GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1206 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DIGITAL INITIATIVES FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

1206. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH: SHRI EATALA RAJENDER: SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY:

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

- (a)whether the Government consulted Central Trade Unions before launching the Digital Labour Chowk portal, Labour Chowk Facilitation Centres (LCFCs), the new Cess Collection Portal and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b)whether the Construction Workers Federation of India (CWFI) have requested to review the recent launch of the Digital Labour Chowk Portal/App, the establishment of Labour Chowk Facilitation Centres (LCFCs), the new Online Building and Construction Workers Cess Collection Portal and role of State and if so, the details thereof;
- (c)whether the Government has taken note of the Construction Workers' Federation of India's (CWFI) allegation that the said digital initiatives are aimed at "de-unionising" construction workers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d)whether the Government has conducted any impact assessment on the manner in which the said digital platforms will affect the constitutional rights of workers to organise and unionise and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e)whether the Digital Labour Chowk platform enables or encourages employers to bypass registered trade unions in workers hiring and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f)whether the Government has ensured that the said platforms will not be used for surveillance, profiling or data-driven control over construction workers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): The Central Government is committed to protect and promote the welfare, social security, safety and health of building workers. The provisions related to the same have also been provided in

the Code on Social Security, 2020 (CoSS, 2020) and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH & WC Code, 2020), which have come into force on 21.11.2025.

The Central Government has introduced a customizable mobile application for digital labour chowk, to be utilized by States/UTs after its customisation as per their requirement, with a view to connect the employer and labour, digitally, in addition to the physical labour chowk.

The Central Government in consultation with States/UTs is also committed for upgradation of existing labour chowks to Labour Chowk cum Facilitation Centre (LCFC) to improve labour chowk infrastructure with amenities like drinking water, toilets, creches etc.

The Central Government has also introduced a software for online collection of BOCW Cess, to be customized and utilized by States/UTs at their own level as per their requirements with a view to provide them a comprehensive digital mechanism for collection of BOCW Cess more effectively.
