

O.I.H.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 869
ANSWERED ON 28/07/2025**

**CONTRACT FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT SANITATION WORKERS AND IMPROVE
SANITATION SERVICES**

**869. SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI MAYANKKUMAR NAYAK**

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

- (a) the total funds sanctioned under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme up to June, 2025;
- (b) the total amount disbursed to Urban Local Bodies and States for mechanised sanitation under the NAMASTE initiative since its inception, along with the utilisation rate; and
- (c) the percentage of urban households, as per records, that rely on septic tanks and have regular access to desludging services through mechanised means?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have launched National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme in July, 2023 to ensure safety and dignity of sanitation workers. It is a Central Sector Scheme under which safety devices for mechanised sanitation for Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) are procured either by States/UTs or by Central Government. So far, ₹105.655 crores has been sanctioned toward NAMASTE.

(b) : Under NAMASTE initiative, ₹4.15 crore has been incurred by Central Government and ₹0.25 crores disbursed to State Government of Assam towards procurement of safety devices by ERSUs for mechanised sanitation.

(c) : Out of an estimated 42 crore urban population in India, about 50% (4.5 crore households) use septic tanks. This indicates a critical need for regular desludging services to safely remove and dispose of faecal sludge at designated treatment locations. Around 35% of the population is connected to sewer networks that require regular maintenance for efficient wastewater flow to treatment plants. Both sewer systems and septic tanks need regular cleaning - sewer manholes must be cleared of blockages, and septic tanks must be desludged regularly.
