

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2562
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2026**

DEATHS DUE TO MANUAL SCAVENGING

2562. DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL:

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

- (a) the details and the number of deaths reported due to manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of persons identified as manual scavengers during the same period and the number rehabilitated under various Government schemes during such period, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the reasons for the continued occurrence of such deaths despite the prohibition of manual scavenging under the law, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure complete mechanisation of sewer and septic tank cleaning, fix accountability of officials and contractors and prevent further loss of lives; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): No death has been reported due to manual scavenging.

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 from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 is at **Annexure-I**.

(b): As per the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013", a fresh survey has been conducted in all districts of the country during the year 2024-25 in which no manual scavenger has been found. However, 58,098 manual scavengers have been identified during two surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018. State/ UT-wise number of identified manual scavengers is at **Annexure-II**. One Time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/ each has been provided to all the identified manual scavengers. State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers and their dependents provided with Skill Development Training and Capital Subsidy to take up alternate self-employment projects under "Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" which subsequently subsumed in the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme, launched in July, 2023, from 2021-22 to 2025-26, is at **Annexure-III**.

(c): 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 (MS Act, 2013)” and “Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules, 2013)” and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

(d) & (e): 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.

The MS Act, 2013 and the MS Rules 2013 prohibits the hazardous cleaning of Sewer and Septic Tanks by the employee without the employer fulfilling his obligations to provide protective gear and other safety devices and observance of precautions. It also stipulates that contraveners shall be punished with imprisonment upto 5 years or fine upto Rs. 5.00 lakh or with both.

Measures taken to enhance the worker safety and promote mechanization under the NAMASTE scheme are as under:-

- i. Personal Protective Equipment Kits to SSWs.
- ii. Occupational safety training to SSWs.
- iii. Safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs).
- iv. Upfront Capital Subsidy for sanitation related machinery to sanitation workers and Private Sanitation Service Operators (PSSOs).
- v. Health Insurance coverage.
- vi. Workshops on prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs also launched Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 on 1st, October, 2021. It includes a new component i.e. Used Water management (UWM) with one of the objectives as eradication of hazardous entry into sewers and septic tanks and sustaining elimination of manual cleaning, through mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2562 for answer on 04.08.2026 regarding 'Deaths due to Manual Scavenging'.

State-wise details of sanitation workers who lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2026 is as under:-

S. No.	Name of State/UTs	Number of Death
1	Andhra Pradesh	5
2	Bihar	2
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
4	Delhi	29
5	Goa	1
6	Gujarat	27
7	Haryana	47
8	Jharkhand	1
9	Karnataka	12
10	Madhya Pradesh	13
11	Maharashtra	58
12	Odisha	2
13	Punjab	12
14	Rajasthan	23
15	Tamil Nadu	38
16	Telangana	9
17	Uttar Pradesh	37
18	West Bengal	13
	Grand Total	332

Annexure-II

Annexure-II referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2562 for answer on 04.08.2026 regarding 'Deaths due to Manual Scavenging'.

State/ UT-wise number of the manual scavengers identified in the survey conducted in 2013 and 2018 is as under:-

S. No.	State	Number of identified manual scavengers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1793
2.	Assam	3921
3.	Bihar	131
4.	Chhattisgarh	3
5.	Gujarat	105
6.	Jharkhand	192
7.	Karnataka	2927
8.	Kerala	518
9.	Madhya Pradesh	510
10.	Maharashtra	6325
11.	Odisha	230
12.	Punjab	231
13.	Rajasthan	2673
14.	Tamil Nadu	398
15.	Uttar Pradesh	32473
16.	Uttarakhand	4988
17.	West Bengal	680
	Grand Total	58098

Annexure-III

Annexure-III referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2562 for answer on 04.08.2026 regarding 'Deaths due to Manual Scavenging'.

State/UT-wise number of manual scavengers and their dependents provided with Skill Development Training and Capital Subsidy to take up alternate self-employment projects under "Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" which subsequently subsumed in the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme, launched in July, 2023, from 2021-22 to 2025-26 is as under:

S. No.	State	Number of manual scavengers provided with skill development training	Number of manual scavengers provided with capital subsidy
1	Andhra Pradesh	72	-
2	Assam	198	9
3	Karnataka	415	671
4	Kerala	12	-
5	Madhya Pradesh	145	-
6	Maharashtra	572	65
7	Punjab	-	5
8	Rajasthan	1350	46
9	Uttar Pradesh	7625	311
10	Uttarakhand	1464	22
11	West Bengal	16	445
Total		11869	1574
