Before the Central Information Commission
CIC Bhawan, Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi – 110 067

Additional Submission to the Complaint submitted
under Section 18(1) of The Right to Information Act, 2005

File No. CIC/ OTCLC/ C/ 2020/ 669711

In the matter of

Venkatesh Nayak

vs

The Central Public Information Officer
Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner
Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India

Date of submission: 27/ 05/ 2020

Additional Submission

1. This Complainant avers that on 27/05/2020, he participated in the hearing scheduled by this Hon’ble Commission in the Complaint case whose details are captioned above. This Complainant is grateful to this Hon’ble Commission for recognising the enormous public interest involved in the matter regarding which information has been sought in the RTI application dated 21/04/2020 and for scheduling this hearing out of turn as prayed for in the Complaint letter;

2. that during the said hearing this Complainant verbally submitted two additional points in support of his contentions described in the Complaint letter. Subsequently, this Hon’ble Commission directed this Complainant to reduce his verbal arguments into writing and submit the same for its consideration along with supporting documents, if any. Consequently, the following additional submission is being placed before this Hon’ble Commission for its consideration with the intention of assisting it to arrive at its decision in the instant case;

3. that India is a founder member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) established in 1919 and currently part of the United Nations organisation. India has ratified several International Conventions that govern the rights of workers. A complete list of the ILO Conventions that India ratified is available on the website of the Ministry of Labour and Employment which has jurisdiction over the Respondent Public Authority. Please click here for the list of ILO Conventions that India has ratified till date;

S.S. Venkatesh Nayak
4. that in April 1992, India ratified the *Labour Statistics Convention, 1985* (No. 160). The weblink provided at para #3 above contains a reference to the said Convention along with the exact date of the ratification. As per the footnote appended to the said list of ILO Conventions, the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has indicated that India has ratified the *Labour Statistics Convention, 1985* to the extent of Article 8 of Part II. A copy of the said Convention downloaded from ILO’s website is at pages 4-8 of this pdf file below. India’s ratification status as per ILO’s records is at page 10 of this pdf file below. Part II of the said Convention pertains to the Basic Labour Statistics that a country that ratifies the said Convention is duty bound to collect and publish, in addition to furnishing the same to ILO. Article 8 of the said Convention is reproduced below:

"**Article 8**

Statistics of the structure and distribution of the economically active population shall be compiled in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole, for detailed analysis and to serve as benchmark data.";

5. that even before the Respondent Public Authority issued the D.O. letter dated 08 April, 2020, its parent Ministry, namely the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment being the nodal Ministry for the purpose of implementing the said ILO Convention, was under an international obligation to collect data about all categories of workers across India. The phrasing of Article 8 of the said ILO Convention is broad enough to include migrant workers within its ambit. This Complainant humbly believes that the Respondent Public Authority’s D.O. dated 08 April, 2020 is in the nature of action that it would have had to perform under the said ILO Convention even under normal circumstances. This Complainant humbly believes that the duty to collect data about migrant workers across India arises not solely from the said D.O. but first ad foremost from her international obligation as a member of ILO who has ratified the said International Convention. Therefore the Respondent Public Authority cannot reasonably expect to shy away from its responsibility of collecting information about migrant workers and making the same publicly accessible even during normal times;

6. that further, according to several news reports of a press briefing held on 23 May, 2020 by one Ms. Punya Salila Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), there are four crore migrant labourers according to the 2011 Census data. Please click here for the Data Tables regarding migrants and migrant labourers on the website maintained by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. Please click here for a contemporaneous news report that testifies to the time of release of the detailed Data Tables relating to migrants and migrant workers. This Hon’ble Commission may kindly take note of the fact that the detailed Data Tables pertaining to migrants and migrant workers collected during the 2011 Census were made public only in July 2019, i.e., almost nine years later after they had been collected. It is reasonable to expect that the number of migrant workers across the country would have only grown much higher during the intervening period, given the severe agrarian distress visible across the country over the last few years;

7. that according to the data furnished at the press briefing held on 23 May, 2020, by the senior officer of the MHA, only 75 lakh migrant workers are said to have returned home on special Shramik trains run by the Indian Railways and buses organised by the State Governments as on that date. A copy of two news reports of the press briefing where-
- this data was presented by the said officer is at pages 13-15 of this pdf file below. This Complainant has not been able to find a copy of the press note issued by the MHA containing this information on its website or on the website of the Press Information Bureau. Perhaps the said data was presented verbally during the daily press briefing organised by the MHA, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the National Disaster Management Authority and the Indian Council of Medical Research, as has been the practice since the spread of COVID-19 epidemic across the country. Nevertheless, the data presented by the senior officer of MHA has been widely reported by the mass media;

8. that in other words, going by the figures collected during the 2011 Census, at least 3.25 crore migrant workers might be continuing to live in States other than their domicile States, even today. Even this figure might be an underestimation, given the fact that the Census database from which the senior officer of MHA has quoted figures about migrant workers is of 2011 vintage. Therefore this Complainant humbly believes that the findings of the data enumeration exercise are all the more important for developing policy prescriptions and making arrangements to alleviate the suffering of migrant workers who continue to be stranded in various parts of the country;

9. that given the aforementioned facts which are already available in the public domain, there is no reason why the Respondent Public Authority cannot plan for the publication of data about migrant workers collected pursuant to the D.O. dated 08 April, 2020, in a timely and piece-meal manner. Placing such information in the public domain can deepen public confidence in the intent and ability of the concerned authorities including the Respondent Public Authority to take resolute action to alleviate the enormous suffering that migrant workers as a category are facing due to the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19 epidemic. This Complainant believes that suo motu and time bound public disclosure of data about migrant workers is of utmost importance for ensuring the wellbeing of this key segment of our society and economy.

10. I hereby verify that the aforementioned facts are true to the best of my knowledge. I also affirm that I have transmitted a copy of this Complaint along with Annexures to the CPIO of the Respondent Public Authority, by email.

Signature of the Complainant:

(Signature of Venkatesh Nayak)

(Venkatesh Nayak)
Preamble

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Seventy-first Session on 7 June 1985, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the revision of the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), which is the fifth item on the agenda of the session, and

Considering that these proposals should take the form of an international Convention,

adopts this twenty-fifth day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five the following Convention, which may be cited as the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985:

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Each Member which ratifies this Convention undertakes that it will regularly collect, compile and publish basic labour statistics, which shall be progressively expanded in accordance with its resources to cover the following subjects:

(a) economically active population, employment, where relevant unemployment, and where possible visible underemployment;
(b) structure and distribution of the economically active population, for detailed analysis and to serve as benchmark data;
(c) average earnings and hours of work (hours actually worked or hours paid for) and, where appropriate, time rates of wages and normal hours of work;
(d) wage structure and distribution;
(e) labour cost;
(f) consumer price indices;
(g) household expenditure or, where appropriate, family expenditure and, where possible, household income or, where appropriate, family income;
(h) occupational injuries and, as far as possible, occupational diseases; and
(i) industrial disputes.

Article 2

In designing or revising the concepts, definitions and methodology used in the collection, compilation and publication of the statistics required under this Convention, Members shall take into consideration the latest standards and guidelines established under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation.
Article 3
In designing or revising the concepts, definitions and methodology used in the collection, compilation and publication of the statistics required under this Convention, the representative organisations of employers and workers, where they exist, shall be consulted with a view to taking into account their needs and to ensuring their co-operation.

Article 4
Nothing in this Convention shall impose an obligation to publish or reveal data which could result in the disclosure in any way of information relating to an individual statistical unit, such as a person, a household, an establishment or an enterprise.

Article 5
Each Member which ratifies this Convention undertakes to communicate to the International Labour Office, as soon as practicable, the published statistics compiled in pursuance of the Convention and information concerning their publication, in particular-

(a) the reference information appropriate to the means of dissemination used (titles and reference numbers in the case of printed publications and the equivalent descriptions in the case of data disseminated in other forms); and

(b) the most recent dates or periods for which the different types of statistics are available, and the dates of their publication or release.

Article 6
Detailed descriptions of the sources, concepts, definitions and methodology used in collecting and compiling statistics in pursuance of this Convention shall be-

(a) produced and updated to reflect significant changes;

(b) communicated to the International Labour Office as soon as practicable; and

(c) published by the competent national body.

II. BASIC LABOUR STATISTICS

Article 7
Current statistics of the economically active population, employment, where relevant unemployment, and where possible visible underemployment, shall be compiled in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole.

Article 8
Statistics of the structure and distribution of the economically active population shall be compiled in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole, for detailed analysis and to serve as benchmark data.

Article 9
1. Current statistics of average earnings and hours of work (hours actually worked or hours paid for) shall be compiled covering all important categories of employees and all important branches of economic activity, and in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole.

2. Where appropriate, statistics of time rates of wages and normal hours of work shall be compiled covering important occupations or groups of occupations in important branches of economic activity, and in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole.

Article 10
Statistics of wage structure and distribution shall be compiled covering employees in important branches of economic activity.

Article 11
Statistics of labour cost shall be compiled covering important branches of economic activity. Where possible, these statistics shall be consistent with data on employment and hours of work (hours actually worked or hours paid for) of the same scope.

Article 12
Consumer price indices shall be computed in order to measure variations over time in the prices of items representative of the consumption patterns of significant population groups or of the total population.
**Article 13**

Statistics of household expenditure or, where appropriate, family expenditure and, where possible, household income or, where appropriate, family income shall be compiled covering all types and sizes of private households or families, and in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole.

**Article 14**

1. Statistics of occupational injuries shall be compiled in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole, covering, where possible, all branches of economic activity.

2. As far as possible, statistics of occupational diseases shall be compiled covering all branches of economic activity, and in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole.

**Article 15**

Statistics of industrial disputes shall be compiled in such a way as to be representative of the country as a whole, covering, where possible, all branches of economic activity.

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### III. ACCEPTANCE OF OBLIGATIONS

**Article 16**

1. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall, in pursuance of the general obligations referred to in Part I, accept the obligations of the Convention in respect of one or more of the Articles of Part II.

2. Each Member shall specify in its ratification the Article or Articles of Part II in respect of which it accepts the obligations of this Convention.

3. Each Member which has ratified this Convention may subsequently notify the Director-General of the International Labour Office that it accepts the obligations of the Convention in respect of one or more of the Articles of Part II which were not already specified in its ratification. These notifications shall have the force of ratification as from the date of their communication.

4. Each Member which has ratified this Convention shall state, in its reports on the application of the Convention submitted under article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, the position of its law and practice on the subjects covered by the Articles of Part II in respect of which it has not accepted the obligations of the Convention and the extent to which effect is given or is proposed to be given to the Convention in respect of such subjects.

**Article 17**

1. A Member may limit initially the scope of the statistics referred to in the Article or Articles of Part II in respect of which it has accepted the obligations of this Convention to specified categories of workers, sectors of the economy, branches of economic activity or geographical areas.

2. Each Member which limits the scope of the statistics in pursuance of paragraph 1 of this Article shall indicate in its first report on the application of the Convention submitted under article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, the Article or Articles of Part II to which the limitation applies, stating the nature of and reasons for such limitation, and shall state in subsequent reports the extent to which it has been possible or it is proposed to extend the scope to other categories of workers, sectors of the economy, branches of economic activity or geographical areas.

3. After consulting the representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, a Member may, by a declaration communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office in the month following each anniversary of the coming into force of the Convention, introduce subsequent limitations on the technical scope of the statistics covered by the Article or Articles of Part II in respect of which it has accepted the obligations of the Convention. Such declarations shall take effect one year after the date on which they are registered. Each Member which introduces such limitations shall provide in its reports on the application of the Convention submitted under article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation the particulars referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

**Article 18**

This Convention revises the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938.

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### IV. FINAL PROVISIONS
Article 19

The formal ratifications of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

Article 20

1. This Convention shall be binding only upon those Members of the International Labour Organisation whose ratifications have been registered with the Director-General.
2. It shall come into force twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two Members have been registered with the Director-General.
3. Thereafter, this Convention shall come into force for any member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been registered.

Article 21

1. A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it, after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered.
2. Each Member which has ratified this Convention and which does not, within the year following the expiration of the period of ten years mentioned in the preceding paragraph, exercise the right of denunciation provided for in this Article, will be bound for another period of ten years and, thereafter, may denounce this Convention at the expiration of each period of ten years under the terms provided for in this Article.
3. After consulting the representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, a Member which has ratified this Convention may, after the expiration of five years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by a declaration communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office, withdraw its acceptance of the obligations of the Convention in respect of one or more of the Articles of Part II, provided that it maintains its acceptance of these obligations in respect of at least one of these Articles. Such withdrawal shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it was registered.
4. Each Member which has ratified this Convention and which does not, within the year following the expiration of the period of five years mentioned in paragraph 3 of this Article, exercise the right of withdrawal provided for in that paragraph, shall be bound by the Articles of Part II in respect of which it has accepted the obligations of the Convention for another period of five years and, thereafter, may withdraw its acceptance of these obligations at the expiration of each period of five years under the terms provided for in this Article.

Article 22

1. The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall notify all Members of the International Labour Organisation of the registration of all ratifications and denunciations communicated to him by the Members of the Organisations.
2. When notifying the Members of the Organisations of the registration of the second ratification communicated to him, the Director-General shall draw the attention of the Members of the Organisation of the date upon which the Convention will come into force.

Article 23

The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations full particulars of all ratifications and acts of denunciation registered by him in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Articles.

Article 24

At such times as it may consider necessary the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention and shall examine the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision in whole or in part.

Article 25

1. Should the Conference adopt a new Convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new Convention otherwise provides-
(a) the ratification by a Member of the new revising Convention shall ipso jure involve the immediate denunciation of this Convention, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 21 above, if and when the new revising Convention shall have come into force;

(b) as from the date when the new revising Convention comes into force this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification by the Members.

2. This Convention shall in any case remain in force in its actual form and content for those Members which have ratified it but have not ratified the revising Convention.

Article 26
The English and French versions of the text of this Convention are equally authoritative.

See related

Constitution Article 22

Key Information

Convention concerning Labour Statistics (Entry into force: 24 Apr 1988)
Adoption: Geneva, 71st ILC session (25 Jun 1985)
Status: Up-to-date instrument (Technical Convention).
Convention may be denounced: 24 Apr 2028 - 24 Apr 2029

See further:
Report of the fourth meeting of the SRM TWG
Governing Body discussion and decision

See also

Ratifications by country
Submissions to competent authorities by country
### Ratifications of C160 - Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160)

**Date of entry into force:** 24 Apr 1988

#### 50 ratifications
- Denounced: 0

#### See also
- Countries have not ratified

**Display the list by:** Country, Status of convention

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>Armenia</td>
<td>29 Apr 2005</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Acceptance of Articles 7 to 15 of Part II has been specified pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention.</td>
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<td>San Marino</td>
<td>01 Jul 1988</td>
<td>In Force</td>
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<td>Acceptance of all the Articles of Part II has been specified pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention.</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>01 Jan 1993</td>
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<td>Acceptance of Articles 7-10 and 12-14 of Part II has been specified pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention.</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>03 Oct 1989</td>
<td>In Force</td>
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<td>Acceptance of Articles 7-9 and 12-15 of Part II has been specified pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention.</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>01 Apr 1993</td>
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<td>Acceptance of Articles 7, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 15 of Part II has been specified pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention.</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>22 Sep 1986</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>07 May 1987</td>
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<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>26 Nov 1993</td>
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<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>15 Aug 1991</td>
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<td>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
<td>27 May 1987</td>
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<td>United States of America</td>
<td>11 Jun 1990</td>
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NEW DELHI: The Centre on Saturday said around four crore migrant labourers are engaged in various works in different parts of the country and so far 75 lakh of them have returned home in trains and buses since the nationwide lockdown was imposed.

Joint Secretary in the Union Home Ministry, Punya Salila Srivastava, said the railways have engaged over 2,600 'Shramik' special trains since May 1 for transportation of the migrant workers from different parts of the country to their destinations.

"According to the last census report, there are four crore migrant workers in the country," she said at a press conference here.

Elaborating on the steps taken by the central government for the convenience of migrant workers since March 25, when the nationwide lockdown began, Srivastava said 35 lakh migrant workers have reached their destinations using 'Shramik' special trains, while 40 lakh have travelled in buses to reach their destinations.

The joint secretary said that on March 27, the Home Ministry had sent an advisory to all states and Union Territories (UTs) that the issue of migrant workers should be handled with sensitivity and ensure that they don’t move during the lockdown.

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On March 28, the Home Ministry issued an order empowering the states and UTs to use funds under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for providing food and shelter to the migrant workers.

By April 3, a total of Rs 11,092 crore have been released by the central government to the states and UTs under the NDRF, Srivastava said.

She said the Home Ministry has also set up a 24x7 control room to monitor migrant workers' issues across the country under the supervision of the joint secretary level officers. States and UTs were also told to set up similar control room, she said.

The joint secretary said the Home Ministry again sent an advisory on March 29 asking the states to provide food and shelter to the migrant workers.

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A nationwide lockdown was first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 24 for 21 days in a bid to combat the coronavirus pandemic. It was first extended till May 3 and again till May 17. The lockdown has now been extended till May 31.
4 crore migrant workers in India; 75 lakh return home so far: MHA

35 lakh migrant workers reached their destinations in Shramik special trains, while 40 lakh travelled in buses

New Delhi, May 23

The Centre, on Saturday, said around four crore migrant labourers are engaged in various works in various parts of the country, and so far, 75 lakh of them have returned home in trains and buses since the nationwide lockdown was imposed.

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The states and UTs were also told to provide them food and shelter, she added.

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The Joint Secretary said the Home Ministry again sent an advisory on March 29 asking the states to provide food and shelter to the migrant workers.

The states were also told to make wide publicity so that the migrant workers know the facilities available for them.

Subsequently, another advisory was sent banning transportation of migrant workers by trucks and made the SPs responsible for any violation.

Srivastava said the Home Ministry allowed movement of workers within a state on April 19, and on May 1, interstate movement through trains.

A nationwide lockdown was first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 24 for 21 days in a bid to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. It was first extended till May 3 and again till May 17. The lockdown has now been extended till May 31. PTI