

National Commission for Safai Karmacharis

Why in News?

Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK) for 3 years beyond 2025.

Safai Karmachari means a person engaged in, or employed for, manually carrying human excreta or any sanitation work.

- The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK) was constituted on 12th August, 1994 as a **statutory body**, for a period of 3 years.
- It was subsequently extended up to 2002 and 2004 and extended so many times until recently in 2025.
- The Commission is acting as a **Non-Statutory body** of the *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment* from 2004.
- National Commission for Safai Karmacharis Act, 1993, was enacted in September, 1993 and a statutory National Commission for Safai Karmacharis was first constituted in August, 1994.
- **Functions** - Recommend to the Central Government specific programs of action towards elimination of inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities of Safai Karmacharis.
- Study and evaluate implementation of the programmes and schemes relating to the social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karmacharis and scavengers in particular.
- Investigate specific grievances and take **suo-motu notice** of matter relating to non-implementation of
 - Programmes or schemes in respect of any group of Safai Karmacharis,
 - Decisions, guidelines etc. Aimed at mitigating the hardships of Safai Karmacharis;
 - Measures for the social and economic upliftment of Safai Karmacharis etc,
- Study and monitor the working conditions, including those relating to **health safety and wages** of Safai Karmacharis,
- Make reports to the Central or State Government on any matter concerning Safai Karmacharis, taking into account any difficulties or disabilities being encountered by Safai Karmacharis; and
- Any other matter which may be referred to it by the Central Government.
- Under the provisions of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** (MS Act 2013), NCSK shall perform the functions namely:
 - To monitor the implementation of the Act
 - To enquire into complaints regarding contravention of the provisions of this Act and to convey its findings to concerned authorities with recommendations requiring further action;
 - To advice the Central and State Govt for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act; and
 - To take suo-motu notice of matter relating to non-implementation of this Act.
- It is the **only body keeping track** of sewer deaths in India.

Reference

