GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 49 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

STATUS AND WELFARE OF MIGRANT LABOURERS FROM ODISHA

49. SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey or maintains a database on Inter-State migrant workers, particularly from Odisha;
- (b) the estimated number of migrant labourers from Odisha currently working in other States, especially in construction, textile, brick kiln and domestic work sectors;
- (c)the major destination States where labourers from Odisha are employed and the nature of work undertaken;
- (d)whether any cases of exploitation, wage denial or unsafe working conditions have been reported concerning migrant labourers from Odisha; and
- (e) steps taken by Central Government, in coordination with Government of Odisha, to ensure the registration, safety and social security of such migrant workers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 49 RAISED BY SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA DUE FOR REPLY ON 24.07.2025 REGARDING STATUS AND WELFARE OF MIGRANT LABOURERS FROM ODISHA.

(a) to (e): Ministry of Labour & Employment has launched the e-Shram portal (eshram.gov.in) on 26th August 2021. It allows an unorganised worker to register on the portal on self-declaration basis. The main objective of the e-Shram portal is to create a National Database of unorganized workers, including migrant workers, seeded with Aadhaar, and facilitate delivery under existing social security and welfare schemes to such workers.

As on 21.07.2025, over 30.95 crore unorganized workers, including migrant workers, are registered on this portal and have been issued e-Shram cards.

Government of Odisha has informed that the major destination States for the workers of Odisha are Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujrat and New Delhi. They are engaged to mostly in construction, Brick kiln, Textiles and domestic work sectors. According to State Government, 270 complaints relating to exploitation, wage denial and unsafe working conditions etc., have been received in 2024 & 2025 (till June) from various sources.

The Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979 to provide for conditions of service of the migrant workers and matter connected therewith. The Act provides for registration of certain establishments employing Inter State Migrant Workers, licensing of contractors etc. Workers employed with such establishments are to be provided minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc.

This Act has been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020. The OSH Code, provides for decent working conditions, minimum wages, grievances redressal mechanisms, toll free helpline to migrant workers.

The Government implements various welfare schemes for workers, including migrant workers, such as Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) for healthcare, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for life and accident insurance respectively. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PMSYM) for pension benefits, the One-Nation- One-Ration-Card Scheme for food security, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for housing, and skill development initiatives such as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. The Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for employment guarantee to name a few.

So far,13 schemes of different Central Ministries/Departments have already been integrated/ mapped with the e-Shram including Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U) and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY).

To enhance the accessibility of the e-Shram portal, the Ministry of Labour and Employment launched multilingual functionality on the e-Shram portal on 7th January 2025, using the Bhashini platform. This enhancement now allows workers to interact with e-Shram portal in 22 Indian languages, improving accessibility and promoting inclusivity for all.
