

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO - 171  
ANSWERED ON - 04/08/2021

**NHRC's RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MANUAL SCAVENGING**

171. SHRI BINOY VISWAM

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

- (a) whether Government is planning on implementing NHRC's recommendations dated 4th January, 2021 regarding manual scavenging;
- (b) whether Government has data regarding total number of people engaged in manual scavenging in the country;
- (c) whether Government has data on the number of people engaged in manual scavenging who lost their lives in the course of employment;
- (d) whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act, 2013, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the rehabilitation efforts undertaken under the PEMSAR Act, 2013?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred in reply to part (a) to (e) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.171 for answer on 04.08.2021 raised by Shri Binoy Viswam regarding “NHRC’s Recommendations Regarding Manual Scavenging”.**

(a) Yes Sir. Appropriate action is taken on the recommendations of NHRC regarding manual scavenging and the related matters.

(b) As per the two surveys conducted by the local authorities in the year 2013 and 2018, 58,098 persons were working as manual scavengers. Statewise details are at **Annexure-I**.

(c) There is no report of death due to manual scavenging. However, we have reports regarding deaths of workers while being engaged in cleaning of sewers or septic tanks. Statewise details of deaths reported by State Governments are at **Annexure-II**.

(d) The Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers which is being implemented under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, has been evaluated in the year 2017-18 and year 2019-20. Based on the recommendations, the Scheme has been revised suitably from the year 2021-22.

(e) Rehabilitation benefits under the PMSR Act 2013 are:-

- i. The maximum amount of capital subsidy for self employment projects has been enhanced from Rs. 3.25 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakh.
- ii. Sanitation workers and their dependants have also been made eligible for availing assistance for sanitation related projects to contribute to mechanization of sanitation work, including cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. They will be eligible for capital subsidy and interest subsidy for the projects.
- iii. With a view to enable procurement of higher value sanitation related vehicles/machines, the maximum project cost for the group has been fixed at Rs. 50.00 lakh.
- iv. Ministry has started giving health insurance cover upto Rs. 5.00 lakh to all identified manual scavengers and their family members under Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

The following are the achievements under SRMS:-

- i. All the identified and eligible 58,098 manual scavengers have been paid one time cash assistance of Rs. 40,000/- directly into their bank accounts.
- ii. 16057 manual scavengers and their dependants have been provided skill development training in various trades.
- iii. 1387 manual scavengers, sanitation workers and their dependants have been provided capital subsidy for self employment projects, including sanitation related projects.

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**Annexure-I referred in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 171 for answer on 04.08.2021 regarding NHRCs Recommendations regarding Manual Scavenging.**

**Number of Manual Scavengers Identified**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>No. of manual scavengers identified</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	1793
2	Assam	3921
3	Bihar	131
4	Chhattisgarh	3
5	Gujarat	105
6	Jharkhand	192
7	Karnataka	2927
8	Kerala	518
9	Madhya Pradesh	510
10	Maharashtra	6325
11	Odisha	230
12	Punjab	231
13	Rajasthan	2673
14	Tamilnadu	398
15	Uttar Pradesh	32473
16	Uttarakhand	4988
17	West Bengal	680
<b>Total</b>		<b>58098</b>

Annexure-II referred in reply to part (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question no. 171 for Answer on 04.08.2021 regarding NHRCs Recommendations regarding Manual Scavenging.

**States/UTs wise details of sewer/septic tank related deaths**

S. No	Name of State/UT	Total Number of sewer death
1	Andhra Pradesh	23
2	Bihar	2
3	Chhatisgarh	1
4	Chandigarh	3
5	Delhi	98
6	Goa	6
7	Gujarat	153
8	Haryana	73
9	Karnataka	84
10	Kerala	13
11	Maharashtra	36
12	Madhya Pradesh	10
13	Punjab	41
14	Puducherry	9
15	Rajasthan	41
16	Tamil Nadu	213
17	Telangana	7
18	Tripura	2
19	Uttrakhand	3
20	Uttar Pradesh	104
21	West Bengal	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>941</b>