

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4031
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2026**

PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

4031. MS IQRA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) the number of sanitation workers and manual scavengers identified in the latest national survey who are yet to receive full rehabilitation benefits under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, classified State-wise, particularly for Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of sewer and septic tank deaths reported since 2017 and the compensation actually disbursed to affected families, classified State and district-wise, particularly for Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the action taken against contractors or civic bodies found in violation of the mechanisation mandate;

(d) the number of complaints received by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis regarding non-payment of wages, denial of safety equipment and caste-based discrimination, classified State-wise and district-wise, particularly for Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) the measures taken to eliminate inter-generational caste-based occupation and ensure alternative livelihood, housing, education and social security for sanitation worker families?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme has been launched in 2023-24 to ensure safety and dignity of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs). Components of erstwhile Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) have been subsumed in NAMASTE scheme. Waste Pickers (WPs) have been added as beneficiary under NAMASTE scheme in 2024-25. As on 12th March, 2026, 89,248 SSWs and 2,34,425 Waste Pickers have been validated under NAMASTE scheme. In Uttar Pradesh, 12,424 SSWs and 35,641 Waste pickers have been validated.

A fresh survey of manual scavengers, as per the provisions of the “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013” has been conducted in all the districts of the country under which no manual scavenger has been found. However, 58,098 manual scavengers, including 32,473 in Uttar Pradesh, have been identified during the two surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018. All the identified manual scavengers and their dependents have been rehabilitated by providing One Time Cash Assistance (OTCA) of Rs. 40,000 each. Further, Skill Development Training has been provided to 27,928 manual scavengers and their dependents with stipend @ Rs. 3,000/- per month during the training period. Upfront Capital Subsidy upto Rs.5 lakh has also been provided to 2,679 manual scavengers and their dependents to take up alternate self-employment projects. The State/UT-wise details are at **Annexure I**.

(b): As reported by 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 disbursed to affected families since 2017 is at **Annexure II**. District-wise details of Sewer and Septic Tanks deaths and compensation paid to affected families in Uttar Pradesh is at **Annexure III**.

(c): Sanitation is a State subject under the VIIth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Data of action taken against contractors or civic bodies for violation of SOPs/guidelines on mechanization is not maintained centrally.

(d); As reported by NCSK, in the year 2025, 842 complaints, including 130 complaint of Uttar Pradesh, have been received from States/UTs regarding non-payment of wages, denial of safety equipment and caste-based discrimination. State/ UT-wise details are at **Annexure IV**.

(e): Sanitation is an occupation based activity rather than caste based. Measures taken to enhance worker safety and ensure full rehabilitation of the sanitation workers under NAMASTE scheme are as under:-

- i. Personal Protective Equipment Kits to SSWs and Waste pickers.
- ii. Occupational safety training to SSWs and Waste Pickers.
- iii. Skill Development training to the identified manual scavengers.
- iv. Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) in larger Urban Local Bodies.
- v. Upfront Capital Subsidy for sanitation related machinery to sanitation workers, their groups of maximum five persons and Private Sanitation Service Operators (PSSOs).
- vi. Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.
- vii. Pre matric scholarship to the wards of person involved in unclean occupation.
- viii. Health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and State Health scheme.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4031 for answer on 17.03.2026 regarding Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers.

State-wise details of benefits provided to the identified Manual Scavengers (MS) are as under:

S.No	States	Total no of Identified MS	One-time Cash Assistance	Skill Development Training	Capital Subsidy for General Projects
1	Andhra Pradesh	1793	1793	252	-
2	Assam	3921	3921	658	10
3	Bihar	131	131	18	-
4	Chhattisgarh	3	3	-	-
5	Gujarat	105	105	19	-
6	Jharkhand	192	192	34	-
7	Karnataka	2927	2927	666	861
8	Kerala	518	518	326	-
9	Madhya Pradesh	510	510	243	-
10	Maharashtra	6325	6325	1904	65
11	Odisha	230	230	66	83
12	Punjab	231	231	62	46
13	Rajasthan	2673	2673	2174	19
14	Tamil Nadu	398	398	29	78
15	Uttar Pradesh	32473	32473	18289	879
16	Uttarakhand	4988	4988	2941	96
17	West Bengal	680	680	247	542
Total		58098	58098	27928	2679

Annexure-II

Annexure-II referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4031 for answer on 17.03.2026 regarding Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers.

State-wise details of sanitation workers who lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks and compensation disbursed to affected families since 2017 are as under:

S. No.	Name of State / UT	No. of Deaths	Full compensation paid	Part Compensation paid	No compensation paid	Case closed
1	Bihar	4	4	-	-	-
2	Chandigarh	3	3	-	-	-
3	Chhattisgarh	5	5	-	-	-
4	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	3	-	-	-
5	Delhi	62	53	-	9	-
6	Goa	1	-	1	-	-
7	Gujarat	73	70	-	2	1
8	Haryana	76	55	8	12	1
9	Jharkhand	1	1	-	-	-
10	Karnataka	28	27	-	1	-
11	Kerala	1	1	-	-	-
12	Madhya Pradesh	14	11	1	2	-
13	Maharashtra	82	68	5	9	-
14	Odisha	2	2	1	-	-
15	Punjab	25	24	-	-	-
16	Rajasthan	37	34	3	-	-
17	Tamil Nadu	77	74	-	2	1
18	Telangana	14	12	1	1	-
19	Uttar Pradesh	86	68	2	13	3
20	Uttarakhand	3	3	-	-	-
21	West Bengal	25	21	3	1	-
Total		622	539	25	52	6

Annexure-III

Annexure-III referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4031 for answer on 17.03.2026 regarding Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers.

District-wise details of Sewer and Septic Tanks deaths and compensation paid to affected families in Uttar Pradesh since 2017 are as under:

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Deaths	Full compensation paid	Part Compensation paid	No compensation paid	Case closed
1	Agra	5	3	1	1	-
2	Ambedkar Nagar	2	-	-	2	-
3	Chandauli	4	-	-	4	-
4	Gautam Budhnagar	16	8	-	6	2
5	Ghaziabad	18	18	-	-	-
6	Ghazipur	2	2	-	-	-
7	Jallon	1	1	-	-	-
8	Kanpur	6	6	-	-	-
9	Pilibhit	1	1	-	-	-
10	Lucknow	9	8	-	-	1
11	Mathura	4	4	-	-	-
12	Rae Bareli	2	2	-	-	-
13	Sitapur	6	6	-	-	-
14	Sultanpur	1	1	-	-	-
15	Sahibabad	2	2	-	-	-
16	Varanasi	7	6	1	-	-
Total		86	68	2	13	3

Annexure-IV

Annexure-IV referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4031 for answer on 17.03.2026 regarding Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers.

Number of complaints received by NCSK during 2025 is as under:

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Total no. of complaints
1	Andhra Pradesh	30
2	Assam	10
3	Bihar	27
4	Chandigarh	30
5	Chhattisgarh	25
6	Delhi	140
7	Goa	2
8	Gujarat	28
9	Haryana	22
10	Himachal Pradesh	17
11	Jharkhand	15
12	Karnataka	10
13	Kerala	1
14	Maharashtra	95
15	Madhya Pradesh	30
16	Odisha	17
17	Puducherry	11
18	Punjab	25
19	Rajasthan	45
20	Tamil Nadu	41
21	Telangana	33
22	Uttarakhand	18
23	Uttar Pradesh	130
24	West Bengal	40
Total		842
