

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 468
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019**

PREVENTION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING DEATHS

468. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps under 'Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavenging and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013' to prevent manual scavenging deaths;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the initiatives taken to rehabilitate manual scavengers?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Manual scavenging is prohibited under section 5 and 6 of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013" (MS Act, 2013) from 06.12.2013, the date of coming into force of the Act. Under Section 8 of the Act whoever contravenes the provisions of section 5 or section 6 shall for the first contravention be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees or with both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.

Under section 7 of the Act, no person, local authority or any agency shall engage or employ, any person either directly or indirectly, any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank. Under section 9 of the Act, whoever contravenes the provisions of section 7 shall for the first contravention be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or with both, and for any subsequent contravention with imprisonment which may extend to five years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both.

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.

(c): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) through National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) under which the identified manual scavengers are provided the following benefits:

- (i) Onetime cash assistance of Rs.40,000/- .
- (ii) Skill Development Training with Stipend of Rs.3,000/- per month.
- (iii) Capital subsidy upto Rs. 3,25,000/-to those who have availed for bank loans for self employment projects.
