

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †467
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019**

DEATH OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

†467. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that information of death of manual scavengers involved in sewer cleaning has been reported;
- (b) if so, the year-wise and State-wise number of persons died while doing this during last three years;
- (c) the action taken by Government to provide assistance to the affected families, including providing employment; and
- (d) whether Government will consider making use of machines essential for the cleaning of deep sewer and septic tanks in all the corporations and institutions ?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, there have been reports of death of persons while cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Details of the persons who have died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks as reported by the States to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis during the last three years and current year are at **Annexure**.

(c): Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 27.03.2014 in CWP No. 583 of 2003 Safai Karamchari Andolan Vs Union of India and Others directed the States and Union Territories to identify all the cases of sewerage related deaths that have occurred since 1993 and pay compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each to the families of the persons who have died while cleaning of sewer/septic tanks. Details of compensation paid to the families who have died while cleaning of sewers and septic tanks is given in **Annexure** mentioned above. Employment of sanitation workers is decided by the local authorities of the State Government.

(d): Under Section 33 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013) it shall be the duty of every local authority and other agency to use appropriate technological appliances for cleaning of sewers, septic tanks and other spaces within their control with a view to eliminating the need for the manual

handling of excreta in the process of their cleaning. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have circulated the Standard Operating Procedure for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks to all States and Union Territories. In addition, National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) organizes workshops in municipalities for engineers, sanitary inspectors, sanitary workers and contractors on safe cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and also create awareness about the provisions of MS Act, 2013 and “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules 2013)” regarding employer’s obligations to provide safety gear/equipment and ensure safety precautions. 458 such workshops have been organized from 02nd October, 2018 to 15.11.2019.

NSKFDC is also implementing a scheme, Swachhta Udyami Yojana under which loan upto Rs. 50 lakh is provided to the municipalities for purchase of equipment/vehicles for mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. The State Governments have been requested to issue instructions to the municipalities to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with NSKFDC in this regard.

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Rajya Sabha unstarred question No. 467 for answer on 20.11.2019 regarding death of manual scavengers

Information received from States by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) about number of sewer deaths and compensation paid from 2016 to 06.11.2019.

S No	Name of State/UT	2016		2017		2018		2019 (06 Nov 2019)	Total		
		No. of deaths	Compensation paid	No. of deaths	Compensation paid	No. of deaths	Compensation paid	No. of deaths	Compensation paid	No. of deaths	Compensation paid
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	2	2	2	9	7	2	0	16	11
2	Bihar	0	0	6	*	6	*	0	0	12	0
3	Chhatisgarh	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
4	Chandigarh	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3
5	Delhi	1	0	13	12	10	10	6	6	30	28
6	Goa	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
7	Gujarat	7	0	7	3	2	1	14	2	30	6
8	Haryana	0	0	11	11	6	3	14	6	31	20
9	Kerala	2	*	1	*	0	0	0	0	3	0
9	Karnataka	9	9	4	4	1	1	3	1	17	15
10	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
11	Maharashtra	4	*	4	*	7	*	12	*	27	2
12	Punjab	2	2	4	*	2	*	3	1	11	3
13	Rajasthan	5	2	6	4	2	*	4	0	17	6
14	Tamil Nadu	10	10	7	7	9	7	14	9	40	33
15	Tripura	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
16	Telangana	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2
17	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	8	6	9	3	9	5	27	14
18	West Bengal	0	0	7	7	0	0	2	1	9	8
	Total	50	29	83	59	66	35	83	31	282	156

* Information not received