

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2022**

SEPTIC TANK CLEANERS

†1133. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

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

- (a) whether a large number of workers have died while cleaning septic tanks in the country during the current year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total number of such workers who died during the last five years and the current year, State-wise including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana;
- (c) the reasons behind working of septic tanks cleaning workers in pitiable conditions and losing their lives usually while working; and
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to stop the death incidents of workers while cleaning of sewage and septic tanks and to save the septic tank cleaners and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government takes a serious cognizance of the deaths occurring due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and non observance of safety precautions as prescribed under the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013”.

State-wise details of persons who are reported to have died due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks during the last five and current years are at **Annexure**.

(d): Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also formulated “National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem” (NAMASTE) particularly to stop deaths of Sewers and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs). NAMASTE intends formalization of system of cleaning of sewers and septic tanks operations so that only trained workers are engaged in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and no person loses life due to hazardous cleaning.

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1133 for 13.12.2022 regarding Septic Tank Cleaners.

Year-wise and State wise details of death of persons in sewers and septic tanks during the last five years and current year.

S. No.	Name of State/UT	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death	Total No. of death
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	9	0	0	0	3
2.	Bihar	2	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Chhatisgarh	0	1	0	0	0	0
4.	Chandigarh	3	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	13	11	10	4	4	4
6.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	0	0	0	0	3	0
7.	Gujarat	7	2	14	0	5	2
8.	Haryana	11	6	16	0	5	13
9.	Karnataka	3	9	7	2	5	0
10.	Kerala	1	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Maharashtra	6	5	17	4	0	12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0	3	0
13.	Odisha	0	0	0	0	2	0
14.	Punjab	8	2	3	0	2	0
15.	Rajasthan	6	2	5	0	0	0
16.	Tamil Nadu	7	9	13	9	8	10
17.	Telangana	2	3	0	0	4	0
18.	Uttar Pradesh	17	8	28	0	4	4
19.	Uttarakhand	2	0	1	0	0	0
20.	West Bengal	10	0	2	0	4	0
	Total	100	67	117	19	49	48
