

## **Lok Sabha refers labour code to standing committee**

Yogima Seth Sharma, ET Bureau | Nov 07, 2019, 06.23 PM IST

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Lok Sabha has referred the labour code on occupational safety, health and working condition to standing committee on labour for consideration, a move that may delay the process of approval for the bill.

The committee, headed by MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, has sought opinions from all stakeholders on the bill following which it will suggest changes in the bill.

The labour code on occupational safety, health and working condition 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha in the last session.

The code aims to regulate the employment of workers, including those engaged by contractors, and their working conditions across sectors. It envisages setting up a National Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board to advise the government on the standards, rules and regulations on worker safety, besides overseeing implementation.

The board is expected to prescribe health and safety standards for workers in factories, mines, docks, buildings and construction work and other establishments. These would also pertain to physical, chemical, biological and other hazards to ensure that no employee suffers material impairment of health or functional capacity.

The draft legislation for the first time provides for a national licence for staffing firms, a long-pending demand from the industry. The national licence will have a three-year validity for the staffing companies. Once implemented, they won't need to apply for a permit for every location of operations or get the permit renewed every year.