



BOCW SCHEME

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Why in News?

Recently, the Minister of Labour and Employment provided valuable insights into the [Building and Other Construction Workers \(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service\) Act, 1996](#) during a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

What is the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996?

- **About:**
 - The **Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996**, commonly referred to as the BOCW Act, plays a significant role in **safeguarding the rights and interests of workers in the construction sector.**
- **Major Provisions:**
 - The **constitution of State Welfare Boards** to administer the welfare fund and to provide various benefits to the registered workers such as **accident insurance, medical assistance, education, housing, pension, etc.**
 - The **fixing of hours of work, wages for overtime work, prohibition of employment of certain persons in certain building** or other construction work, and the provision of drinking water, latrines, urinals, accommodation, creches, first-aid, canteens, etc.
 - The establishment of **safety committees and safety officers at every establishment** and the framing of rules for the safety and health of building workers.
 - It provides for the **levy and collection of cess at 1-2%** of the cost of construction, as the **Central government may notify.**
- **Eligible Beneficiaries:**
 - As per the provisions, **any worker aged between eighteen and sixty years**, engaged in building or construction activities for a **minimum of ninety days in the preceding twelve months**, is eligible for registration as a beneficiary with the **State Welfare Boards.**
- **Implementation:**
 - The implementation of **welfare schemes for building and construction workers**, ranging from **life and disability cover to health, maternity support, transit housing, and skill development**, is entrusted to the State/UT BOCW Welfare Boards under Section 22 of the Act.
 - These welfare measures strive to uplift the livelihoods and well-being of workers who contribute significantly to the construction sector.
- **Recent Developments to Streamline Registration Process:** Recognizing the need for simplification and accessibility, the government introduced various measures to ease the registration/enrollment process:
 - **Unique Identification Number:** The introduction of a **Unique Identification Number** for registered building and construction workers aims to streamline the identification process and enhance efficiency.
 - **Local Competent Officers:** The delegation or appointment of competent officers at

the **local, municipal, and panchayat levels** contributes to a more decentralized and accessible registration process.

- **Self-Certification:** The practice of self-certification empowers workers to provide **accurate information without requiring physical presence**, expediting the registration process.
- **Facilitation Centers and Camps:** To enhance accessibility, the government established facilitation **centers at prominent labor chowks and addas**, along with holding regular camps, which provide a convenient means for workers to enroll and update their information.

What are the Other Government Schemes Related to Construction Workers?

- [National Initiative for Promotion of Upskilling of Nirman workers \(NIPUN\)](#)
- **Model Welfare Scheme for Building and Other Construction Workers and Action Plan for Strengthening Implementation Machinery**
- [Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan \(PM-SYM\)](#)

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