

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 58
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026**

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF CHEMICAL FACTORY ACCIDENTS

58 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of recurring fatal chemical factory accidents attributed to aging equipments, imported used industrial plants and inadequate technical investigation of accidents;**
- (b) whether Government proposes to establish a multidisciplinary forensic engineering mechanism to support investigation of factory accidents, strengthen prosecution and develop uniform national investigation protocols under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020; and**
- (c) the steps taken to equip inspectorates with modern diagnostic tools, prescribe criminal liability for third-party auditors issuing false or negligent safety certifications, and mandate periodic residual-life assessment and timely replacement of critical industrial equipments?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 58 FOR REPLY ON 23.07.2026 RAISED BY DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE REGARDING SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF CHEMICAL FACTORY ACCIDENT.

(a) to (c): The Government has enacted Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code 2020 to regulate safety, health and working conditions of the persons employed in an establishment including factory and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The OSH & WC Code 2020 has come into force from 21.11.2025. The Central Government has also notified OSH & WC (Central) Rules 2026 on 08.05.2026. There are elaborate provisions pertaining to occupational safety, health, welfare, hazardous processes, penalties and procedures etc. under the OSH & WC Code 2020 and rules framed thereunder. Further, as per the OSH & WC Code, the employer is to inter-alia ensure that:

- i. the work place free from hazards which cause or likely to cause injury or occupational disease to the employees.**
- ii. the provision and maintenance of plant and systems of work in the workplace that are safe and without risk to health.**
- iii. The maintenance of all places of work in the workplace in a condition that is safe and without risk to health and the provision and maintenance of such means of access to, and egress from such places as are safe and without such risk;**

The OSH&WC Code, 2020 also envisages 'Third Party Audit and Certification' and for providing a "scheme" to empanel experts by the appropriate Government. Such experts shall be assigned Third Party Audit and certification in a randomized manner through a web-based scheme to carry out safety audit and certification along with submitting the report to the concerned employer and Inspector-cum Facilitator. The Code also empowers the Central Government to notify uniform standards on occupational safety and health for workplace for different establishments including factories. The standard shall relate to physical, chemical, biological and any other hazards to be dealt with for the working life of employee to ensure to the extent feasible on the basis of the best available evidence or functional capacity, that no employee will suffer material impairment of health or functional capacity even if such employee has regular exposure to such hazards.

The Occupier and Managers of the factories registered under the OSH & WC Code 2020 are required to comply with the provisions of the Code and rules framed thereunder. The OSH & WC Code 2020 and the rules framed thereunder are enforced by respective States / Union Territories. In case of violations of any of the provisions thereof, the Chief Inspector cum Facilitator/Inspector cum Facilitator, notified under the OSH & WC Code 2020, is empowered to initiate legal action against the occupier and manager of the factories.
