

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3139
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011
OPEN MANHOLES
Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of persons including children died by falling in open manholes, pits etc. in Delhi during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of action taken against the officers responsible for these deaths;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines concerning maintenance of open manholes, pits, drains etc.;
- (d) if so, the measures taken to ensure that civic agencies follow those guidelines;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to compensate suitably the bereaved family whose members have died by falling in open manholes etc.; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Delhi Police has informed that during the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 (up to 31.10.2011), 28 persons, including children, reportedly died by falling in open manholes, pits, etc. in Delhi.

(b): In this connection, Delhi Police had registered FIRs against the persons responsible and 13 persons were arrested. The action taken by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) includes initiation of departmental inquiries in the cases pertaining to them. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had placed the Section Officer, Chaudhary and Mali of the Horticulture Department and two Beldars of the Works Department under suspension.

(c)and(d): The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) follows the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission. Further, as per the maintenance practice by the respective field staff, open manholes, pits and drains are not permitted in NDMC area and if noticed during the routine inspection, the same is immediately rectified. The MCD have issued instructions to the field staff to the effect that damaged/open manholes over the drains are immediately replaced. These instructions are reiterated from time to time. The DJB has also issued guidelines time and again to ensure that no manhole is left open and proper barricading is done around the open pits/excavation land.

(e)and(f): As regards compensation to the bereaved family of the persons who died by falling in open manholes, etc under the jurisdiction of the MCD, the Corporation has informed that the matter is sub judice. As regards, such deaths in its jurisdiction, the DJB has informed that in one case a compensation of Rs.1 lakh was paid to the parents of the deceased child, who, however, refused this and in the other case, Rs.3.5 lakh per head was paid by the contractor to the parents of the deceased children.