

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STEEL

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 659**  
FOR ANSWER ON 03.02.2026

**STEEL PLANTS UNDER SAIL**

659. SHRI DULU MAHATO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any representation from public representatives highlighting that contract workers engaged in hazardous industrial production tasks in steel plants under SAIL, perform duties similar to permanent employees but remain deprived of equivalent medical benefits;
- (b) if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (c) the reasons for disparity in medical coverage between permanent and contract workers;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to extend ESIC or other statutory health insurance benefits to contract workers earning above the current wage ceiling or alternatively introduce a group medical insurance scheme jointly with industry to ensure parity with permanent employees; and
- (e) the details of measures, schemes, pilot projects, or policy amendments under consideration to provide social health security to contract labour at par with permanent employees?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (SHRI BHUPATHIRAJU SRINIVASA VARMA)  
MINISTRY OF STEEL

(a)to(e): Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) engages contractors for specialized, intermittent, and non-core activities such as periodic capital repairs, maintenance of plant and equipment, execution of new projects, Addition/Modification/Replacement (AMR) works, road construction, technological cleaning, waste disposal, etc.

SAIL has implemented a Group Personal Accidental Insurance Scheme (GPAIS) for enhanced social security of contract workers. In the unfortunate event of a fatal accident arising out of and in the course of employment within SAIL premises, provision for compassionate employment is extended in accordance with applicable rules.

Representations received from public representatives concerning contract workers engaged in hazardous industrial production activities in SAIL steel plants are examined on priority and appropriate action is taken as per norms.

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