

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 51  
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2025**

**DISBURSEMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THE NEXT OF KIN OF  
DRAINS/SEWERS CLEANER**

**51. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:**

**Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of people who have lost their lives or been injured while cleaning drains, sewers, or septic tanks over the last five years, the State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether compensation has been disbursed to the next of kin of deceased or injured workers, the details for the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether there is any pending compensation due to be disbursed, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) if so, whether a timeline has been fixed to clear the same, and
- (e) whether Government has provided compensation to the family of Joy, who died recently while cleaning drainage in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, if so, by when and how much?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (d) As per 12th Schedule of the Constitution of India, public health and sanitation are Urban Local Bodies/ State subjects and it is the responsibility of the ULBs/ State Governments to ensure proper functioning of sewage networks and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) including cleaning of drains, sewers or septic tanks, etc. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through schematic interventions/ advisories. It provides financial and technical support to the States in improving urban sanitation infrastructure.

...2/-

The data regarding loss of lives or injured while cleaning drains, sewers, or septic tanks is maintained by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK). As informed by NCSK, in the last 5 years, out of the total no. of 294 sewer related death cases reported and confirmed from different sources agencies/state Govt/UTs, payment of compensation has been made in 249 cases and the remaining 45 cases of sewer/septic tank related deaths are due for payment of compensation. State/UTs wise details is at Annexure-I.

NCSK follows up with the State/UTs authorities for expediting payment of compensation in pending sewer related death cases. It is informed that there is no fixed timeline for of compensation, however, as per Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 20.10.2023, enhanced amount of compensation amounting to ₹ 30 lakhs (previously being 10 lakhs) has to be paid to the legal heirs of the deceased who have not been compensated till 19.10.2023.

(e) As informed by NCSK, compensation of ₹10.00 Lakhs has been paid on 18.07.2024 out of Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund as per the Govt. of Kerala letter dated 18.07.2024.

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**ANNEXURE-I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 51 REGARDING  
“DISBURSEMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THE NEXT OF KIN OF DRAINS/SEWERS CLEANER”, DUE FOR ANSWER IN THE  
RAJYA SABHA ON 03.02.2025**

Statement of sewer/septic tank death in last ten years (Calender year wise)

S.No	Name of State/UT	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
		Number of sewer/septic tank death	Full Compensation paid in nos	Number of sewer/septic tank death	Full Compensation paid in nos	Number of sewer/septic tank death	Full Compensation paid in nos	Number of sewer/septic tank death	Full Compensation paid in nos	Number of sewer/septic tank death	Full Compensation paid in nos
1	Andhra Pradesh			2	2	3	3				
2	Bihar							2	2		
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			3	3						
4	Delhi	4	4	4	4	10	10			7	1
5	Goa									1	0
6	Gujarat	5	5	5	5	7	6	10	10		
7	Haryana	1	1	6	6	22	18	6	6	1	
8	Jharkhand	3	0					1	1		
9	Karnataka	5	5	7	7			2	1		
10	Madhya Pradesh			5	5			2	2	3	3
11	Maharashtra	4	4	7	4	19	17	10	10	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
12	Odisha			2	2						
13	Punjab			2	2			6	4	1	1
14	Rajasthan	1	1	1	1	3	0	10	10	4	0
15	Tamil Nadu	16	16	3	3	14	13	8	8	6	6
16	Telangana			4	4	1		1		3	3
17	Uttar Pradesh			5	5	11	11	1	0	6	3
18	West Bengal			6	6			3	0		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>