

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3976
ANSWERED ON - 06/04/2022

RELIEF PACKAGE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

3976. SHRI SYED ZAFAR ISLAM

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

- (a) whether the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has ensured some relief package for families whose members died as a result of manual scavenging;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) whether it is a fact that deaths on account of manual scavenging continue to happen across the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to abolish manual scavenging completely in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (c) No death has been reported due to engaging in Manual Scavenging (which is lifting of human excreta from insanitary latrines as defined in Section 2(1) (g) of the Prohibition of Manual Scavenging Act, 2013). However, persons have died due to accidents while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

In accordance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Judgment dated 27.03.2014 in Civil Writ Petition No. 583 of 2003, compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each is paid by the State Governments to the families of those who have died while cleaning sewers/septic tanks from the year 1993 onwards. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis and Department of Social Justice have ensured such compensation payments. State wise details which include the state of Uttar Pradesh are given at **Annexure**.

(d) As per the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" manual scavenging is a prohibited activity in the country with effect from 6.12.2013. No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from the above date. Any person or agency who engages any person for manual scavenging in violation of the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 is punishable under Section 8 of the above Act, with imprisonment upto 2 years or fine upto Rs. One Lakh or both.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, since October 2, 2014, more than 10.94 crore sanitary toilets have been constructed in rural areas and over 62.65 lakh in urban areas and insanitary toilets have been converted into sanitary toilets. This work made a huge contribution towards ending the practice of manual scavenging. After receiving reports from the social institutions working in this field, about continuation of this practice, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a mobile app "Swachhata Abhiyaan" on 24.12.2020 to capture the data of insanitary latrines still existing and manual scavengers associated with them. Any person can upload the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers on the mobile app. Thereafter, the data is verified by the concerned district administration. However, not a single insanitary latrine has been confirmed so far.

Annexure- referred to reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3976 for answer on 06.04.2022 regarding Relief Package for family members of Manual Scavengers

State wise details which include the state of Uttar Pradesh death of persons in sewers and septic tanks during the years 1993 to till date

S No	Name of State/UT	Total Number of sewer death	Status of payment of compensation in terms of Supreme Court Judgment dated 27.03.2014	
			10 Lac	Less than 10 Lac
1	Andhra Pradesh	23	13	4
2	Bihar	2	2	0
3	Chhatisgarh	1	1	0
4	Chandigarh	3	3	0
5	Delhi	97	63	21
6	Goa	6	0	6
7	Gujarat	156	79	32
8	Haryana	77	57	14
9	Karnataka	84	84	0
10	Kerala	13	13	0
11	Maharashtra	41	16	2
12	Madhya Pradesh	16	16	0
13	Odisha	2	2	0
14	Puducherry	9	8	0
15	Punjab	42	34	6
16	Rajasthan	38	24	9
17	Tamil Nadu	214	203	1
18	Telangana	17	14	2
19	Tripura	2	0	2
20	Uttrakhand	3	1	2
21	Uttar Pradesh	106	56	34
22	West Bengal	19	14	1
	Total	971	703	136