

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO - 276
ANSWERED ON – 18/03/2026

HAZARDOUS SEWER AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING WORK

276. PROF MANOJ KUMAR JHA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Ministry maintains year-wise verified data on fatalities during hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning work reported by State Governments during last three years, if so, State-wise and year-wise details including caste disaggregation of deceased; and

(b) the number of urban local bodies, State-wise, that were found using manual sewer cleaning without mechanical equipment as of 2024, steps taken under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, to prosecute responsible officials, number of FIRs registered and convictions secured under the Act during last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR.VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 276 for answer on 18.03.2026 raised by Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha regarding “Hazardous Sewer and Septic Tank Cleaning Work”.

(a) & (b) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) receives information on sewer deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks, through various sources including media/newspapers/complaints, etc. and gets it confirmed/verified from the concerned States/UTs. During the last three years, 165 deaths have occurred in States/UTs during hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks due to non-observance of safety precautions as prescribed under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013” and “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013” and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The State-wise data of such sewer deaths during the last three years, year-wise, is at **Annexure**.

During last three years, 110 FIRs have been lodged in concerned States/UTs. However, no data on sewer deaths due to manual sewer cleaning without mechanical equipment, Urban Local Bodies-wise, is maintained centrally.

Sanitation work is occupation based rather than caste based and as such caste-wise details of sewer deaths is not maintained.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 276 for answer on 18.03.2026 regarding Hazardous Sewer and Septic Tank Cleaning Work.

State-wise and year-wise data of sewer deaths occurred due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks during last three years

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Deaths		
		2023	2024	2025
1	Bihar	2	-	-
2	Delhi	-	7	5
3	Goa	-	1	-
4	Gujarat	10	-	3
5	Haryana	6	1	7
6	Jharkhand	1	-	-
7	Karnataka	3	2	-
8	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	1
9	Maharashtra	10	14	3
10	Punjab	6	1	3
11	Rajasthan	10	7	6
12	Tamil Nadu	9	6	6
13	Telangana	1	3	-
14	Uttar Pradesh	2	9	8
15	West Bengal	3	-	4
	Total	65	54	46
