

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Strengthens Safety Welfare and Dignity of Sanitation Workers

87,037 sewer and septic tank workers provided PPE kits; Rs 34.17 crore capital subsidy released to support procurement of sanitation vehicles

Waste pickers included under the scheme since June 2024; 3,78,547 profiled across urban and rural areas

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The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is advancing measures for the welfare and dignity of sanitation workers through worker profiling, provision of protective equipment, health insurance coverage, financial assistance and strengthening of safety infrastructure.

Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice And Empowerment Shri Sudhansh Pant said that a total of **90,942** sewer and septic tank workers have been profiled, of whom **89,248** have been validated. He said that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits have been provided to **87,037** workers, while **76,247** workers have been covered under various health insurance schemes that support safer working conditions and access to healthcare protection.



The Secretary said that to facilitate access to sanitation vehicles, an upfront capital subsidy of **Rs 34.17 crore** has been released to **983** sanitation workers for procurement of **364** vehicles. This assistance supports mechanised sanitation operations and livelihood opportunities for workers, he added.

Shri Pant said to further strengthen safety infrastructure, **753** safety devices have been dispatched to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) established in larger municipal corporations and districts.

He added that alongside financial and welfare support, **1,562** workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks have been conducted across the country.

The Secretary further said that the Scheme's coverage was expanded in June **2024** to include waste pickers engaged in solid waste management in both urban and rural areas, extending welfare and safety support to this group of workers.

Shri Pant elaborated that a total of **3,78,547** waste pickers have been profiled, of whom **2,52,163** have been validated through e-KYC. He added that around **1,31,864** waste pickers have received PPE kits, while the data of **1,24,835** waste pickers has been processed for generation of Ayushman Cards.

Shri Pant exuded confidence that these measures reflect the Ministry's efforts to strengthen occupational safety, improve access to welfare benefits and uphold the dignity of workers engaged in sanitation and solid waste management.

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