Sir,

Time and again, this Commission has been highlighting the issues of death of Safai Karamcharis while manually cleaning the sewers, manholes, soak pits, septic tanks etc. The deaths take place mainly due to the reasons that neither proper safety kits/equipments are provided to the Safai Karamcharis for carrying out their work nor they are briefed properly and given necessary training about the dangers/hazards involved in manual cleaning of the same.

2. While the unabated deaths of Safai Karamcharis during the sewer cleaning process reflect poorly on the part of the civic authorities, the fact that police often fail to book the culprits in such cases is equally deplorable. It is often seen in such cases that no responsibility/case of negligence is fixed on the contractors/ supervisors of principal employer i.e. concerned civic authorities who in the first instance fail to provide adequate safety gears to the Safai Karamcharis and then try to wash off their hands in case a tragedy takes place. The plight of the Safai Karamcharis working in the private institutions, Hotels, Farm Houses is even worse as neither their deaths are accounted for/reflected in the Govt. records nor their families are paid any compensation.

3. In the light of the observations made above, the Commission strongly recommends that the concerned civic and police authorities may be directed for taking all possible steps to prevent the cases of sewer deaths by providing proper safety gadgets/equipments followed with requisite training to the Safai Karamcharis and taking stern action against the culprits responsible for sewer deaths under the relevant laws. Apart from that, each and every death of Safai Karamcharis due to manual cleaning of sewers, manholes etc. whether in Municipal Area, Cantt Area or within private premises may be accounted for and suitable compensation/employment be given invariably to one of the family members of the deceased.

4. The Commission hopes that the States would take concrete action/remedial measures on its recommendations mentioned in para 3 above with due alacrity and sincerity.

5. Please acknowledge the receipt of the communication and intimate the Commission about action taken in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

(P.S. Ranga)
Secretary
Tel. No. 24649352

18-11-12

11-1-2012

SS (SJE)