

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3023
ANSWERED ON – 18/03/2026

DEATHS AND INJURIES DURING CLEANING OF MANHOLES

3023. DR. JOHN BRITTAS

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

(a) total number of persons died or sustained injuries while cleaning sewers, manholes, septic tanks and other drainage systems across the country during last five years, year-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(b) number of such persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, the details thereof;

(c) number of cases in which compensation was paid to the victims or their families and the amount paid, State-wise details thereof; and

(d) steps taken to ensure provision and mandatory use of safety equipments, mechanisation of cleaning operations and accountability of agencies engaging such workers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (c) As reported by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), State-wise and year-wise details of sanitation workers who lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks and compensation paid to the legal heirs/ dependents of the deceased sanitation workers during last five years, is at **Annexure**. Sanitation work is occupation based rather than caste based and as such caste-wise details of sewer deaths is not maintained.

(d) National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme to ensure safety and dignity of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) has been launched in 2023-24. Measures taken to enhance worker safety and promote mechanization under NAMASTE scheme are as under:-

- i. Personal Protective Equipment Kits to SSWs.
- ii. Occupational safety training to SSWs.
- iii. Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) in larger Urban Local Bodies.
- iv. Upfront Capital Subsidy for sanitation related machinery to sanitation workers, their groups of maximum five persons and Private Sanitation Service Operators (PSSOs).
- v. Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.
- vi. Appointment of Responsible Sanitation Authority.

Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 launched on 1st October, 2021 includes a new component i.e. Used Water Management (UWM) with one of the objectives as eradication of hazardous entry into sewers and septic tanks and sustaining elimination of manual cleaning, through mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3023 for answer on 18.03.2026 regarding Deaths and Injuries During Cleaning Manholes.

State-wise and year-wise details of sanitation workers who lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks and compensation paid to the legal heirs/ dependents of the deceased sanitation workers during last five years are as under:-

S. No.	Name of State	2021			2022			2023			2024			2025		
		No. of Deaths	Full Compensation paid	Partial Compensation Paid	No. of Deaths	Full Compensation paid	Partial Compensation Paid	No. of Deaths	Full Compensation paid	Partial Compensation Paid	No. of Deaths	Full Compensation paid	Partial Compensation Paid	No. of Deaths	Full Compensation paid	Partial Compensation Paid
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	2	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Delhi	4	4	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	7	4	-	5	3	-
5	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
6	Gujarat	5	5	-	7	7	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	3	3	-
7	Haryana	6	6	-	23	19	4	6	2	1	1	-	-	7	2	-
8	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Karnataka	7	7	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
10	Madhya Pradesh	5	5	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	3	3	-	1	-	1
11	Maharashtra	7	7	-	19	17	1	10	10	-	14	8	4	3	-	-
12	Odisha	2	2	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Punjab	2	2	-	-	-	-	6	6	-	1	1	-	3	3	-
14	Rajasthan	1	1	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	7	7	-	6	3	3
15	Tamil Nadu	3	3	-	14	13	-	9	8	-	6	6	-	6	5	-
16	Telangana	4	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	3	3	-	-	-	-
17	Uttar Pradesh	5	5	-	11	11	-	2	-	1	9	3	-	8	2	-
18	West Bengal	6	6	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	4	3	-
	Total	62	62	-	88	80	5	65	53	6	54	37	5	46	24	4