

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 731
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026**

IMPACT OF NEW LABOUR CODES ON WORKING JOURNALISTS

731. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

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

- (a) whether Government has examined the impact of subsuming the Working Journalists Act, 1955 and the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958 under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 on the service conditions of working journalists;**
- (b) whether it is a fact that the new Labour Codes do not retain any journalist-specific protections relating to wages, working hours, leave, night work, retrenchment compensation, gratuity or conditions of service; and**
- (c) whether Government acknowledges concerns that the new framework places working journalists under general labour laws, thereby reversing long-standing sector-specific protections?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (c): The Central Government has enacted the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020, which has come into force with effect from 21.11.2025. The OSH & WC Code, 2020 amalgamates 13 existing central labour laws including the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955 and the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958.

Under the OSH & WC Code, 2020, the definition of "Working Journalist" has been expanded to also include those employed in other establishments relating to any electronic media or digital media.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has pre-published the draft Central Rules under four labour codes on 30th December 2025 seeking comments of stakeholders. Under the draft OSH & WC (Central) Rules, 2025, there are specific provision related to working hours, working day, interval for rest compensation for overtime work, conditions governing night shifts, leaves, number of holidays in a year, etc. for working journalist. Further, provisions related to retrenchment compensation, gratuity and wages are in the Industrial Relations Code 2020, Code on Social Security, 2020 and Code on Wages 2019 respectively.
