

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2048
ANSWERED ON – 05/08/2026

**DEATHS AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS IN SEWER AND SEPTIC TANK
CLEANING OPERATIONS**

2048. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

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

- (a) the number of deaths reported during sewer and septic tank cleaning operations in the country during last five years, State-wise, and the number of cases in which compensation, rehabilitation and legal action have been provided;
- (b) the reason for continued involvement of manual labour in hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning despite the prohibition;
- (c) the number of inspections, prosecutions recorded against contractors, agencies and officials responsible during the said period; and
- (d) whether Government has ensured availability and mandatory use of safety gear, protective measures and training for sanitation workers across municipalities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) As reported by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), State-wise number of sanitation workers who lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks; compensation paid to the affected families and FIR lodged in the concerned States / UTs from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 is at **Annexure**.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Sanitation is State subject under Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. No such data is maintained centrally. However, as reported by NCSK, 193 FIR lodged in the concerned States / UTs from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026.
- (d) National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme has been launched in July, 2023 to ensure safety and dignity of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs). Under the scheme, 89,915 SSWs have been validated across the country. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits for 87,037 validated SSWs have been delivered to States / UTs. Safety devices have been provided to 753 Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs); 1851 Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks and Occupational safety training has been provided to 5307 SSWs.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2048 for answer on 05.08.2026 regarding 'Deaths and safety violations in sewer and septic tank cleaning operations'.

State-wise number of sanitation workers who lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tank; compensation paid to the affected families and FIR lodged in the concerned States / UTs from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 is as under:-

S. No.	Name of State/UTs	Number of Death	Full Compensation paid	Partial compensation paid	FIR lodged
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	5	-	5
2	Bihar	2	2	-	-
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	3	-	3
4	Delhi	29	23	-	25
5	Goa	1	1	-	1
6	Gujarat	27	27	-	8
7	Haryana	47	29	5	35
8	Jharkhand	1	1	-	-
9	Karnataka	12	11	-	4
10	Madhya Pradesh	13	12	1	7
11	Maharashtra	58	42	5	24
12	Odisha	2	2	-	-
13	Punjab	12	12	-	9
14	Rajasthan	23	23	-	20
15	Tamil Nadu	38	35	-	21
16	Telangana	9	8	1	2
17	Uttar Pradesh	37	23	3	18
18	West Bengal	13	9	3	11
	Grand Total	332	268	18	193
