

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1766
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025**

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

**1766. DR. M K VISHNU PRASAD:
DR. DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:
DR. KALYAN VAIJINATHRAO KALE:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to address occupational hazards in the construction industry, including risks of cancer, musculoskeletal morbidities, respiratory conditions and other health issues;**
- (b) the initiatives undertaken to enforce existing laws on occupational safety, including the provision of protective gear such as steel-toed boots, hard hats, ear muffs, masks, and harnesses on construction sites;**
- (c) the measures implemented to improve access to healthcare for migrant construction workers including mobile health and cancer screening programmes and the portability of Government entitlement schemes;**
- (d) the details of progress that has been made by the Government to develop localised health insurance schemes for construction workers, particularly in Karnataka and Kerala, where pilot programmes have already been launched; and**
- (e) the data on construction worker deaths during the last five years including the number of cases compensated, claims denied and pending settlements, State-wise?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Central Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 [BOCW (RE&CS) Act, 1996] to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers. The Act provides for their safety, health and welfare measures and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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The Government has set up the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) to ensure enforcement of the labour laws in the central sphere. The regular inspections are conducted by the Director General (Inspection)/Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Organisation in the Central Sphere and appropriate action taken where necessary under the provisions of the Building and Other Construction Workers (RE&CS) Act, 1996. The state governments are mandated to ensure enforcement of the labour laws in the state sphere.

In order to augment the efforts for safety and health of construction workers, “Construction Advisory Service (CAS) Division” has been created in Directorate General of Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai which has initiated various certificate courses in the field of Construction Safety.

Directions under the Act have been issued from time to time to State/UT BOCW Welfare Boards, *inter-alia*, for implementation of the provisions of the Act, optimum utilization of the cess funds. A Monitoring Committee has been constituted to monitor the implementation of directions issued under the said Act, including utilization of cess fund for welfare scheme framed by the States/UTs.

In order to safeguard the interest of the Migrant workers, the Parliament has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979 which, *inter alia*, provides for registration of certain establishments employing Inter State Migrant Workers, licensing of contractors, etc. Workers employed with such establishments are to be provided with payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing, etc. The Act has been subsumed in The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition Code, 2020.

Compensation in death cases are paid as per, *inter-alia*, provisions of Employees Compensation Act, 1923, schemes of BOCW Welfare Boards, as per eligibility.