

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 407
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026**

RISK MANAGEMENT IN CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING UNITS

407. SHRI PARSHOTTAMBHAI RUPALA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take measures to mandate timely replacement of obsolete equipment in chemical factories after expiry of their safe operational life through the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes, in coordination with State Governments and stakeholders;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of the scientific, technical and regulatory methodology adopted to determine the safe operational lifespan of factory equipment;**
- (d) whether the third-party safety audits in chemical factories are being conducted within unusually short time-frames;**
- (e) if so, whether such compressed audits may undermine safety and heighten the risk of major or fatal industrial accidents; and**
- (f) the details of the accountability framework in place to fix responsibility on management, auditors and regulatory authorities in cases of safety non-compliance or accidents?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): The Government has enacted the Factories Act, 1948 for ensuring the occupational safety, health and welfare of the workers employed in the factories registered under the Act. There are elaborate provisions to ensure the occupational health, safety and welfare of workers under the Act and the rules framed thereunder. The Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed thereunder are enforced by States / Union Territories.

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Further, the Factories Act, 1948 has been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH&WC), 2020. The OSH & WC Code 2020 has come into force with effect from 21.11.2025. Mandating the replacement of obsolete equipment in chemical factories after the completion of their certified safe life is outside the purview and scope of activities of Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI). It is under the purview of the States / UTs.

The OSH & WC Code, 2020 envisages 'Third Party Audit and Certification' for providing a "scheme" to empanel experts by the appropriate Government. Such experts shall be assigned Third Party Audit and certification in a randomized manner through a web-based scheme to carry out safety audit and certification along with submitting the report to the concerned employer and Inspector-cum Facilitator. Under the OSH&WC Code, 2020, there are provisions for penalties for offences and punishments for contravention of provisions of duties relating to safety provisions resulting in an accident.
