

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 451
ANSWERED ON – 22/07/2026

SAFETY OF SANITATION AND WASTE-HANDLING WORKERS

451. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the hazardous working conditions faced by workers engaged in waste collection, sewer and septic-tank cleaning, many of whom belong to the Scheduled Castes;
- (b) number of injuries and fatalities reported among sanitation and waste-handling workers during the last five years, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (c) number of sewer and septic-tank deaths reported during this period and the compensation disbursed in each case, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (d) number of sanitation workers who have been provided mechanised cleaning equipment, protective gear, insurance coverage and safety training under central schemes, year-wise; and
- (e) number of manual scavengers identified and the number rehabilitated, year-wise and State-wise/UT-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) & (c) As reported by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), State-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 from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 is at **Annexure-I**. No report of injuries sustained during sanitation work and waste handling has been received from the States / UTs.
- (d) Year-wise number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits provided for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) and Waste Pickers; number of sanitation workers provided capital subsidy for mechanised cleaning equipment; number of beneficiaries provided Occupational Safety Training/ skill Development Training and health insurance coverage under National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme, launched in 2023, is at **Annexure-II**.

(e) 58,098 Manual Scavengers (MS) have been identified during two surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018. State/UT-wise number of the identified manual scavengers is at **Annexure-III**.

Year-wise and State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers provided One Time Cash Assistance is at **Annexure-IV**.

Year-wise and State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers provided Skill Development Training is at **Annexure-V**.

Year-wise and State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers provided Capital subsidy for General Projects is at **Annexure-VI**.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred to in reply to parts (b) and (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 451 for answer on 22.07.2026 regarding 'Safety of Sanitation and Waste-Handling Workers'.

State-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 from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 are as under:-

S. No.	States/UTs	Number of Death	Full compensation paid (No. of cases)	Part compensation paid (No. of cases)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	5	-
2.	Bihar	2	2	-
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	3	-
4.	Delhi	29	23	-
5.	Goa	1	1	-
6.	Gujarat	27	27	-
7.	Haryana	47	29	5
8.	Jharkhand	1	1	-
9.	Karnataka	12	11	-
10.	Madhya Pradesh	13	12	1
11.	Maharashtra	58	42	5
12.	Odisha	2	2	-
13.	Punjab	12	12	-
14.	Rajasthan	23	23	-
15.	Tamil Nadu	38	35	-
16.	Telangana	9	8	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	37	23	3
18.	West Bengal	13	9	3
	Total	332	268	18

Annexure-II

Annexure-II referred to in reply to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 451 for answer on 22.07.2026 regarding 'Safety of Sanitation and Waste-Handling Workers'.

Year-wise number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits provided for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers and Waste Pickers; number of sanitation workers provided capital subsidy for mechanised cleaning equipment; number of beneficiaries provided Occupational Safety Training/ skill Development Training and health insurance coverage under the NAMASTE scheme are as under:-

Component	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 (till date)
Number of PPE kits provided for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers and Waste Pickers	3,498	42,373	2,20,857	4,427
Number of sanitation workers provided capital subsidy for mechanised cleaning equipment	413	250	320	40
Number of beneficiaries provided Occupational Safety Training/ skill Development Training	2,000	1,631	7,058	9,604
Number of beneficiaries provided Health insurance coverage	8,552	12,756	1,52,493	7,261

Annexure-III

Annexure-III referred to in reply to part (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 451 for answer on 22.07.2026 regarding 'Safety of Sanitation and Waste –Handling Workers'.

State/UT-wise number of the manual scavengers identified in two surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018 are as under:-.

S. No.	State	Survey conducted in 2013	Survey conducted in 2018	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59	1734	1793
2.	Assam	150	3771	3921
3.	Bihar	131	-	131
4.	Chhatisgarh	3	-	3
5.	Gujarat	-	105	105
6.	Jharkhand	-	192	192
7.	Karnataka	689	2238	2927
8.	Kerala	-	518	518
9.	Madhya Pradesh	36	474	510
10.	Maharashtra	-	6325	6325
11.	Odisha	230	-	230
12.	Punjab	90	141	231
13.	Rajasthan	333	2340	2673
14.	Tamil Nadu	342	56	398
15.	Uttar Pradesh	11589	20884	32473
16.	Uttarakhand	134	4854	4988
17.	West Bengal	95	585	680
	Grand Total	13881	44217	58098

Annexure-IV

Annexure-IV referred to in reply to part (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 451 for answer on 22.07.2026 regarding 'Safety of Sanitation and Waste –Handling Workers'.

Year-wise and State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers provided One Time Cash Assistance are as under:-

S. No.	State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	45	-	8	2	1334	74	330	1793
2	Assam	-	-	-	-	144	538	188	3051	3921
3	Bihar	-	-	131	-	-	-	-	-	131
4	Chhattisgarh	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
5	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	96	9	-	105
6	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	108	16	68	192
7	Karnataka	125	18	79	17	293	920	429	1046	2927
8	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	504	14	-	518
9	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	36	-	-	305	-	169	510
10	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	4605	1002	718	6325
11	Odisha	-	-	172	45	1	-	1	11	230
12	Punjab	-	-	87	-	1	126	8	9	231
13	Rajasthan	-	-	194	104	23	2038	82	232	2673
14	Tamil Nadu	-	-	170	108	38	41	27	14	398
15	Uttar Pradesh	35	1083	7146	1075	669	5154	11044	6267	32473
16	Uttarakhand	-	-	134	-	-	1755	324	2775	4988
17	West Bengal	-	95	-	-	-	555	28	2	680
Total		163	1241	8149	1357	1171	18079	13246	14692	58098

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Annexure-V

Annexure-V referred to in reply to part (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 451 for answer on 22.07.2026 regarding 'Safety of Sanitation and Waste –Handling Workers'.

Year-wise and State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers provided Skill Development Training are as under:-

S. No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	104	76	72	-	-	-	-	252
2	Assam	-	-	-	7	38	143	272	60	138	-	-	-	658
3	Bihar	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
4	Gujarat	-	-	-	7	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
5	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	24	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
6	Karnataka	-	-	-	51	29	-	171	98	-	228	-	89	666
7	Kerala	-	-	-	-	161	153	-	-	-	12	-	-	326
8	Madhya Pradesh	-	9	-	-	49	40	-	-	145	-	-	-	243
9	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	569	763	234	72	-	153	113	1904
10	Odisha	-	56	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
11	Punjab	-	5	22	6	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
12	Rajasthan	-	24	53	73	107	220	347	128	480	302	184	256	2174
13	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
14	Uttar Pradesh	-	625	4298	126	1041	833	3741	2036	2300	1270	978	1041	18289
15	Uttarakhand	-	116	-	1	163	460	735	195	279	172	316	502	2939
16	West Bengal	97	-	-	35	-	-	99	-	-	16	-	-	247
Total		97	835	4373	334	1682	2532	6204	2823	3414	2000	1631	2001	27926

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Annexure-VI

Annexure-VI referred to in reply to part (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 451 for answer on 22.07.2026 regarding 'Safety of Sanitation and Waste –Handling Workers'.

Year-wise and State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers provided capital subsidy for General Projects are as under:-

S.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
1	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	9
2	Karnataka	-	190	-	-	-	-	-	208	315	130	18	-	-	861
3	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	-	56	7	72
4	Odisha	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
5	Punjab	-	21	14	-	1	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	46
6	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	32	-	46
7	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	75	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	78
8	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	182	159	140	32	146	107	8	55	32	109	-	970
9	Uttarakhand	-	71	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	96
10	West Bengal	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	384	-	-	-	-	542
Total		97	365	196	159	144	107	154	377	714	191	88	204	7	2803

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