

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4277
ANSWERED ON – 01/04/2026

SEWER AND SEPTIC TANK DEATHS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFEGUARDS

4277. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM

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

- (a) the year-wise and State-wise total number of deaths reported during sewer and septic tank cleaning operations during the last five years;
- (b) the number of such cases in which compensation has been paid as per Supreme Court directions, the amount disbursed in each case and the number of cases where compensation remains pending;
- (c) whether any assessment has been conducted to identify the causes of continued sewer deaths despite statutory prohibition of hazardous manual cleaning and the findings thereof; and
- (d) the number of mechanised sewer cleaning machines procured and deployed during last five years and whether any time bound plan exists to eliminate manual entry into sewers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) As reported by National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), the number of sanitation workers who have lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks during last five years, year-wise and State-wise, is at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) The number of cases where full compensation/partial compensation has been paid and where compensation has not been confirmed, State-wise, is at **Annexure-II**.
- (c) Some 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.

(d) 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. Under UWM component, proposal for procurement of 1,940 CESS pool Tankers/Desludging Machines and 517 other sewer cleaning equipments have been approved so far.

Annexure-I referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4277 for answer on 01.04.2026 regarding Sewer and Septic Tank deaths and Implementation of Safeguards.

Number of sanitation workers who have lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks during last five years, Year-wise and State-wise, is as under:-

S. No.	Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Name of States/UTs	Number of Deaths				
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	3	-	-	-
2	Bihar	-	-	2	-	-
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	-	-	-	-
4	Delhi	4	10	-	7	5
5	Goa	-	-	-	1	-
6	Gujarat	5	7	10	-	3
7	Haryana	6	23	6	1	7
8	Jharkhand	-	-	1	-	-
9	Karnataka	7	-	3	2	-
10	Madhya Pradesh	5	-	2	3	1
11	Maharashtra	7	19	10	14	5
12	Odisha	2	-	-	-	-
13	Punjab	2	-	6	1	3
14	Rajasthan	1	-	10	7	6
15	Tamil Nadu	3	14	9	6	6
16	Telangana	4	1	1	3	-
17	Uttar Pradesh	5	11	2	9	8
18	West Bengal	6	-	3	-	4
Grand Total		62	88	65	54	48

Annexure-II

Annexure-II referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4277 for answer on 01.04.2026 regarding Sewer and Septic Tank Deaths and Implementation of Safeguards.

The number of cases where full compensation/partial compensation has been paid and where compensation has not been confirmed, State-wise, is as under:-

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Total Number of sewer deaths	Full payment ($\geq 10/30$ Lakh)	Partial Payment (< 30 Lakh)	No Payment / payment not yet confirmed
1	Andhra Pradesh	28	27	-	-
2	Bihar	6	6	-	-
3	Chhatisgarh	6	6	-	-
4	Chandigarh	6	6	-	-
5	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	3	3	-	-
6	Delhi	124	106	7	11
7	Goa	7	2	4	1
8	Gujarat	207	177	-	-
9	Haryana	124	97	10	12
10	Jharkhand	4	1	3	-
11	Karnataka	96	95	-	1
12	Kerala	13	13	-	-
13	Maharashtra	97	85	5	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	26	25	1	-
15	Odisha	2	2	-	-
16	Puducherry	9	8	-	-
17	Punjab	51	49	1	-
18	Rajasthan	63	57	3	-
19	Tamil Nadu	264	257	-	2
20	Telangana	26	22	3	1
21	Tripura	2	2	-	-
22	Uttarakhand	9	8	1	-
23	Uttar Pradesh	149	120	5	15
24	West Bengal	31	27	3	1
	Total	1353	1201	46	51
