

REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

Posted On: 18 MAR 2026 5:15PM by PIB Delhi

A fresh survey of manual scavengers, as per the provisions of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013” has been conducted in all districts of the country under which no Manual Scavenger (MS) has been found. However, 58,098 Manual Scavengers have been identified during two surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018. One-time Cash Assistance (OTCA) @ Rs. 40,000 each have been paid to all the identified MS including 131 MS (0.22%) in Bihar.

During 2020-21 to 2024-25, OTCA to 14,692 MS, Skill Development Training to 9,868 MS and Capital Subsidy to 1,524 MS have been given. These details are at **Annexure**.

Some deaths have occurred in States/UTs during hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks due to non-observance of safety precautions as prescribed under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013” and “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013” and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme to ensure safety and dignity of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) has been launched in 2023-24. Measures taken to enhance worker safety and to promote mechanization under NAMASTE scheme are as under:-

1. Personal Protective Equipment Kits to SSWs.
2. Occupational safety training to SSWs.
3. Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) in larger Urban Local Bodies.
4. Upfront Capital Subsidy for sanitation related machinery to sanitation workers, their groups of maximum five persons and Private Sanitation Service Operators (PSSOs).
5. Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.
6. Appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority.

Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 launched on 1st October, 2021 includes a new component i.e. Used Water Management (UWM) with one of the objectives as eradication of hazardous entry into sewers and septic tanks and sustaining elimination of manual cleaning, through mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3021 for answer on 18.03.2026 regarding Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

State-wise details of one time cash assistance, skill training and capital subsidy given to manual scavengers identified in survey conducted in 2013 and 2018 during last 5 years are as under:-

S. No.	Name of State / UT	No. of MS identified during 2013 and 2018 survey	Number of Manual Scavengers provided benefits during 2020-21 to 2024-25		
			OTCA	Skill development training	Capital subsidy
1	Andhra Pradesh	1793	330	72	0
2	Assam	3921	3051	198	2
3	Bihar	131	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	3	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	105	0	0	0
6	Jharkhand	192	68	0	0
7	Karnataka	2927	1046	326	671
8	Kerala	518	0	12	0
9	Madhya Pradesh	510	169	145	0
10	Maharashtra	6325	718	459	9
11	Odisha	230	11	0	0
12	Punjab	231	9	0	10
13	Rajasthan	2673	232	1094	14
14	Tamil Nadu	398	14	0	3
15	Uttar Pradesh	32473	6267	6584	348
16	Uttarakhand	4988	2775	962	22
17	West Bengal	680	2	16	445
	Total	58098	14692	9868	1524

This information is given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

KV/HK

(Release ID: 2241902) Visitor Counter : 68

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