

Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules, 2013) prescribes the obligation of the employer towards employees engaged in the cleaning of sewer or septic tank. Any person, employer or agency who violates the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 in this regard is punishable with fine upto ₹ 5 lakh or imprisonment upto 5 years or both. National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation also 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 "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (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.

As regards cleaning of chemical tanks in the industrial units, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has informed that the provision of Section 7 A of the Factories Act, 1948 lay down the duties of the occupier (*i.e.* the person who has ultimate control over the affairs of the factory) to ensure safety and health of the workers employed in the factory. The provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules made thereunder are enforced by the concerned State Governments/Union Territories through their Factory Inspectors.

Schemes for upliftment of weaker segments

†1230. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes started in various States by Government during the last three years to uplift the weaker segments of the society in the country;

(b) the number of people who have been benefited from these schemes during the above period, State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated to every State during the above period, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(d) whether there is any agency to monitor the implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) to (e) During the last three year,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched one scheme namely 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)' on 01.04.2017. The objective of the scheme is to provide senior citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from age related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. Under the Scheme, assisted living devices such as walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/ crutches, tripods/quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures, spectacles are provided free of cost to the beneficiaries.

The Scheme is implemented by the "Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)", a Mini Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of this Ministry. The devices are distributed in the camp mode to the identified beneficiaries. The Scheme is being funded from Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF). The scheme is monitored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as Nodal Ministry. At present, a total of 318 districts have been selected from all States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme. As on 13.12.2018, 66 Distribution Camps have been organized at district level benefitting 68,612 Senior Citizens belonging to BPL category. The State-wise number of beneficiaries is given in the Statement (*See below*). An amount of ₹ 17.50 crore was released to the ALIMCO during 2017-18 and ₹ 53.25 crore during 2018-19.

Statement

*State-wise Total Number of Beneficiaries under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
(as on 13.12.2018)*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5402
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	384
3.	Bihar	1926
4.	Chhattisgarh	31
5.	Delhi	2605
6.	Goa	2407
7.	Gujarat	2760
8.	Haryana	1712
9.	Himachal Pradesh	76
10.	Jharkhand	21

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of Beneficiaries
11.	Karnataka	1214
12.	Kerala	962
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14939
14.	Maharashtra	6343
15.	Meghalaya	7291
16.	Puducherry	1529
17.	Punjab	393
18.	Rajasthan	4210
19.	Sikkim	1814
20.	Tamil Nadu	969
21.	Telangana	1473
22.	Tripura	795
23.	Uttar Pradesh	6719
24.	Uttarakhand	2637
TOTAL NO. OF BENEFICIARIES		68612

Implementation of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

†1231. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had announced "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" in 2017 which aims at providing physical aids like wheelchairs, hearing aids, spectacles, walking sticks, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this yojana is being successfully implemented, as per its objectives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per para-43 of budget announcement 2015-16, a new scheme namely 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.