitation Authority; making State Government responsible for paying compensation in the event of death due to hazardous cleaning activity and mechanization of hazardous cleaning operations.

Since, the above issues have been taken care of under National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Eco-system (NAMASTE) scheme and Swachchh Bharat Mission 2.0, the amendment Bill was not pursued.

(b): Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)” Scheme in 2023-24 for its implementation in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country. The objective is to ensure safety and dignity of Safai Karmacharis and to empower them socially and economically. The aim is to achieve zero fatality in sanitation work and to ensure that no sanitation worker comes in direct contact with human faecal matter. The interventions under the NAMASTE scheme are as under:-

- (i) Profiling and validation of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs);
- (ii) PPE kits for SSWs;
- (iii) Occupational Training to SSWs;
- (iv) Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY cards;
- (v) Safety Devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units;
- (vi) Upfront Capital Subsidy to SSWs and Private Sanitation Service Operators for sanitation related machine /equipment;
- (vii) Workshop on hazardous cleaning operations

Achievements under NAMASTE scheme are as under:-

- 89,104 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) have been validated.
- 85,743 PPE kits for SSWs & 653 Safety Devices Kit for Emergency Response Sanitation Units have been dispatched to States/UTs.
- 70,950 beneficiaries have been covered under Ayushman Bharat –PMJAY; State Health Scheme and under NAMASTE scheme.
- Capital Subsidy of Rs. 23.91 Crore released to 782 sanitation workers and their dependents for sanitation related projects.
- 1188 workshops have been conducted on Prevention of Hazardous Cleaning of Sewer and Septic Tanks.

(c): Reply has been made in part (a) of the question.
