

**Resolution of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Level Monitoring Committee, West Bengal, constituted under the MS Act 2013**

**Venue:** Conference Hall of Kolkata Municipal Corporation

**Date:** 26-07-2023

**Time:** 03-00 P.M.

Members Present: Attached in a separate sheet.

Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of U.D. & M.A. and Chairperson, State Level Monitoring Committee under MS Act 2013 took the chair.

Secretary, Department of Backward Classes Welfare initiated the discourse and gave a detailed account of the institutional framework, statutory compliances under MS Act 2013 and discussion points as elaborated in the agenda note. He also placed the Action Taken Report on the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Level Monitoring Committee.

Managing Director, West Bengal SC, ST and OBC Dev. & Fin. Corporation made a presentation on Agenda points before the committee.

**Points of Discussions and Action Points are noted here-below:-**

1. **Prohibition of Insanitary Latrines (under Section 4 & 5 of MS Act 2013)** --- SUDA had completed identification of Insanitary Latrines in 125 Urban Local Bodies of the state. Altogether 2.71 lakh insanitary latrines were identified and converted. Around 2.65 lakh new sanitary latrines were constructed along with a little over 15,000 community toilet seats. In the rural areas more than 67 lakh households were provided sanitary latrines. Entire rural areas of the State have been declared ODF whereas 98 out of 125 ULBs were declared ODF.

***It has been resolved that both the RLBs and ULBs are required to observe strict vigilance to ensure that no insanitary latrine is constructed. Both the RLBs and ULBs are to be sensitized accordingly. (Action by Department of UD & MA and Department of P & RD).***

2. **Rehabilitation of identified Manual Scavengers (under Section 13 & 16 of MS Act 2013)** --- In the first round survey conducted in 2013-14, total 96 Manual Scavengers were identified in the urban areas. All of them were rehabilitated as per provisions of Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

In the second round survey conducted during 2018-19, a total of 637 persons were identified as Manual Scavengers in 4 (four) districts of West Bengal namely North 24 Parganas, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Bardhaman and Kolkata. All of them were provided One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) @ Rs. 40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand). Proposal for Skill Training of the identified Manual Scavengers had already been sent to National Safai Karmachari Finance & Development Corporation which is awaited for approval. Out of these 637 persons, 533 identified Manual Scavengers expressed their willingness to be rehabilitated through Bank Loan and Subsidy under revised SRMS.

All the 533 cases were sponsored to different banks. Only 74 cases were sanctioned so far. The matter was pursued through the forum of State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) on several occasions. Convener, SLBC, present in the meeting, assured the house that he would look into the matter seriously and do the needful. He requested to send him the details of the pendency once again to Convener SLBC and to the District Magistrates to conduct a camp for sanction of loans by respective banks.

***Bank-wise list of pending cases are to be sent to District Magistrates & Convener, SLBC. (Action by West Bengal SC, ST and OBC Dev. & Fin. Corpn.)***

3. **Fresh identification of Manual Scavengers** --- 4 (four) municipalities have sent list of persons identified to be Manual Scavengers as follows :-

(a) Champdani Municipality	: 122 persons
(b) Bhatpara Municipality	: 54 persons
(c) Knachrapara Municipality	: 128 persons
(d) Halisahar Municipality	: 69 persons

In a subsequent communication, Champdani Municipality confirmed that the identified persons are conservancy workers. Chairman, Kanchrapara Municipality has also sent a written communication to confirm that there is no existence of Manual Scavengers in the municipal area. Meanwhile, district administration of North 24 Parganas has declared the district as MS free. Hence, no further proceedings in this matter are contemplated. **BCW Department has requested all the District Magistrates to confirm status of their districts in this count.**

4. **Status of Mechanization** --- Providing safety gears, safety devices etc. to Safai Karmacharis is mandatory under Sec. 7 & 33 of MS Act 2013.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation has done mechanization extensively and other Urban Local Bodies are gradually introducing safety gears, devices and mechanization.

Government of India has launched a new scheme named NAMASTE - National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem - to cover all the Urban Local Bodies with Modernization of sewerage cleaning by 2026. For Awareness Training, some fund may be tapped from NSKFDC. Fund is also available as soft loan from National Safai Karmachari Fin. & Dev. Corpn. for procurement of sanitation equipments under Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY).

***Awareness Training may be organized in phases in all Urban Local Bodies. Some of the Municipalities may be selected for immediate mechanization. (Action by State Urban Development Agency and West Bengal SC, ST and OBC Dev. & Fin. Corpn.).***

5. **Sewerage Death Cases and Payment of Compensation** --- As per verdict of Supreme Court of India, compensation @ Rs. 10 lakh is payable to the nearest kin / family of victims of sewerage deaths. As of now, different authorities paid compensation @ Rs. 10 lakh against 24 (twenty four) sewerage deaths. Recently, 3 persons have reportedly died while cleaning septic tank at Khairashole Block, Dist. Birbhum.



Detailed report of the incident causing thorough inquiry has been asked for from the District Administration.

***Mechanization for cleaning of septic tanks in the rural areas as well is required. Cesspools may be procured at GP level or through group approach by SHGs, necessary. Till then the services may be provided through nearby ULB. (Action by P & RD Department, GoWB).***

6. **Survey of Safai Karmacharis deployed in Urban Local Bodies** --- State Urban Development Agency has completed the survey in respect of all categories of Safai Karmacharis deployed in 125 Urban Local Bodies. During survey, around 70,000 no. of persons are found to be engaged in this profession.

***A detailed report of the Survey has to be sent to the Department of Backward Classes Welfare, National Commission for Safai Karmacharis and West Bengal SC, ST and OBC Dev. & Fin. Corporation. (Action by State Urban Development Agency).***

7. **Miscellaneous Matters** -- Construction of dwelling houses for identified Manual Scavengers -- Providing a dwelling house or land with provision for construction of dwelling house through existing schemes of the government has been mandated in MS Act 2013. Improving living condition / environment or areas of habitation of Safai Karmacharis has also been advocated by National Commission for Safai Karmacharis. Filling in vacant posts of Safai Karmacharis creating new positions in government establishments, payment of wages as per the exact act / rules of the Department of Labour were also advocated from time to time by National Commission for Safai Karmacharis.

***Urban Local Bodies and Rural Local Bodies to take necessary action in this regard. (Action by State Urban Development Agency / Department of UD & MA and Department of P & RD).***

8. **Miscellaneous Matters** -- Non availability of Caste Certificates and delay in getting scholarships for the members or children of the families engaged in unclean occupation is discussed in the meeting.

District level officers are to look into the matter of the issuance of Caste Certificates. Places where coverage of the Scholarship is found to be low among the children of the families of the persons who were Manual Scavengers or engaged in hazardous cleaning or tanners / flayers -- Urban Local Bodies / Rural Local Bodies are to mobilize the students. Duare Sarkar camps are organized frequently to take the applications from desirous applicants.



***Urban Local Bodies and Rural Local Bodies may suitably be informed to take necessary action in this regard. (Action by the Department of Backward Classes Welfare and State Urban Development Agency / Department of UD & MA and Department of P & RD).***

As there was no other issue to discuss, the meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.






***Minister-In-Charge,  
Deptt. of U.D. & M.A. and Chairperson, S.M.C.***

Attendance of the Members and Other Officials present in the Meeting of the State Monitoring Committee as per Sec 26 of MS Act, 2013 held at the Conference Hall of Kolkata Municipal Corporation on 26.07.2023 at 3 P.M.

Sl No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No	Email Id	Signature
1	Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble MIC, Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Department			
2	Shri Bulu Chik Baraik, Hon'ble MOS(IC), BCW & TD Department			
3.	Representative of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes			
4.	Representative of the National Commission for Safai Karmachari			
5.	Smt. Asima Patra, M.L.A., Dhanekhal(SC) AC	9793606205		
6	Shri Swarnakamal Saha, M.L.A., Entally AC			
7	The Director General of Police, West Bengal			



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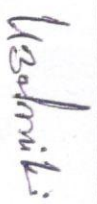

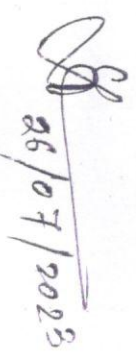



Sl No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No	Email Id	Signature
8	The Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Hill Affairs Department, Govt. of West Bengal			
9	The Principal Secretary, Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Department, Govt. Of West Bengal.			
10	The Additional Secretary, Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal	9593670197	gubbi81@gmail.com	
11	The Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation			
12	The General Manager, Eastern Railway <i>K. e. Das. Dy chief personnel officer. Eastern Railway/HR</i>	9002020609	keedass66@gmail.com	
13	The General Manager, South Eastern Railway	9002080539	gubbi8123@gmail	
14	Shri Ram Pyare Ram, ex-MLA			

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Sl No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No	Email Id	Signature
15	Ms. Seema Tigga, Member of NGO, "Maharishi Balmiki Seva Sangha"			
16	Shri Rajpal Balmiki, Representative, Safai Karmachari Andolon	9007820056	bal miki rajpal@.com	Rajpal
17	Ms. Anjali Balmiki, Representative, Safai Karmachari Andolon	987669585	anjali.balmiki13@gmail.com	Anjali Balmiki
18	The Convenor, State Level Bankers' Committee & GM, Punjab National Bank or their Representative	9435359172	gmstbcrtd@pnb.co.in	GM
19	The Secretary, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Govt. of West Bengal			
20	The Director, State Urban Development Agency, UD&MA Department, Govt. of West Bengal			
21	The Managing Director, West Bengal Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Other Backward Classes Development and Finance Corporation			MD 26/7/23



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Sl No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No	Email Id	Signature
22	KRISHAN PAL BALKRISHN SAFETY KARMACHARI ANDOLAN DISTRICT COORDINATOR NORTH 24 PARGANAS	9859582628		
23	Amarendra Paul, Duro, sec0, Kolkata	9933155828	durobekolkata@gmail.com	
24	Satyabrata Bhattacharya DM (HQ), WBSESTOBEDE	8240179754	dm.sestbde@gmail.com	
25	Sakti Barua P.S. to MOS (C) BCW & TDD	9830314710	saktibarua@gmail.com	
26	ARGHYA GHOSH Joint Director, SUDA	8017303404	wbsudm@gmail.com	
27	A. Roy, SS-BCW.			

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Sl No.	Name & Designation	Mobile No	Email Id	Signature
28	Rondip Gupta Software Manager	9432104437		
29	Snehaiah Chakraborty CMIS (SWM), Ward	9836536419		
30	J.K. Ghosh, DA (SAD)	9007838329		
31	Biswas K. K. K.			
32				
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