

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2410
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

DEATH OF COIR BOARD EMPLOYEE

2410 ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:
SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the death of an employee of Coir Board in February 2025 due to the harassment and ill-treatment at work place, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any inquiry has been initiated and action taken by the Government against senior officials of the Board who had forced the deceased employee to inflate cost estimates for exhibitions, seminars and showroom relocations and change the Secretary-in-Charge's designation to Secretary and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for issuing the transfer order for the said employee from hometown Kochi to Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether such transfer order was in violation of service rules, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for showing lack of sensitivity by the management while dealing with a cancer survivor employee; and
- (f) whether the complaints filed by the said employee were looked into by the Ministry and if so, the details of the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)

(a) to (f): The Ministry received information about the death of Smt. Jolly Madhu, an employee of Coir Board, while under medical treatment at a hospital in Kochi on 10th February, 2025. Certain complaints about her alleged harassment by officials in Coir Board along with allegations regarding financial irregularities by officials in Coir Board were also received in the Ministry.

An independent Committee has been constituted in the Ministry under a Joint Secretary level officer, to inquire into the matter and submit a report. Additionally, a Committee constituted under a senior finance functionary, has been mandated to undertake thorough review of the financial management in Coir Board and submit its report. The inquiry by both the independent committees is in progress.
