

TN Third in Sewer Cleaning Deaths: Minister Athawale

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale stated in Parliament that Tamil Nadu ranks third in sewer cleaning deaths.

This refers to the reported fatalities of individuals involved in manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of septic tanks and sewers.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale**, made the statement in **Parliament**.
- **Tamil Nadu** recorded **38** septic tank/sewer cleaning deaths in the **last five years**.
- This places **Tamil Nadu** as the **third highest** in **India** for such deaths.
- **Maharashtra** recorded the **highest number** of deaths with **58**.
- **Haryana** followed with **47** deaths in the same period.
- The Minister was responding to a question raised by **Villupuram MP D. Ravikumar**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act** was enacted in **2013**.

This Act aims to **prohibit manual scavenging** and provide for the **rehabilitation** of those engaged in it.

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is the **nodal ministry** for issues related to manual scavenging.

The **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** was established in **1993** as a **statutory body**.

In **2014**, the **Supreme Court of India** directed states to identify manual scavengers and provide **10 lakh compensation** for deaths.

Article 21 of the **Indian Constitution** guarantees the **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**, which includes the right to live with dignity.

The **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, launched in **2014**, aims for **universal sanitation coverage**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Tamil Nadu ranks third in India for sewer cleaning deaths in the last five years.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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