

Addressing the Rights of Manual Scavengers

<https://observoice.com/addressing-the-rights-of-manual-scavengers-86701/>

Shalini Singh January 6, 2025 Last Updated: January 6, 2025 The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India recently hosted a significant open house discussion focused on the dignity and liberty of individuals, specifically addressing the rights of manual scavengers. This hybrid event took place at the NHRC premises in New Delhi and was chaired by Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, the NHRC Chairperson. The discussion brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), human rights defenders, and research scholars. Their collective aim was to address the pressing issues surrounding the rights of manual scavengers and to explore ways to ensure their dignity.

The Ongoing Challenge of Manual Scavenging

Manual scavenging remains a critical issue in India, despite legislative efforts to eradicate the practice. Justice Ramasubramanian highlighted that while laws exist to prevent manual cleaning of sewage and hazardous waste, the tragic deaths of sanitation workers continue to occur. This alarming trend underscores the need for a comprehensive approach that combines legislation, executive action, and judicial oversight. The NHRC Chairperson emphasized the importance of understanding the root causes of these incidents to develop effective remedial measures.

One proposed solution is the implementation of pilot projects that utilize technology and robotics for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks. By starting in one state, the outcomes can be assessed and potentially replicated in other regions. This innovative approach aims to reduce the reliance on manual scavenging and improve safety for sanitation workers. The NHRC is committed to exploring these technological advancements as part of a broader strategy to address the issue.

Legislative Framework and State Responsibilities

During the discussion, NHRC Secretary General Shri Bharat Lal set the agenda by outlining the Commission's focus on the implementation of mechanized cleaning processes across various states. He noted that many states have developed three-year programs for urban local bodies, in line with the Supreme Court's guidelines from the Dr. Balram Singh v/s Union of India case. These programs aim to phase out manual scavenging and promote safer, more dignified working conditions for sanitation workers.

However, the Secretary General also pointed out that certain castes and communities are disproportionately affected by manual scavenging. This highlights the need for targeted interventions that address the specific challenges faced by these groups. The

NHRC is actively working to ensure that these communities receive the support and resources necessary for their rehabilitation and empowerment.

Recommendations for Improvement

The discussions yielded several key recommendations aimed at improving the situation for manual scavengers. Participants emphasized the need for better representation and ground-level monitoring to ensure effective implementation of welfare programs. Conducting surveys to assess the needs of manual scavengers and to implement rehabilitation programs was also deemed essential.

Moreover, participants stressed the importance of distinguishing between sanitation workers and manual scavengers in legislation. This distinction is crucial for ensuring that the rights and needs of both groups are adequately addressed. Other suggestions included incentivizing mechanization for cleaning, providing training for women-led self-help groups, and ensuring transparency in data related to manual scavenging and sewer deaths.

The NHRC plans to further deliberate on these recommendations to enhance the implementation of legal and policy provisions. The goal is to effectively end the practice of manual cleaning of hazardous waste and to ensure proper rehabilitation for those involved in such work. The Commission's commitment to addressing these issues reflects a broader societal responsibility to uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals, particularly those in vulnerable positions.

New Delhi News: सीवर सफाई के दौरान कर्मचारियों की मौत की घटनाओं पर एनएचआरसी ने जताई चिंता

<https://www.bhaskarhindi.com/city/new-delhi/nhrc-expressed-concern-over-incidents-of-death-of-employees-during-sewer-cleaning-1097797>

6 Jan 2025 9:37 PM

- रोबोट/प्रौद्योगिकी की मदद से हो सीवर की सफाई- वी. रामसुब्रमण्यम
- सफाई के दौरान कर्मचारियों की मौत की घटनाओं पर एनएचआरसी ने जताई चिंता

New Delhi News : राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने सीवेज और खतरनाक अपशिष्ट (मानव मल और अन्य मैला) की सफाई के दौरान कर्मचारियों की मौत की निरंतर घटनाओं पर चिंता व्यक्त की है। आयोग ने सीवर लाइनों और सेप्टिक टैंकों की सफाई के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी/रोबोट का उपयोग करके एक पायलट परियोजना चलाने की आवश्यकता पर भी बल दिया है। आयोग का मानना है कि प्रौद्योगिकी का इस्तेमाल कर सीवर और सेप्टिक टैंकों की सफाई के लिए किसी राज्य में एक पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू कर इसके नतीजे देखने चाहिए और सकारात्मक परिणाम आने पर देश के अन्य हिस्सों में भी इसे लागू किया जाना चाहिए। यह भी पढ़ें -महिलाओं का समावेशन और सशक्तिकरण सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिवर्तन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण – बिरला

एनएचआरसी ने सोमवार को 'व्यक्तियों की गरिमा और स्वतंत्रता – 'मैनुअल स्कैवेंजर्स के अधिकार' विषय पर खुली चर्चा का आयोजन किया। एनएचआरसी के अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति वी. रामसुब्रमण्यम ने चर्चा के उद्घाटन सत्र को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि बिना किसी खास सुरक्षा उपकरण के हाथों से मानव मल को साफ करना या उन्हें अपने सिर पर ढोना (मैनुअल स्कैवेंजिंग) एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिसे कानूनी रूप से निपटाया जा रहा है। इसे बंद कराने के लिए न्यायिक रूप से निगरानी की जा रही है। हालांकि, यह चिंताजनक है कि सीवेज और खतरनाक कचरे की मैनुअल सफाई को बंद किये जाने के कानूनी प्रावधानों के बावजूद अभी भी सफाई कर्मचारियों की मौतें हो रही हैं। इससे पहले, एनएचआरसी महासचिव भरत लाल ने कहा कि आयोग ने विभिन्न राज्यों द्वारा मशीनीकृत सफाई प्रक्रियाओं के कार्यान्वयन और इस सम्बंध में उनके द्वारा किये जा रहे उपायों के मुद्दे को उठाया है।

NHRC concerned at death of sanitation workers despite steps to eradicate manual scavenging

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nhrc-concerned-at-death-of-sanitation-workers-despite-steps-to-eradicate-manual-scavenging/article69068225.ece>

The rights panel asks government to ponder over using technology/robots for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks

Updated - January 06, 2025 09:22 pm IST - New Delhi

Expressing concern over continuous death of sanitation workers despite legal provisions to eradicate manual cleaning of sewage and hazardous waste, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairperson Justice (retd.) V. Ramasubramanian on Monday (January 6, 2024) said it was necessary to study and understand the causes to suggest remedial measures.

He pointed out that manual scavenging is the one area that is being tackled legislatively, managed executively and supervised judicially to eradicate it, but death of sanitation workers is rampant and stressed on the need for running a pilot project using technology/ robots for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks to begin with in one State to see its outcome and further replication in other parts of the country.

Justice Ramasubramanian was speaking at an open house discussion organised by the commission on 'Dignity and Liberty of the Individuals- Rights of Manual Scavengers' in New Delhi.

According to the government data, 377 persons have died during the last five years from 2019 to 2023 due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

The commission maintained that manual scavenging is one of the biggest challenges facing society, which needs to be addressed with concerted efforts.

NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal highlighted how certain castes and communities are disproportionately affected by this practice. The commission had taken up the issue of implementation of mechanised cleaning processes by various States.

The commission members listed measures to check manual scavenging, including conducting surveys for effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes and ensuring minimum wages.

The NHRC suggested to maintain transparency in manual scavenging data and sewer death reporting, budget analysis, and awareness campaigns under SBM and NAMASTE schemes.

“There is a need for a monitoring mechanism to identify the persons involved in manual scavenging and to create a database for health insurance, education, etc,” the commission said.

NHRC holds discussion on 'Rights of Manual Scavengers'

<https://jharkhandstatenews.com/article/top-stories/8911/nhrc-holds-discussion-on-rights-of-manual-scavengers/>

06 January 2025

National Human Rights Commission(NHRC), India organised open house discussion on 'Dignity and Liberty of the Individuals - Rights of Manual Scavengers'.

NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian expresses concern over the continued incidents of deaths of sanitation workers despite the legal provisions to eradicate manual cleaning of sewage and hazardous waste.

He stressed the need to run a pilot project using technology/ robots to clean sewer lines and septic tanks.

To begin with, he said, one state for subsequent replication in other parts of the country should be held.

NHRC, India Secretary General Shri Bharat Lal says the Commission is following up on the implementation of mechanized cleaning processes by various states.

Among various suggestions, transparency stressed in manual scavenging data and sewer death reporting, budget analysis and awareness campaigns under SBM and NAMASTE schemes.

NHRC Holds Open House Discussion on Rights and Dignity of Manual Scavengers

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/nhrc-holds-open-house-discussion-on-rights-and-dignity-of-manual-scavengers-103881/>

The event aimed to address the challenges faced by manual scavengers and discuss measures to ensure their dignity and rights

Indian Masterminds Bureau

January 6, 2025

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, organized an open house discussion in hybrid mode on the theme, “Dignity and Liberty of Individuals – Rights of Manual Scavengers,” at its premises in New Delhi.

The event aimed to address the challenges faced by manual scavengers and discuss measures to ensure their dignity and rights.

The discussion was chaired by NHRC Chairperson Justice V. Ramasubramanian, in the presence of Members Ms. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Justice (Dr.) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Secretary General Mr. Bharat Lal (1988-batch IAS officer), and other senior officials. Representatives from various ministries, state governments, NGOs, human rights defenders, UN agencies, private organizations, and research scholars participated in the deliberations.

Justice Ramasubramanian noted that manual scavenging is an issue being addressed through legislative, executive, and judicial measures. However, he expressed concern over the continued deaths of sanitation workers despite laws prohibiting the manual cleaning of sewage and hazardous waste. He stressed the importance of understanding the root causes of these issues to propose effective solutions.

He also recommended initiating a pilot project employing technology and robotics for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks. This project could be implemented in one state initially and, based on its success, replicated across the country.

Mr. Bharat Lal, NHRC Secretary General, emphasized the Commission’s focus on mechanized cleaning processes and highlighted steps taken by various states in this direction. He referred to a Supreme Court directive in the Dr. Balram Singh vs. Union of India & Ors. case, which led to the preparation of three-year action plans by Urban Local Bodies in several states. He also underscored the disproportionate impact of manual scavenging on marginalized castes and communities.

Earlier, NHRC Joint Secretary Mr. Devendra Kumar Nim (1993-batch IP&TA&FS officer) provided an overview of the event's three technical sessions:

Addressing deaths in septic and sewer tanks.

Advocating for a complete ban on manual scavenging.

Rehabilitation measures for manual scavengers to ensure dignity and empowerment.

Expert Contributions

The event featured insights from experts, including Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, Managing Director of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation; Mr. Bezwada Wilson, National Convenor of Safai Karamchari Andolan; and Mr. Sujoy Majumdar, Senior WASH Specialist at UNICEF India. Other notable speakers included representatives from Genrobotics Innovations, the International Labour Organisation, and NITI Aayog, among others.

Key Recommendations

The following suggestions emerged from the discussions:

Strengthen ground-level monitoring and representation for effective welfare implementation.

Conduct surveys to ensure proper rehabilitation and fair wages.

Clearly distinguish between sanitation workers and manual scavengers under the 2013 Act.

Incentivize mechanization and provide training, focusing on empowering women-led self-help groups.

Improve transparency in data collection on manual scavenging and sewer-related deaths.

Provide capacity-building training and safety gear for workers.

Offer financial assistance for technological innovations in hazardous waste management.

Regulate desludging market operations.

Organize awareness workshops and campaigns under SBM and NAMASTE schemes.

Create a monitoring mechanism to identify manual scavengers and maintain a database for health insurance, education, and other benefits.

Way Forward

The NHRC will deliberate on these recommendations to bridge gaps in legal and policy implementation. The ultimate goal is to eradicate manual scavenging, ensure safe working conditions, and rehabilitate affected individuals, thereby upholding their dignity and rights.

NHRC holds open house discussion on rights of manual scavengers

<https://theprint.in/india/nhrc-holds-open-house-discussion-on-rights-of-manual-scavengers/2433466/>

NHRC chairperson Justice (Retd) V. Ramasubramanian, expressed concern over the continuing deaths of sanitation workers despite legal provisions aimed at eradicating the practice.

ThePrint Team 06 January, 2025 05:07 pm IST

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) held an open house discussion on 6 January, focusing on the rights of manual scavengers and the ongoing practice of manual cleaning of sewage and hazardous waste in the country.

NHRC chairperson Justice (Retd) V. Ramasubramanian, expressed concern over the continuing deaths of sanitation workers despite legal provisions aimed at eradicating the practice. He emphasised the need for a pilot project utilizing technology, such as robots, for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks. This pilot project would initially be implemented in one state with the potential for replication across the country.

Justice Ramasubramanian stressed the need to study and understand the causes of these deaths in order to suggest effective remedial measures.

NHRC secretary general Bharat Lal highlighted the Commission's efforts to monitor the implementation of mechanized cleaning processes by various states. He noted that while some states have developed plans in line with Supreme Court guidelines, the issue of manual scavenging persists, disproportionately affecting certain castes and communities. He also mentioned that various states have developed three-year programmes for all Urban Local Bodies under guidelines set by the Supreme Court in *Dr Balram Singh v/s Union of India & Ors.*

The discussion, held in hybrid format at the NHRC premises in New Delhi, saw participation from representatives of various ministries, state governments, NGOs, human rights defenders, UN agencies, private organizations, and research scholars.

Discussions centered around three key themes: addressing deaths in septic and sewer tanks, the need for a complete ban on manual scavenging, and rehabilitation measures for manual scavengers.

Key suggestions emerged from the discussion included: improved representation and ground-level monitoring for effective welfare implementation; conducting surveys to better understand the implementation of rehabilitation programs and minimum wage enforcement; a clearer distinction between sanitation workers and manual scavengers

in the 2013 Act; incentivizing mechanization and providing training for sustainable livelihoods, particularly empowering women-led self-help groups; ensuring transparency in manual scavenging data, sewer death reporting, budget analysis, and awareness campaigns under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Namami Gange (NAMASTE) schemes; capacity-building training for those involved in manual scavenging and sewer cleaning; providing financial assistance to innovators developing technological solutions for hazardous waste cleaning; regulating the de-sledging market; providing safety gear and conducting awareness workshops; and establishing a monitoring mechanism to identify manual scavengers for access to health insurance, education, and other benefits.

The NHRC said in a statement that it will consider these suggestions and formulate recommendations to ensure the effective implementation of existing legal and policy provisions, addressing gaps, and ultimately putting an end to manual cleaning of hazardous and sewage waste while ensuring the proper rehabilitation of those affected.

NHRC Hosts Open House Discussion on Eradicating Manual Scavenging and Ensuring Dignity for Sanitation Workers

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/3216319-supreme-court-set-to-revisit-gruesome-nithari-acquittal-case>

Justice Ramasubramanian expressed deep concern over the continued deaths of sanitation workers despite legal provisions banning hazardous manual cleaning.

Devdiscourse News Desk | New Delhi | Updated: 06-01-2025 21:12 IST | Created: 06-01-2025 21:12 IST

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, conducted an open house discussion on the rights and dignity of manual scavengers at its New Delhi headquarters. The hybrid-mode event was chaired by NHRC Chairperson Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian, alongside members Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, and Secretary General Shri Bharat Lal. The discussion brought together representatives from various ministries, state governments, NGOs, UN agencies, private organizations, and research scholars to address the pressing challenges faced by manual scavengers and sanitation workers.

Chairperson's Call for Change

Justice Ramasubramanian expressed deep concern over the continued deaths of sanitation workers despite legal provisions banning hazardous manual cleaning. He emphasized the need to study root causes and explore innovative technological solutions, such as piloting robotic cleaning of sewer lines and septic tanks in one state for nationwide replication.

Mechanization and Legal Enforcement

Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General of NHRC, highlighted the Commission's efforts to enforce mechanized cleaning processes in states, as directed by the Supreme Court in the Dr. Balram Singh v/s Union of India & Ors. case. Several states have initiated three-year programs for mechanization in urban local bodies. However, systemic issues, including caste-based inequities, remain a challenge.

Technical Sessions: Holistic Approach to Addressing Manual Scavenging

NHRC Joint Secretary Shri Devendra Kumar Nim outlined the three key sessions during the discussion:

Addressing deaths in septic tanks and sewer lines: Highlighting safety failures and proposing robust interventions.

Banning manual scavenging: Advocacy for comprehensive prohibition and stricter enforcement.

Rehabilitation and empowerment: Developing pathways for dignity, financial independence, and sustainable livelihoods for affected individuals.

Expert Contributions and Technological Innovations

The event featured insights from experts like Shri Bezwada Wilson, National Convenor of Safai Karamchari Andolan; UNICEF specialists; and innovators like Shri Rashid Karimbanakkal of Genrobotics Innovations. Solutions discussed included robotic cleaning systems, community-driven models, and incentivizing women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in sanitation efforts.

Key Recommendations from the Discussion

Enhanced Monitoring and Representation: Ground-level oversight to ensure effective welfare program implementation.

Data Transparency: Improved reporting of manual scavenging cases, sewer deaths, and budget allocation under SBM and NAMASTE schemes.

Distinction in Roles: Differentiating sanitation workers and manual scavengers under the 2013 Act for tailored policies.

Mechanization Incentives: Promoting technology adoption with financial assistance for innovators.

Rehabilitation Programs: Conducting surveys, providing minimum wages, and creating a robust database for health insurance and education.

Capacity Building: Training programs for workers to operate mechanized cleaning systems and ensure safety compliance.

Safety and Awareness: Distribution of safety gear, workshops, and community campaigns.

Empaneling and Regulating Market Players: Establishing accountability mechanisms for desludging operators.

Future Steps

The NHRC pledged to deliberate further on these recommendations and work with stakeholders to address gaps in legal and policy frameworks. The aim is to eliminate hazardous manual cleaning practices and provide dignified livelihoods for affected individuals, ensuring their rights and well-being.

The Larger Context

Despite laws banning manual scavenging, the practice persists, claiming lives and perpetuating inequality. Initiatives like mechanization, robust monitoring, and comprehensive rehabilitation measures offer a roadmap to eradicating this dehumanizing practice, with NHRC playing a pivotal role in catalyzing change.

NHRC meet: Experts suggest pilot project on using robots for sewer lines, septic tanks cleaning

<https://www.ibtimes.co.in/nhrc-meet-experts-suggest-pilot-project-using-robots-sewer-lines-septic-tanks-cleaning-877594>

Running a pilot project using robots for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks was among the suggestions made by experts at a discussion on the rights of manual scavengers and ensuring their dignity organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

By IBT News Desk *January 6, 2025 15:33 IST*

Running a pilot project using robots for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks was among the suggestions made by experts at a discussion on the rights of manual scavengers and ensuring their dignity organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), said an official on Monday.

Addressing the discussion on 'Dignity and Liberty of the Individuals -- Rights of Manual Scavengers', NHRC Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian said that it is necessary to study and understand the causes to suggest remedial measures.

He stressed the need for running a pilot project using technology/robots for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks to begin with one state to see its outcome and further replication in other parts of the country, a statement said.

NHRC Secretary General, Bharat Lal said that the Commission has taken up the issue of the implementation of mechanized cleaning processes by various states and the steps taken by them in this regard.

It has emerged that various states have prepared a three-year programme for all Urban Local Bodies in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in Dr Balram Singh v/s Union of India case.

He also highlighted how certain castes and communities are disproportionately affected by this practice of manual scavenging.

The discussion was attended by NHRC Members Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, and Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, and other senior officers.

Attendees included representatives from various ministries and state governments, NGOs, human rights defenders, UN agencies, private organizations, and research scholars, contributing to discussions on pertinent issues regarding the rights of manual scavengers and ensuring dignity.

NHRC Joint Secretary, Devendra Kumar Nim, gave an overview of the three technical sessions- 'Addressing the issue of deaths in septic and were tanks in India,' 'The need for a complete ban on manual scavenging,' and 'Rehabilitation measures for manual scavengers: A path towards dignity and empowerment and the way forward.'

He said that manual scavenging is one of the biggest challenges society is facing today, which needs to be addressed with concerted collective efforts.

Some of the suggestions which emanated from the discussions included the need for better representation and ground-level monitoring to ensure effective welfare implementation and surveys for effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes and minimum wages.

Experts also batted for making a distinction between sanitation workers and manual scavengers in the 2013 Act.

They also called for offering incentives for mechanization of cleaning and imparting training for it to women-led SHGs for sustainable livelihoods.

Transparency was also needed in manual scavenging data and sewer death reporting, budget analysis, and awareness campaigns under SBM and NAMASTE schemes, said experts

(With inputs from IANS)

NHRC, India Organises Open House Discussion On Dignity And Liberty Of The Individuals - Rights Of Manual Scavengers

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/india/nhrc-india-organises-open-house-discussion-on-dignity-and-liberty-of-the-individuals-rights-of-manual-scavengers>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organised an open house discussion in hybrid mode on 'Dignity and Liberty of the Individuals- Rights of Manual Scavengers' at its premises in New Delhi.

Somendra Sharma Updated: Monday, January 06, 2025, 08:34 PM IST

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India organised an open house discussion in hybrid mode on 'Dignity and Liberty of the Individuals- Rights of Manual Scavengers' at its premises in New Delhi. The discussion was chaired by the NHRC, India Chairperson, Justice Shri V. Ramasubramanian in the presence of Members, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Justice (Dr) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal and other senior officers. Attendees included representatives from various ministries and state governments, NGOs, human rights defenders, UN agencies, private organizations, and research scholars, contributing to discussions on pertinent issues on rights of manual scavengers and ensuring dignity to them.

The NHRC, India Chairperson said that manual scavenging is one area that is being tackled legislatively, managed executively and supervised judicially to eradicate it. However, it is concerning that the deaths of sanitation workers are still happening despite the legal provisions to eradicate manual cleaning of sewage and hazardous waste.

Justice Ramasubramanian said that it is necessary to study and understand the causes to suggest remedial measures. He also stressed the need for running a pilot project using technology/ robots for cleaning sewer lines and septic tanks to begin with one state to see its outcome and further replication in other parts of the country.

Before this, setting the agenda of the discussion, NHRC, India Secretary General, Shri Bharat Lal said that the Commission has taken up the issue of implementation of mechanized cleaning processes by various States and the steps taken by them in this regard. It has come out that various states have prepared up to three years programme for all Urban Local Bodies in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in Dr. Balram Singh v/s Union of India & Ors. case. He also highlighted how certain castes and communities are disproportionately affected by this practice.

Earlier, NHRC, India Joint Secretary, Shri Devendra Kumar Nim gave an overview of the three technical sessions- 'Addressing the issue of deaths in septic and were tanks in

India,' 'The need for a complete ban on manual scavenging,' and 'Rehabilitation measures for manual scavengers: A path towards dignity and empowerment and the way forward.' He said that manual scavenging is one of the biggest challenges facing society, which needs to be addressed with concerted collective efforts.

The speakers included Shri Prabhat Kumar Singh, Managing Director, National Safai Karamacharis Finance & Development Corporation, Shri Bezwada Wilson, National Convenor, Safai Karamchari Andholan, New Delhi, Shri Sujoy Majumdar, Senior WASH specialist, UNICEF India, Shri Yusuf Kabir, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist, UNICEF, India, Rohit Kakkar, CPHEEO, Shri Rashid Karimbanakkal, Director, Genrobotics Innovations, Kerala, Baishali Lahiri, International Labour Organisation, Dr Vinod Kumar, Law and Director of Centre for Human Rights and Subaltern Studies, National Law University, Manjula Pradeep, WAYVE Foundation, Ms. Raj Kumari, Solinas Integrity Pvt. Ltd., Tamil Nadu, Prof. Sheeva Dubey, FLAME University, Pune, Shri M. Krishna, Managing Director, Kam-Avida Enviro Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Ms Smriti Pandey, Consultant, NITI Aayog, among others.

Some of the suggestions emanated from the discussions are as follows;

- i.) Need for better representation and ground-level monitoring to ensure effective welfare implementation;
- ii.) Conduct surveys for effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes and minimum wages;
- iii.) The distinction between sanitation workers and manual scavengers in the 2013 Act is necessary;
- iv.) Incentivize mechanization for cleaning and training for the same empowering women-led SHGs for sustainable livelihoods;
- v.) Transparency is needed in manual scavenging data and sewer death reporting, budget analysis, and awareness campaigns under SBM and NAMASTE schemes;
- vi.) Capacity-building training for the people involved in manual scavenging and sewer cleaning;
- vii.) Give financial assistance to those coming up with technological innovations for hazardous waste cleaning;
- viii.) Empanelment of de-sledging market and regulating its operations;
- ix.) Providing of safety gear and conducting of awareness workshops;

x.) Need for a monitoring mechanism to identify the persons involved in manual scavenging to create a database for health insurance, education, etc;

The Commission will further deliberate upon these suggestions for ensuring the implementation of legal and policy provisions and address the gaps therein for an effective end to the manual cleaning of hazardous and sewage waste as well as proper rehabilitation of the persons involved in such works.

रोगियों की रिपोर्ट में लिखा सस्पेक्टेड सिलिकोसिस, आठ को होगा अंतिम निर्णय

<https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/state/west-bengal/asansol/the-final-decision-will-be-made-on-the-8th>

जिला अस्पताल में जांच के बाद सिलिकोसिस लेकर प्रशासन की परेशानी बढ़ गयी है. पांच संभावित मरीजों की जांच हुई. सभी की रिपोर्ट में सस्पेक्टेड सिलिकोसिस बताया गया है. जिला में अबतक सिर्फ एक ही मरीज मिला है, जिसकी मौत कुछ साल पहले हुई थी.

Prabhat Khabar News Desk By Prabhat Khabar News Desk| January 6, 2025 9:29 PM

आसनसोल.जिला अस्पताल में जांच के बाद सिलिकोसिस लेकर प्रशासन की परेशानी बढ़ गयी है. पांच संभावित मरीजों की जांच हुई. सभी की रिपोर्ट में सस्पेक्टेड सिलिकोसिस बताया गया है. जिला में अबतक सिर्फ एक ही मरीज मिला है, जिसकी मौत कुछ साल पहले हुई थी. सालानपुर के एक एक्टिविस्ट अमरनाथ महतो ने सिलिकोसिस लेकर मुहिम शुरू की और दावा किया कि सैकड़ों की संख्या में सिलिकोसिस के मरीज हैं, जिनका गलत इलाज हो रहा है. जिसे लेकर उन्होंने **राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग** में शिकायत की. जिसपर दो अलग-अलग मामला दर्ज हुआ है.

उनके इस मुहिम को प्राभात खबर द्वारा उजागर करने के बाद प्रशासन हरकत में आयी और काफी तेजी से काम शुरू हुआ. तीन जनवरी को सालानपुर प्रखंड के अल्लाडी ग्राम पंचायत अंतर्गत बराभुई गांव में जिला स्वास्थ्य विभाग द्वारा शीविर लगाया गया. कुल 32 लोगों की जांच हुई, जिसमें संदेह के आधार पर 20 लोगों का एक्सरे करवाया गया. जिसमें छह लोगों को सिलिकोसिस का संदिग्ध पाया गया. जिन्हें जांच के लिए सोमवार को जिला अस्पताल लाया गया. यहां सीटी स्कैन और पलमानरी फंक्शन टेस्ट (पीएफटी) करने के बाद रिपोर्ट में सस्पेक्टेड सिलिकोसिस लिखा गया. जिला मुख्य स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी (सीएमओएच) डॉ. मोहम्मद यूनुस ने कहा कि आठ जनवरी को जिला सिलिकोसिस डायग्नोस्टिक बोर्ड बैठेगी. जिसमें सभी मरीजों की रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा के बाद ही अंतिम निर्णय होगा. गौरतलब है कि सालानपुर प्रखंड में सिलिकोसिस के मुद्दे पर 21 दिसंबर 2024 को प्राभात खबर अखबार के खबर प्रकाशित होने के बाद प्रशासन हरकत में आयी और संभावित सिलिकोसिस बीमारी से आक्रांत होकर मारे गए सुबल राय के घर पर एक मेडिकल टीम पहुंची. मृतक का सारा मेडिकल रिपोर्ट देखने के बाद सारे कागजात के साथ पीड़ित परिवार को बोर्ड मीटिंग में बुलाया गया. इस बीच पीड़ित के परिजनों ने अतिरिक्त जिलाधिकारी (जनरल) सुभाषिनी. ई को ज्ञापन सौंपा और आरोप लगाया कि सुबल राय को सरकारी अस्पताल में गलत इलाज किया गया. जिसके कारण सिलिकोसिस से मारे जाने पर सरकारी अनुदान नहीं मिल रहा है. आरोप यह भी लगाया गया कि रैमिंगमास उद्योग में काम करनेवाले यहां के भारी संख्या में श्रमिक सिलिकोसिस से आक्रांत हैं.

यह खबर भी प्राभात खबर ने विस्तृत रूप से प्रकाशित किया. अतिरिक्त जिलाधिकारी (जनरल) श्रीमती सुभाषिनी ने मामले को गंभीरता से लिया. जिसके बाद मरीजों को चिन्हित करने की पूरी प्रक्रिया शुरू हुई. तीन जनवरी को बराभुई गांव में सिलिकोसिस के मरीजों को चिन्हित करने के लिए शिविर लगाया गया.

हालांकि इस शिविर में संभावित अधिकांश मरीजों की जांच ही नहीं हो पाया. वे लोग जिस कारखाने में कार्य करते हुए आक्रांत हुए हैं, वहां काम करनेवाला कोई भी श्रमिक जांच के लिए नहीं निकल पाया. कुल 32 लोगों की शिविर में जांच के बाद 20 को ले जाकर ब्लॉक प्राथमरी हेल्थ सेंटर में एक्सरे करवाया गया. जिसमें से छह को आगे की जांच के लिए चुना गया था. जिसमें से पांच की जांच हुई और सभी सिलिकोसिस सस्पेक्ट निकले.

आठ तारीख को बोर्ड मीटिंग में इनके सिलिकोसिस से आक्रांत होने का सर्टिफिकेट मिल जाता है तो इन्हें मुआवजा मिलेगा.

इनके चिन्हित होने के बाद और भी अनेकों मरीजों के मिलने की संभावना बढ़ जाएगी. सरकार आंकड़े में जिला में अबतक सिर्फ एक ही सिलिकोसिस का मरीज मिला है. जिसकी मौत कुछ वर्ष पहले हो चुकी है.

डिस्क्लेमर: यह प्रभात खबर समाचार पत्र की ऑटोमेटेड न्यूज फीड है. इसे प्रभात खबर डॉट कॉम की टीम ने संपादित नहीं किया है

सफाई कर्मचारियों की लगातार मौत पर जताई चिंता, कहा- सीवेज और कचरे की मैनुअल सफाई को खत्म करने के बावजूद घटनाएं दुखद

<https://www.indiavoice.com/expressed-concern-over-the-frequent-deaths-of-sanitation-workers/>

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी), भारत ने नई दिल्ली में अपने परिसर में 'व्यक्तियों की गरिमा और स्वतंत्रता- मैनुअल स्कैवेंजर्स के अधिकार' पर हाइब्रिड मोड में एक ओपन हाउस चर्चा का आयोजन किया। चर्चा की अध्यक्षता एनएचआरसी भारत के अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति वी रामसुब्रमण्यम ने की। एनएचआरसी भारत के अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि हाथ से मैला ढोने की प्रथा एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिससे इसे खत्म करने के लिए विधायी रूप से निपटा जा रहा है, कार्यकारी ढंग से प्रबंधित किया जा रहा है और न्यायिक रूप से निगरानी की जा रही है।

BUREAU | Updated Date January 6, 2025

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी), भारत ने नई दिल्ली में अपने परिसर में 'व्यक्तियों की गरिमा और स्वतंत्रता- मैनुअल स्कैवेंजर्स के अधिकार' पर हाइब्रिड मोड में एक ओपन हाउस चर्चा का आयोजन किया। चर्चा की अध्यक्षता एनएचआरसी भारत के अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति वी रामसुब्रमण्यम ने की। एनएचआरसी भारत के अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि हाथ से मैला ढोने की प्रथा एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिससे इसे खत्म करने के लिए विधायी रूप से निपटा जा रहा है, कार्यकारी ढंग से प्रबंधित किया जा रहा है और न्यायिक रूप से निगरानी की जा रही है।

हालांकि यह चिंताजनक है कि सीवेज और खतरनाक कचरे की मैनुअल सफाई को खत्म करने के कानूनी प्रावधानों के बावजूद सफाई कर्मचारियों की मौतें अभी भी हो रही हैं। न्यायमूर्ति रामसुब्रमण्यम ने कहा कि उपचारात्मक उपाय सुझाने के लिए कारणों का अध्ययन करना और समझना आवश्यक है। उन्होंने सीवर लाइनों और सेप्टिक टैंकों की सफाई के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी/रोबोट का उपयोग करके एक पायलट प्रोजेक्ट चलाने की आवश्यकता पर भी जोर दिया, जिसकी शुरुआत एक राज्य से की जाए ताकि इसके परिणाम देखे जा सकें और देश के अन्य हिस्सों में भी इसे लागू किया जा सके।

इससे पहले चर्चा का एजेंडा तय करते हुए एनएचआरसी, भारत के महासचिव, श्री भरत लाल ने कहा कि आयोग ने विभिन्न राज्यों द्वारा मशीनीकृत सफाई प्रक्रियाओं के कार्यान्वयन और इस संबंध में उनके द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का मुद्दा उठाया है। यह सामने आया है कि विभिन्न राज्यों ने डॉ. बलराम सिंह बनाम भारत संघ और अन्य मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा जारी दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार सभी शहरी स्थानीय निकायों के लिए तीन साल तक का कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है। मामला। उन्होंने इस बात पर भी प्रकाश डाला कि कैसे कुछ जातियाँ और समुदाय इस प्रथा से असंगत रूप से प्रभावित होते हैं।

इससे पहले, एनएचआरसी, भारत के संयुक्त सचिव, श्री देवेन्द्र कुमार निम ने तीन तकनीकी सत्रों का अवलोकन दिया- 'भारत में सेप्टिक और टैंकों में होने वाली मौतों के मुद्दे को संबोधित करना,' 'मैनुअल

स्कैवेंजिंग पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध की आवश्यकता,' और हाथ से मैला ढोने वालों के लिए पुनर्वास के उपाय: सम्मान और सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में एक रास्ता और आगे का रास्ता।' उन्होंने कहा कि हाथ से मैला ढोना समाज के सामने सबसे बड़ी चुनौतियों में से एक है, जिसे ठोस सामूहिक प्रयासों से संबोधित करने की जरूरत है।

वक्ताओं में प्रभात कुमार सिंह, प्रबंध निदेशक, राष्ट्रीय सफाई कर्मचारी वित्त एवं विकास निगम बेजवाड़ा विल्सन, राष्ट्रीय संयोजक, सफाई कर्मचारी आंदोलन, नई दिल्ली, सुजॉय मजूमदार, वरिष्ठ वॉश विशेषज्ञ, यूनिसेफ इंडिया, यूसुफ कबीर, जल स्वच्छता शामिल थे। स्वच्छता विशेषज्ञ यूनिसेफ भारत रोहित कक्कड़, सीपीएचईईओ, राशिद करिबनाककल, निदेशक, जेनरोबोटिक्स इनोवेशन, केरल, बैशाली लाहिड़ी, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन, डॉ. विनोद कुमार, कानून और सेंटर फॉर ह्यूमन राइट्स एंड सबाल्टर्न स्टडीज, नेशनल लॉ यूनिवर्सिटी के निदेशक, मंजुला प्रदीप, वेव फाउंडेशन, सुश्री राज कुमारी, सोलिनास इंटीग्रेटी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड। लिमिटेड, तमिलनाडु, प्रोफेसर शीवा दुबे, फ्लेम यूनिवर्सिटी, पुणे, श्री एम. कृष्णा, प्रबंध निदेशक, काम-अविडा एनवायरो इंजीनियर्स प्राइवेट । लिमिटेड, सुश्री स्मृति पांडे, सलाहकार, नीति आयोग सहित अन्य लोग उपस्थित थे।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आजीवन कारावास की सजा काट रहे दोषियों को छूट देने में कठोर शर्तों के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी

<https://lawtrend.in/sc-guidance-remission-life-convicts-conditions/>

By Law Trend January 6,

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को आजीवन कारावास की सजा काट रहे दोषियों पर छूट नीतियों के तहत उनकी जल्दी रिहाई पर विचार करते समय “कठोर शर्तें” लगाने के खिलाफ सलाह दी। जस्टिस अभय एस ओका और जस्टिस उज्जल भुयान की अध्यक्षता में एक सत्र के दौरान, पीठ ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि छूट की शर्तें इतनी बोज़िल नहीं होनी चाहिए कि वे राहत को अप्रभावी बना दें।

यह टिप्पणी तब आई जब अदालत ने भारतीय जेलों में आजीवन कारावास की सजा काट रहे दोषियों की छूट से संबंधित विभिन्न पहलुओं पर विचार-विमर्श किया, और अंततः अपना फैसला सुरक्षित रख लिया। पीठ ने कहा, “छूट देने की शर्तें सीधी और प्रबंधनीय होनी चाहिए ताकि यह सुनिश्चित हो सके कि छूट से मिलने वाले लाभ खत्म न हों।” इसने स्पष्ट दिशा-निर्देशों के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला जो उल्लंघनों को आसानी से पहचानने की अनुमति देते हैं और दोषियों को सुनवाई का अधिकार देते हैं यदि उल्लंघनों के कारण उनकी छूट रद्द कर दी जाती है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यह भी पूछा कि क्या राज्य सरकारें पात्र आजीवन कारावास की सजा काट रहे दोषियों से स्थायी छूट के लिए आवेदनों की समीक्षा करने के लिए बाध्य हैं, भले ही कोई औपचारिक अनुरोध न किया गया हो। एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा ऐसे आवेदनों को अस्वीकार करने के कारणों को दस्तावेजित करने की आवश्यकता थी।

न्यायालय को संबोधित करते हुए, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता और न्याय मित्र लिज़ मैथ्यू ने न्याय, निष्पक्षता और भारत की आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली के पुनर्वास उद्देश्य को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राज्यों में छूट प्रक्रियाओं को मानकीकृत करने का आह्वान किया। मैथ्यू ने जोर देकर कहा कि छूट देने की शक्ति राज्य सरकारों के पास है और यह विवेकाधीन है, लेकिन छूट के लिए विचार किया जाना एक प्रक्रियात्मक अधिकार होना चाहिए, जो विशिष्ट मानदंडों को पूरा करने पर निर्भर करता है। मैथ्यू ने स्पष्ट किया कि “छूट देना एक निहित अधिकार नहीं है, लेकिन इसके लिए विचार किया जाना कुछ शर्तों की संतुष्टि के अधीन है।” उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि छूट के दौरान निर्धारित शर्तें स्पष्ट होनी चाहिए और दंडात्मक प्रकृति की बजाय अपराधी के पुनर्वास के अनुरूप होनी चाहिए।

मैथ्यू ने प्रस्ताव दिया कि राज्य छूट पर विचार करते समय अपराधी के व्यवहार, स्वास्थ्य, पारिवारिक परिस्थितियों और उनके अपराध की प्रकृति जैसे कारकों को ध्यान में रखें। उन्होंने विभिन्न राज्यों में छूट नीतियों में असमानताओं को भी उजागर किया, जो पहले **राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग** द्वारा उठाई गई चिंता थी। इसके अलावा, मैथ्यू ने सुझाव दिया कि प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांतों का पालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए छूट की शर्तों के उल्लंघन का उचित कानूनी प्रक्रियाओं के तहत निपटारा किया जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने

राज्य सरकारों से छूट के लिए पात्र दोषियों की सक्रिय रूप से पहचान करने, छूट प्रक्रिया के लिए अधिकार-आधारित दृष्टिकोण को बढ़ावा देने की वकालत की, जो न्याय और मानवीय गरिमा के प्रति भारत की प्रतिबद्धताओं के अनुरूप है।