

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2047
ANSWERED ON – 05/08/2026

DEATHS DURING SEWER AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

2047. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA

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

(a) whether Government has examined the reasons for the continued occurrence of deaths during sewer and septic tank cleaning despite the statutory prohibition on hazardous manual cleaning;

(b) the number of cases registered under the relevant provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the Indian Penal Code & other applicable laws in relation to such deaths during the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of persons, agencies and authorities held responsible in such cases, including contractors, municipal corporations, urban local bodies, Government Departments, private agencies, supervisors and officials responsible for permitting hazardous cleaning work?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) 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.

(b) & (c) Sanitation is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. No data regarding agencies, authorities, etc. violating the law is maintained centrally. However, as reported by the NCSK, 193 FIRs have been lodged in the concerned States/UTs from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 as at **Annexure**.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) and (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2047 for answer on 05.08.2026 regarding 'Deaths during sewer and septic tank cleaning'.

State-wise number of FIRs lodged in the concerned States/UTs from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 is as under:-

S. No.	State/UT	FIR lodged
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Bihar	-
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
4.	Delhi	25
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	8
7.	Haryana	35
8.	Jharkhand	-
9.	Karnataka	4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7
11.	Maharashtra	24
12.	Odisha	-
13.	Punjab	9
14.	Rajasthan	20
15.	Tamil Nadu	21
16.	Telangana	2
17.	Uttar Pradesh	18
18.	West Bengal	11
	Grand Total	193
