

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2296
TO BE ANSWERED ON FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

UNSEGREGATED HOUSEHOLD WASTE

NO. 2296. SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to empower sanitation workers to reject unsegregated household waste, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has identified the challenges faced by the Urban Local Bodies for the safe reuse of treated sludge, including issues related to moisture content, pathogen presence; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps proposed to address these challenges?**

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (c): Sanitation is a state subject. As per the new Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, it shall be the responsibility of the local bodies to develop and set up infrastructure for segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of the solid waste either on its own or by engaging agencies.

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), through Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U), supplements the efforts of States/UTs by providing policy directions, financial and technical support by sharing Manuals/Standard of Procedures (SoPs) on Solid Waste Management and issue various Advisories & Guidelines time to time for choosing appropriate technologies to manage solid waste.

A report on ‘Circular Economy in Municipal Solid and Liquid waste’ published in June, 2021, by MoHUA focuses on wastewater and municipal sludge and other related issues, and highlights current scenario, identifies key challenges, gaps in policy framework & regulations.

Under SBM-U 2.0 Used Water Management (UWM) has been added as a new component with scope of procuring septic tank desludging equipment, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)/ STP-cum- Faecal Sludge Treatment plants FSTP, for used water treatment, laying Interception and Diversion (I&D) structures including provision of pumping stations and pumping main/gravity main upto STP, etc for ULBs with less than 1 lakh population.

MoHUA is also implementing Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) to deal with sewerage and septage management as well as making cities/statutory towns ‘self-reliant’ and ‘water secure’, in ULBs with more than 1 lakh population.
