

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1215
ANSWERED ON- 29/07/2026

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE OF TRUCK DRIVERS

1215. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has considered recognising truck drivers as a distinct occupational category under any labour or social security law and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the coverage of truck drivers under insurance, pension, healthcare, accident compensation and other welfare schemes and the gaps therein;
- (c) whether any minimum standards for wages, working hours, mandatory rest periods, roadside facilities and occupational safety have been prescribed for truck drivers; and
- (d) whether Government has examined international best practices and regulatory frameworks for truck drivers, for strengthening social security and reducing excessive working hours and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) The Government has enacted Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH & WC) Code, 2020, which came into force from 21.11.2025 to regulate the occupational safety, health and working conditions of the persons employed in an establishment including motor transport workers. The definition of motor transport worker includes driver.

Truck drivers fulfilling the prescribed eligibility conditions may avail benefits under various Government social security and welfare schemes such as :

(i) The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for unorganised workers, providing an assured monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 after attaining the age of 60 years, with matching contribution by the Central Government. Eligible workers may enrol through Common Service Centres or the designated online portal.

(ii) The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is also available to eligible citizens in the age group of 18-40 years having a savings bank/post office account. Under the scheme, subscribers receive a Government guaranteed minimum pension ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs.5,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years, depending upon their contribution. The spouse is also entitled to receive pension after the subscriber's demise, and the accumulated pension wealth is payable to the nominee after the demise of both subscriber and spouse.

(iii) Further, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has launched NPS Sanchay, a simplified voluntary pension scheme for persons engaged in the unorganised sector, including truck drivers and transport workers.

(iv) Truck drivers may also avail benefits under other applicable Government schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), subject to the eligibility conditions of the respective schemes.

(v) Further, the Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, implemented the pilot phase of Project Abhay across six States during 2024-25. Under the project, 50,713 truck drivers underwent health check-ups, behavioural workshops and eye screening, while social security mapping was carried out for 46,693 drivers. The study indicated that about 48.3% of surveyed drivers lacked coverage under any social security scheme and 68.6% were uninsured. During implementation of the project, 15,447 drivers were enrolled under e-Shram, 8,444 under Ayushman Bharat, 390 under other insurance schemes and 3,706 under Abhay Suraksha Bima Yojana.

(c) The OSH&WC Code, 2020 and rules framed thereunder prescribes the working hours, rest period, welfare provisions and occupational safety etc.

Further, the Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has undertaken various initiatives for improving road safety and facilitating transport operations, including establishment of Institutes of Driving Training and Research (IDTRs), promotion of digital initiatives such as mParivahan, DigiLocker and FASTag, implementation of Project Abhay for health and wellness of truck drivers. In addition, Section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during the golden hour.

Also, Ministry through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) envisions development of wayside amenities through National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), on the land acquired by NHAI at approximate interval of 40-60 kms along National Highways and Expressways for providing public facilities like eateries, toilet, drinking water, parking, Fuelling Stations, Electric Vehicle charging stations, short term accommodation, etc., to the road users and truckers.

(d) The Government continuously engages with stakeholders while formulating policies and programmes relating to road transport and road safety. Initiatives such as Project Abhay, focusing on health screening, behavioural interventions and facilitation of enrollment under social security schemes for truck drivers, have also been undertaken. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways also examines issues relating to driver welfare in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders, as required.
