

Centre, states to discuss new labour policy

Two-day meet from November 11 to review expansion of social security coverage

SHIVA RAJORA

New Delhi, 6 November

In a bid to expedite and finalise the national policy on labour and employment, the Union labour ministry will hold a two-day meeting with state labour ministers starting November 11 in the national capital, official sources told *Business Standard*.

“The two-day meet will see participation from all states and Union Territories (UTs). Our focus will be on the recently released draft Shram Niti (labour policy). We aim to build consensus with states, as labour is as much a state subject as it is a central



one. A lot of public comments have already been received, and they will be discussed at the meeting as well,” one of the sources said.

On October 8, the Union labour ministry released the draft Shram Shakti

Niti 2025 — the first-ever attempt to formulate a national policy on labour and employment for public consultation. The policy seeks to make a paradigm shift in India’s labour governance framework by reimagining the ministry’s role as an “employment facilitator” rather than the chiefly regulatory body it has traditionally been.

The meeting will also review the expansion of social security coverage across both the organised and unorganised sectors and take stock of progress in integrating the eShram database with other schemes and programmes. So far, 12 schemes have been integrated on the portal.

“India’s social security coverage has increased from 19 per cent in 2015 to 64.3 per cent in 2025, something that the International Labour Organization has also taken note of. We will urge states to expand social security coverage further so more workers come within its ambit,” the sources said.

Regarding the labour codes, the sources indicated they do not feature on the meeting’s agenda.

“Labour code implementation is not part of the formal deliberations. However, if states wish to raise any aspect of the codes, they can be discussed. We’ve already held a meeting on the codes earlier,” one source added.