

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3396
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2025

MANAK MANTHAN INITIATIVE OF BIS

3396. SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the primary objectives of the "Manak Manthan" initiative of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);
- (b) how the initiative facilitates interaction between the BIS and various stakeholders;
- (c) the measures being taken to ensure wider adoption of BIS-certified safety products across industries and workplaces;
- (d) the role Manak Manthan initiative plays in promoting awareness and implementation of labour safety standards;
- (e) how the newly discussed standards, such as those related to respiratory protection, fall prevention, and fire safety, will enhance occupational health and safety; and
- (f) how Government ensures compliance with BIS safety standards among industries and construction sectors?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

- (a) : Manak Manthan is aimed at engaging stakeholders at grass root level including local manufacturers, Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), users in standard development process in order to bridge the gap between standards development and their practical implementation by the relevant stakeholders. SMEs and the manufacturers or users at the grass root level remained outside the process of consultation. Further, awareness gap with respect to new standards and draft standards floated for public consultation earlier remained an area of concern. Manak Manthan initiative of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is conceptualized as an effective answer to this problem.
- (b) : Every Branch Office of BIS conducts a brainstorming session with the manufacturers, users of standards, members of academia every month on the new standards and draft standards, depending upon the concentration of industry sectors in their jurisdiction, and share the feedback received from local stakeholders with the concerned standards formulation department for consideration of technical committees. Thus, it serves as a platform for discussion on draft standards and recently published standards amongst larger stakeholder base, which results in getting more inputs to improve the quality of standards.

(c) & (f) : To ensure the wider adoption of BIS-certified safety products across industries and workplaces including construction sectors, the Government of India has notified various products for compulsory BIS certification through issuance of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) as per the provisions of BIS Act 2016 under various considerations viz. public interest, protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of environment, prevention of unfair trade practices. The notified products shall conform to the requirements of the relevant Indian Standard including safety standard and the manufacturers of these products have to compulsorily obtain certification from BIS. So far, a total of 187 Quality Control Orders covering 769 products have been notified for compulsory certification of BIS by various regulators/line ministries of Government of India, the list of which is available at <https://www.bis.gov.in/product-certification/products-under-compulsory-certification/>. Additionally, the following two horizontal QCO's exclusively for safety aspects of products are also notified by Government of India:

- i. Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2024 issued by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Through the QCO, all electrical appliances intended for household, commercial or similar applications with rated voltage not exceeding 250 V single phase alternating current or 415 V three phase alternating current and which do not fall under the scope of any other Quality Control Order issued under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act are covered under compulsory certification of BIS.
- ii. Machinery and Electrical Equipment Safety (Omnibus Technical Regulation) Order, 2024 issued by Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India. Through the QCO, 20 categories of machinery and electrical equipments and their sub-assemblies/components are covered under compulsory certification of BIS.

(d) : Taking cognizance of role of standards in labour safety at work place. BIS Branch Offices have conducted Manak Manthans on labour safety at work place to create awareness about available standards in the area and seeking inputs for taking up standardisation on gap areas on labour safety. These sessions facilitated discussions among stakeholders, including government bodies, industries, and standard organizations, to improve safety practices at the workplace and raised awareness about labour safety standards and promoting their implementation.

(e) : Discussion on standards on labour safety during Manak Manthans provides feedback for further improvements in standards, which subsequently ease adoption and use of the standards. Workplace safety is a critical component of occupational health, ensuring employee well-being and reducing risks that may lead to injuries or fatalities. The introduction and adherence to newly developed safety standards provide comprehensive guidelines for mitigating workplace hazards. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has established various Indian Standards on Respiratory Protection, Fall Prevention, and Fire Safety to enhance overall Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), safeguarding workers and fostering a safer working environment.

- i. **Respiratory Protection Standards and their Role in Occupational Health and Safety:** Respiratory protection is crucial in industries such as mining, construction, chemical processing and healthcare, where workers are exposed to harmful airborne contaminants. The Indian Standards (IS) for respiratory protective devices ensure that workers have access to high-quality protective equipment, reducing the risk of respiratory illnesses. Key Indian standards in Respiratory Protection are given as under:

1. IS 9473: 2002– Respiratory protective devices — Filtering half masks to protect against particles.
2. IS 14166: 1994– Respiratory protective devices – Self-contained open-circuit compressed air breathing apparatus.
3. IS 14746: 1999– Respiratory protective devices – Self-contained closed-circuit breathing apparatus.
4. IS 15803: 2008– Respiratory protective devices – Powered filtering devices incorporating a helmet or hood.
5. IS 10245 (Part 1): 1996– Respiratory protective devices – Self-contained breathing apparatus.
6. IS 10245 (Part 2): 2023– Industrial and firefighting self-contained breathing apparatus.
7. IS 10245 (Part 3): 1999– Respiratory protective devices – Chemical oxygen apparatus.
8. IS 10245 (Part 4): 1982– Respiratory protective devices – Industrial and mining oxygen respirators.

ii. **Fall Prevention Standards and their Role in Occupational Health and Safety:** Falls from height are a leading cause of workplace fatalities and injuries. The IS 3521 series provides guidelines on personal fall protection systems to mitigate risks in industries such as construction, manufacturing, and warehousing. Key Indian standards in Fall Prevention are given as under:

1. IS 3521 (Part 1): 2021 – Full-body harnesses.
2. IS 3521 (Part 2): 2021– Lanyards and energy absorbers.
3. IS 3521 (Part 3): 2000 – Self-retracting lifelines.
4. IS 3521 (Part 4): 2021– Vertical anchorage systems.
5. IS 3521 (Part 5): 2021 – Horizontal anchorage systems.
6. IS 3521 (Part 7): 2021 – Connectors.
7. IS 3521 (Part 8): 2021 – Rescue equipment.
8. IS 3521 (Part 9): 2021 – Anchorage devices.

iii. **Fire Safety Standards and their Role in Occupational Health and Safety:** Fires pose a significant threat to workplace safety, particularly in industries handling flammable materials. The implementation of stringent fire safety standards ensures that workers are adequately protected from burns, smoke inhalation, and other fire-related hazards. Key Indian standards in Fire Safety are given as under:

1. IS 16890: 2024 – Firefighter suits.
2. IS 16874: 2018 – Firefighter gloves.
3. IS 15683: 2018 – Fire extinguishers.
4. IS 2745: 1983 - Non - Metal helmet for firemen and Civil Defence personnel
5. IS 18582 (Part 6): 2024 - Foot wear used by Firefighters
