

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3863
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025**

EXPLOITATION OF SUGAR MILLS WORKERS

†3863. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cases of exploitation of workers and non-payment of minimum wages to workers employed in sugar mills and other local industries are not being monitored properly;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government to address the negligence of the Department;**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the labourers are exploited and deprived of basic facilities by the contractors;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to address the said issues; and**
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): The government has enacted the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to ensure that workers get wages at a rate not less than the minimum rate of wages fixed by the appropriate government. The Act provides for different minimum wages across various industries and on the basis of skill levels. The matter related to workers employed in sugar mills falls under the jurisdiction of respective State Governments/UTs. Recently the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, have been rationalized and subsumed under the Code on Wages, 2019. The Code makes minimum wages universally applicable across employments.

The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act (UWSS), 2008 provides for, inter-alia, formulating welfare schemes for unorganised workers on the matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection etc.

Contd..2/-

Ministry of Labour & Employment launched the eShram portal (eshram.gov.in) on 26th August 2021 for creation of a comprehensive National Database of the Unorganised Workers (NDUW), including migrant workers, seeded with Aadhaar. eShram portal is meant to register and support the unorganised workers by providing them a Universal Account Number (UAN) on a self-declaration basis.

Further, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has also launched the eShram- “One-Stop-Solution” on 21st October 2024. eShram- “One-Stop-Solution” entails integration of different Social Security/ Welfare schemes at single portal i.e., eShram. This enables unorganised workers, including migrant workers registered on eShram, to access 13 social security schemes and see benefits availed by them so far, through eShram;- including PMSBY, PMJJBY, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY), Prime Minister Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi), PMAY (Urban & Rural), NSAP – National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme (PM Kisan).
