National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

Why in News?

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

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

- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (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 Karamcharis Act, 1993, was enacted in September, 1993 and a statutory National Commission for Safai Karmcharis 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

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