

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -126  
ANSWERED ON - 02/02/2022

**SAFETY OF SANITARY WORKERS**

126. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY

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

- (a) the details of the people who had died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the last five years, State-wise along with reasons thereof;
- (b) the compensation paid to the victims and their families;
- (c) the steps being taken on working of the national policy for mechanised sanitation to protect the workers' interests; and
- (d) the measures taken to assist companies/workers to protect themselves along with insurance/medical facilities with concessional loans to buy equipment for cleaning, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) & (b) State-wise and year-wise details of persons who are reported to have died due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and non observance of safety precautions prescribed under the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013" during the last five years are at **Annexure-I**.
- (c) A National Policy for mechanized Sanitation Eco-system has been formulated in consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Drinking water and Sanitation which envisages, inter alia, the following:
  - i. Appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in every District.
  - ii. Setting up of Sanitation Response Unit (SRU) in each municipality.

- iii. Equipping SRUs with necessary devices, machines and vehicles required for mechanized cleaning.
- iv. Professionally trained manpower for mechanized cleaning.
- v. 24x7 helpline to receive complaints regarding blockage of sewers and septic tanks.
- vi. Setting up facilities for evacuation, transportation and treatment of sludge from septic tanks.
- vii. Training to the staff of municipalities and contractors in the mechanized cleaning of sewers/septic tanks.

(d) The following measures have been taken to promote 100% mechanization, specially cleaning of sewers, septic tanks, desilting of drains, garbage lifting, sludge handling, solid and medical waste disposal etc. and for the benefit of sanitation workers (including waste pickers) and their dependants to provide sustainable livelihood:-

- i. Under the Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) concessional loans are provided to sanitation workers and their dependants and the urban local bodies for procurement of sanitation related equipments, machines and vehicles costing upto Rs. 50.00 lakh. The Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) has been revised from 2020-21 to provide capital subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh to sanitation workers and their dependants for sanitation related projects. State-wise details of number of sanitation workers assisted under these schemes are given at **Annexure-II**.
- ii. Under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme, free short duration upskilling training is provided to the sanitation workers. The candidates are trained about mechanized cleaning and safety precautions for safe and healthy cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- iii. Workshops are organised with officers, engineers, sanitary inspectors, supervisors, contractors and sanitation workers etc. of urban local bodies and authorities responsible for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. During the workshops the participants are made aware about the provisions under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013”, the rules framed thereunder and other provisions for safe and healthy cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- iv. NSKFDC also organises health camps in the basties of identified manual scavengers and sanitation workers. During these camps, free health check-up i.e. Sugar, BP, etc is facilitated to the target group of the NSKFDC. Further, need based free medicines & spectacles are provided to the target group during the camps. The doctors of different disciplines i.e. Eyes, General physician and Gynecologist etc. check the patients.

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Annexure-I referred in reply to parts ( a) to (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 126 for answer on 02.02.2022 regarding Safety of Sanitary Workers.

Year-wise and State-wise details of death of persons and compensation paid during last five years in sewers and septic tanks

S. No.	Name of State/Uts	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
		Total No. of death	Compensation paid	Total No. of death	Compensation paid	Total No. of death	Compensation paid	Total No. of death	Compensation paid	Total No. of death	Compensation paid
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	2	9	8	2	0	0	0	0	0
2	Bihar	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Chhatisgarh	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Chandigarh	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Delhi	13	12	11	10	10	8	4	3	4	4
6	Gujarat	7	5	2	2	16	13	0	0	3	3
7	Haryana	11	11	6	6	14	10	0	0	2	2
8	Karnataka	3	3	9	9	7	7	2	2	5	5
9	Kerala	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Maharashtra	5	0	6	2	15	3	4	0	0	0
11	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
12	Punjab	10	10	2	2	3	3	0	0	1	1
13	Rajasthan	6	6	2	2	5	0	0	0	0	0
14	Tamil Nadu	7	7	9	8	13	13	9	9	5	5
15	Telangana	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
16	Uttar Pradesh	15	11	11	10	25	20	0	0	0	0
17	West Bengal	7	7	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 126 for 02.02.2022 regarding Safety of Sanitary Workers

**State-wise details of sanitation workers assisted for procurement of sanitation related equipments/vehicles**

- A. State-wise details of sanitation workers assisted through the State Channelising Agencies: through concessional loans during last three years and current financial year for procurement of sanitation related equipments/vehicles under **Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY)** of NSKFDC: (from 2014-15)

S.No.	State	No. of sanitation workers assisted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1383
2.	Rajasthan	33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1416</b>

- B. State-wise details sanitation workers provided Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh against the loans sanctioned by banks for procurement of sanitation related equipments/vehicles under **Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**: (from 2020-21)

S.No.	State	No. of sanitation workers assisted
1.	A & N Islands	11
2.	Andhra Pradesh	81
3.	Haryana	2
4.	Jharkhand	3
5.	Madhya Pradesh	39
6.	Maharashtra	2
7.	Odisha	9
8.	Telangana	10
9.	Uttar Pradesh	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>