

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO.368/2025

ASHA

PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

RESPONDENT

O R D E R

1. It is stated that the petitioner(s) has received the compensation from the respondent - State of Haryana as ordered by this Court. The submission made by the learned counsel for the petitioner(s) is placed on record.

2. In view of the aforesaid, nothing survives for consideration. Hence, the Writ Petition stands disposed of.

3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.
(ARAVIND KUMAR)

.....J.
(VIPUL M. PANCHOLI)

NEW DELHI;
JULY 27, 2026.

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s).368/2025

ASHA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 324/2020 (PIL-W)

ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INDIA AND MR. K. PARAMESHWAR, ADVOCATE (AMICUS CURIAE)

IA No. 114186/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

IA No. 127085/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 263173/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

IA No. 65476/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 65478/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION

IA No. 136141/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

W.P.(C) No. 823/2025 (X)

IA No. 18468/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM PERSONAL APPEARANCE

IA No. 212266/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

W.P.(C) No. 905/2025 (PIL-W)

FOR ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES ON IA 271769/2025

FOR impleading party ON IA 271841/2025

FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 271841/2025

IA No. 258721/2025 - DELETING THE NAME OF PETITIONER/RESPONDENT

IA No. 237098/2025 - EARLY HEARING APPLICATION

IA No. 295722/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 237094/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 259/2026 in W.P.(C) No. 823/2025 (X)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 89437/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 27-07-2026 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

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Ms. Aradhya Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Aradhya Agarwal, Adv.

Petitioner-in-person

For Respondent(s) : K. Parameshwar, Sr. Adv. (A.C.)
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Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chitransha Singh Sikarwar, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
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Mr. Daniel Stone Lyngdoh, Adv.
Ms. Marbiang Khongwir, Adv.
Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Vikas Bansal, Adv.

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Rastogi, Adv.

Mr. Prasanna S., AOR
Ms. Injila Muslim Zaidi, Adv.
Mr. Maamidi Ashish Reddy, Adv.
Mr. Prasanna B, Adv.
Ms. Ishita Tulsyan, Adv.

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Mr. Nimesh Bhatt, Adv.

Mr. Harish Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Vatsal Joshi, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.
Ms. Mrinal Elker Mazumdar, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
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Mrs. B.l.n Shivani, Adv.
Mrs. Ameyavikrama Thanvi, Adv.

Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma-aor, Adv.

Mr. Brijender Chahar, A.S.G.
Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Kamal Digpaul, Adv.
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.
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Mr. Rohit Swarup, Adv.
Mr. Devesh Maurya, Adv.
Ms. Ashu Tomar, Adv.
Mr. Sukhamrit Singh, Adv.
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Mr. Vikash Kumar, Adv.

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Lokesh Sinhal, AAG, Sr. Adv.
Anindita Hitra, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

W.P. (C) No.368/2025:

1. Writ Petition is disposed of in terms of the signed order placed on the file.
2. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

W.P.(C) No.324/2020:

1. IA No.127085/2025 : The orders dated 12.11.2025, 13.11.2025 and 14.11.2025 passed by the State of Goa would indicate that the amount of Rs.10 lakhs has been sanctioned in four cases. In fact, this Court had clarified on 20.01.2026 where the amounts having been determined and paid prior to this Court's judgment dated 20.10.2023, such claims need not be reopened. However, in case of deaths having occurred prior to the judgment dated 20.10.2023, if compensation has not been determined and paid as on the date of the judgment, the concerned States or Municipal Authorities would be required to pay a sum of Rs.30 lakhs in such of those claimants. It was also clarified that in the event of compensation having not been determined or paid in respect of deaths which had occurred prior to the judgment dated 20.10.2023, the State would be liable to pay compensation of Rs.30 lakhs to such of those claimants. Yet by orders dated 12.11.2025, 13.11.2025 and 14.11.2025, the State of Goa has only determined the compensation of Rs.10 lakhs which is diametrically opposite to the judgment passed by this Court on 20.10.2023. Hence, the State of Goa to show-cause as to why the judgment dated 20.10.2023 has not been complied and as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them.

Two weeks' time is granted to file reply to the same.

2. IA No.263173/2025 : Issue notice, returnable within one week from today and also the perusal of the said application, it would indicate that three deaths have occurred and neither the compensation has been paid nor steps have been taken to prosecute

the concerned except making a show of FIR No.132/2025 having been registered.

3. IA No.65476/2026 : The application is hereby allowed. Cause-title shall be amended accordingly.

4. IA No.65478/2026 : The petitioner(s) is seeking a direction to respondent No.27 - State of Uttar Pradesh to pay compensation of Rs.30 lakhs as ordered by this court in judgment rendered in W.P. (C) No.324/2020 on 20.10.2023 and to provide rehabilitation to the families of deceased amongst other prayers.

Though, copy of this application has been served, none appears. However, in the interest of justice, one last opportunity is granted on payment of cost of Rs.25,000/- payable to Safai Karamchari Commission within an outer limit of four weeks from today failing which the said authority would be at liberty to recover the same as arrears of land revenue.

5. IA No.136141/2026 : In view of IA No.65478/2026 having been filed, consideration of IA No.136141/2026 does not arise. Hence, the application stands disposed of.

6. This Court by judgment dated 20.10.2023 amongst other directions had issued the following direction:

"96. In view of the above discussion, the following directions are issued:

(1) The Union should take appropriate measures and frame policies, and issue directions, to all statutory bodies,

including corporations, railways, cantonments, as well as agencies under its control, to ensure that manual sewer cleaning is completely eradicated in a phased manner, and also issue such guidelines and directions as are essential, that any sewer cleaning work outsourced, or required to be discharged, by or through contractors or agencies, do not require individuals to enter sewers, for any purpose whatsoever;"

7. Subsequently, from time to time, certain directions have been issued. Despite such directions issued, the deaths due to personnel entering the sewer tanks or septic tanks are still occurring and that too in large numbers. In other words, the directions issued by this Court seem to have not percolated and sufficient remedial steps have not taken place.

8. In fact, starred question has also been raised in Parliament on 18.03.2026 and it is recorded as Annexure to the starred question No.276 for answer on 18.03.2026 regarding 'hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning work' and the state-wise and year-wise data of sewer deaths occurred due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks during the last three years, namely, 2023, 2024 and 2025 are as under:

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Death		
		2023	2024	2025
1	Bihar	2	-	-
2	Delhi	-	7	5
3	Goa	-	1	-
4	Gujarat	10	-	3
5	Haryana	6	1	7
6	Jharkhand	1	-	-
7	Karnataka	3	2	-
8	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	1
9	Maharashtra	10	14	3
10	Punjab	6	1	3
11	Rajasthan	10	7	6
12	Tamil Nadu	9	6	6

13	Telangana	1	3	-
14	Uttar Pradesh	2	9	8
15	West Bengal	3	-	4
	Total	65	54	46

9. In view of the aforesaid, we hereby call upon the Chief Secretaries of the States, namely, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal to show-cause as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated for willful disobedience of the directions issued by this Court. The said reply by way of affidavit shall be filed by them within an outer limit of four weeks from today.

10. Re-list on 07.09.2026.

W.P.(C) No.823/2025 and CONMT.PET.(C) No.259/2026 in W.P.(C) No.823/2025:

1. The first petitioner - Smt. Rajo, who is the mother of the two unfortunate sons who had died in a tragic accident while cleaning sewer / septic tanks, is said to have received a sum of Rs.40 lakhs from QRG Medical Hospital where the purported cleaning took place as such our clarification dated 20.01.2026 at paragraph No.4(i) would cover the same. Hence, the contention of the learned counsel for the complainant that the State has not paid the compensation as such there is the willful disobedience of the order by the State, is an attractive argument considered for purposes of outright rejection and Contempt proceedings initiated by her stands

rejected.

2. So also in the case of Smt. Rajani - petitioner No.2, the second complainant, who is said to have received a sum of Rs.25 lakhs from QRG Medical Hospital, the same principle as applied to Smt. Rajo hereinabove is applied to Smt. Rajani and hence, the contempt proceedings initiated by her stands rejected.

3. The contempt proceedings initiated by petitioner Nos.3 and 4 merits consideration. Hence, we issue notice to respondent No.5 only.

4. Re-list on 07.09.2026.

W.P.(C) No.905/2025:

1. Taking note of the order passed by this Court and, particularly, the order dated 27.01.2026 and there being no progress, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment shall show-cause as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated for willful violation and disobedience of the orders passed by this Court within two weeks from today and shall appear in person before this Court.

2. Re-list on 07.09.2026.

(NEHA GUPTA)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)