

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4287
ANSWERED ON – 01/04/2026

NAMASTE SCHEME

4287. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA

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

- (a) what are the objectives and key components of the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme;
- (b) the number of sewer and septic tank workers profiled and the extent of distribution of PPE kits and Ayushman cards so far;
- (c) what are the steps taken to ensure mechanization, safety and social security for sanitation workers across States;
- (d) whether the awareness and outreach activities have been organized under the scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)” Scheme in 2023-24 for its implementation in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country. The objective is to ensure safety and dignity of Safai Karmacharis and to empower them socially and economically. The aim of the scheme is to achieve the following:-

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India
- All sanitation work to be performed by skilled workers
- No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter
- Increase awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered and skilled sanitation workers
- Strengthening and capacitating Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) to ensure safe delivery of mechanized sanitation services
- Empowering of Sanitation workers to run sanitation enterprises and promote mechanization of cleaning operation through availability of machines.

(b) 89,248 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) have been profiled and validated.

87,037 PPE kits for SSWs have been dispatched to States/UTs.

75,710 beneficiaries have been covered under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, States Health Scheme and NAMASTE scheme.

(c) The following steps have been taken for mechanization, safety and social security for sanitation workers under NAMASTE scheme:-

- i. Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs).
- ii. Upfront Capital Subsidy to sanitation workers and Private Sanitation Service Operators (PSSOs) for procurement of sanitation related machinery.
- iii. PPE Kits to SSWs.
- iv. Occupational training to the sewer and septic tank workers.
- v. Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.
- vi. Coverage under Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY), states health scheme and NAMASTE scheme.

(d) & (e) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) collaterals, including films, posters, banners, brochures, audio announcements, wall painting designs and news paper advertisements have been used for awareness and outreach.

Infographics/information are regularly updated on Social Media platforms for wider outreach of the scheme.

1,556 workshops on the prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewers have been conducted.
