

‘GARIMA’ launched for sanitation workers

Saturday, 12 September 2020 | PNS | BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday launched a ‘GARIMA’ scheme to ensure safety and dignity of core sanitation workers.

Patnaik said, “In spite of the nation making several strides in various sectors competing with the best in the world, these underprivileged people were made to render this invaluable service to the society for generations, deprived of safety, dignity and a decent livelihood apart from suffering social stigma and exclusion. Our conscience can never be calmed if we don’t take steps to correct this injustice. My Government has, therefore, decided to launch a scheme called ‘GARIMA’ to ensure safety and dignity of core sanitation workers.”

Housing & Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena said the scheme is first of its kind by any State to provide a comprehensive package institutionalising and regulating the core sanitation services, providing service-level benefits, social security and financial benefits to core sanitation workers and their families.

Approximately, 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families with about 1 lakh population would be benefited by the scheme. The benefits include special category of wages for core sanitation work, introduction of risk and hardship allowance, financial assistance to the families in the event of accident or injury, financial support in the form of house grant and purchase of two-wheelers to the extent of 90% of the cost.

In addition to this, access to EPF, retirement benefits and illness allowance would provide further financial security to the workers and their families.

The Government would also provide welfare benefits like health and life insurance, disability support, periodic health checkups, housing, educational, mobility and mobile support.