New Labour Codes of India Professor K D Raju

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Lecture 46

Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 -Introduction, Definitions

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Dear students, from this class onwards we are going to deal with the last code, the fourth code that is, the Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code of 2020. And this class is dedicated to the important definitions in the Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code, because in the coming classes we have to discuss about the important definitions, so we have to understand. So, this code of Occupation Safety Health and the Working Conditions Code has repealed many legislations, around 13 legislations and it is incorporated into this particular code. All health-related and safety-related aspects are included in this particular code.

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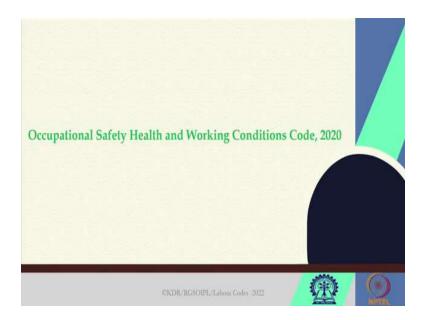


So, we will see these, the Safety and Health Working Conditions Code 2020 as well as the important provisions of the draft rules.

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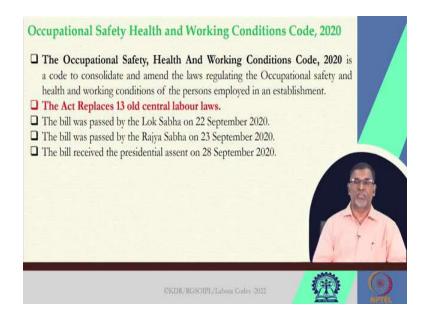


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So, here the occupational safety, the name itself says that of occupational safety health and working conditions code which talks about the occupational safety, health and working conditions.

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Here 13 legislations, central labour legislations are repealed by this single legislation. That is the importance of this particular Occupation Safety Health and Working Conditions Code of 2020.

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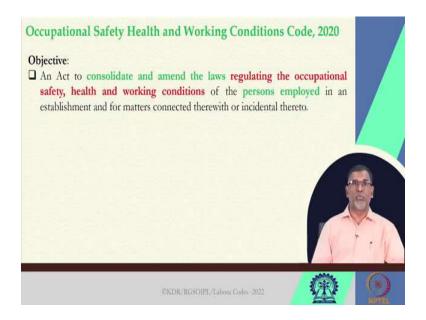
Thirteen legislations include The Factories Act of 1948, The Plantation Labour Act of 1951, The Mines Act, of 1952, The Working Journalists and Newspaper Employees Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions Act of 1955, the Working Journalist Fixation of Rates of Wages Act of 1958, The Motor Transport Workers Act of 1961, The Beedi and Cigar Workers Conditions of Employment Act of 1966, The Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act of 1970, The Sale Promotion Employees Conditions of Service Act of 1976, The Inter-State Migrant Workers Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service Act of 1979.

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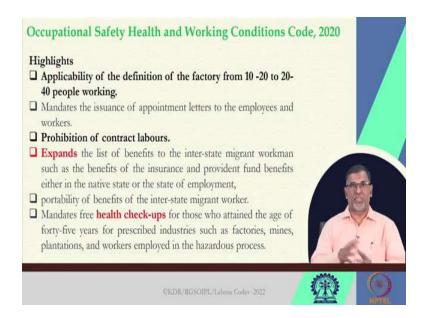
And also, it includes The Cine-Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers Regulation of Employment Act, 1981, The Dock Workers Safety Health and Welfare Act, 1986, and The Building and Other Construction Workers Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service Act, 1996. So, in total, 13 central legislations are repealed by this single code.

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So, the objective of the code very clearly says that is to regulate occupational safety, health and working conditions of the persons employed in an establishment. So, it repealed 13 legislations relating to occupational safety health and working conditions.

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Here the applicability of the number of people who are employed has been increased from the earlier Factories Act of 1948. So, the 10 is increased to 20 and that is without the use of power, and 20 has been increased to 40 working people.

So, 10 to 20 and 20 to 40 people without the aid of the power and with the aid of the power. So, now people who are working 20 to 40, this is applicable. So, the higher number is included by this amendment or repeal in the new code. So, it mandates appointment letters to every employee or worker.

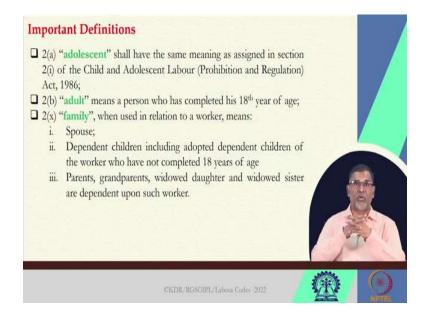
And the new code prohibits contract labours. And it expands the benefit of inter-state migrant workers. So, expands the benefits in terms of insurance, provident funds and other benefits which are provided by the state governments. And more importantly, you can see the portability of benefits for migraine workers, especially those who are working in the construction sector.

Because the cess is collected by the state governments, so, they move from one state to the other state. Usually, now they are permitted to take their particular benefits and transfer from one board to another state board. And also the new code mandates free health check-ups for all workers who attained the age of 45 years in factories, mines, plantations and workers who are employed in the hazardous process.

A mandatory health check-up beyond 45 years. And also some of the other benefits for every migrant worker, the inter-state migrant worker should get transport allowances to visit their home

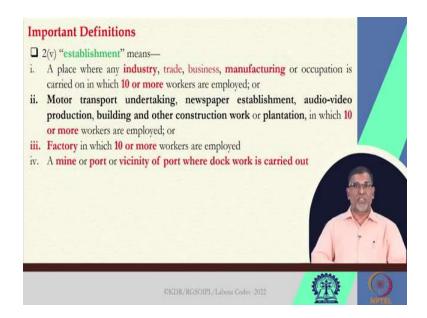
once a year. So, these are the new provisions included in the Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code.

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And here are the definitions of the adolescent, which clearly says that the definition is in accordance with the Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act of 1986. So, we said the age of 16 to 18 is considered as an adolescent. And adult means those who have completed 18 years of age, and family includes a spouse and dependent children and also those who have, workers who have not completed the age of 18, parents, grandparents, widowed daughter widowed sister and dependent upon such worker. So, this includes the family members, so that they will get the benefits under different schemes.

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We saw the definition of establishment and also the motor transporting undertakings, and factories. So, we already said that the numbers now increase, and a higher number is prescribed under the new provisions.

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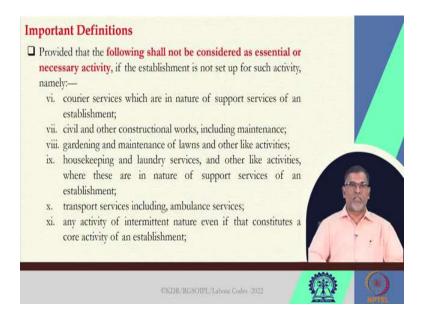
And the core activity of an establishment is defined. So, core activity means any activity for which the establishment is set up and includes any activity which is essential or necessary to such activity of the existence of such kind of factories or the establishment.

So, some of the activities are considered to be not essential, especially if this is applicable to the factories. So, people who are working in a factory for sanitation, doing sanitation work, sweeping, cleaning, dusting and collecting and disposing of waste, are not considered to be an employee of a factory.

So, if the core activity is if a person is not connected with the core activity of a factory, then he is not considered to be an employee of the factory. So, now watch and ward, security services and canteen services, catering services, loading-unloading operations related to the factory, running of hospitals, education institutions, guest houses, clubs and supporting services are not going to be considered to be the essential activity or core activity of an establishment.

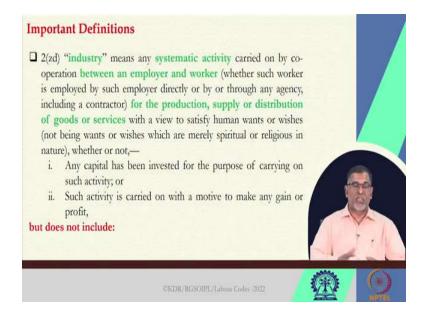
So, the result of this definition is that the people who are cleaning the factory or those who are working in a factory, or hospital, those who are working in educational institutions run by the factory or training institutions and the guest houses run by the factory, they are not going to get any benefits under this particular code, they are excluded from the purview of this particular code.

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And also, you can see that, so we can see other definitions, specifically important definitions, we will look into.

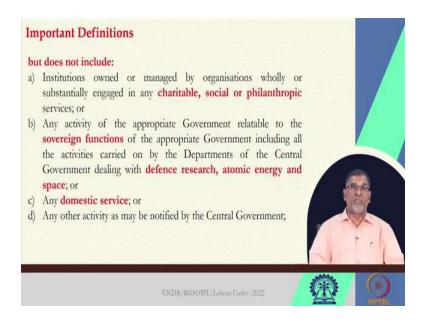
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So, the industry is also in the background of the earlier former Factories Act. So, industry means any systemic activity carried down by cooperation between the employer and worker. And so, if the worker can be employed directly or through a contractor for the production, supply or distribution of goods or services.

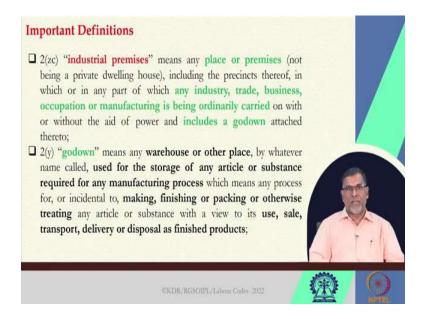
And so, the goods or services, so, we saw this definition in the earlier, some of the earlier classes also, not being used for spiritual or religious purposes in nature. And capital has been invested for the purpose of carrying out any such activity. And also mainly, such activities are carried out to make or gain profit.

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And also we saw the definition of industry and also the Bangalore water supply severance case in the earlier classes. So, it does not include charitable and social and philanthropic services and the sovereign functions do not include research, defence research, atomic energy, etc domestic services and also any other services notified by the central government are not going to come into the purview of industry.

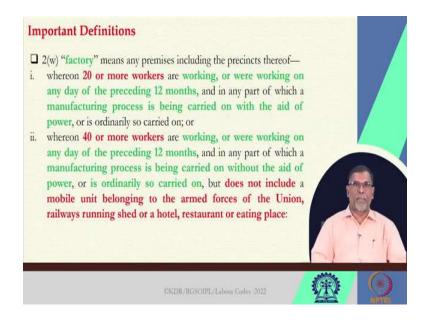
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And industrial premises, and we already talked about industrial premises and the notional extension in the course of employment, in one of the previous classes. And the definition, the

godown is also defined. It is a warehouse used for the purposes, storage purposes, and any articles or substances are stored for the purpose of manufacturing. And making, even finishing or packaging. So, even packaging of the finished products.

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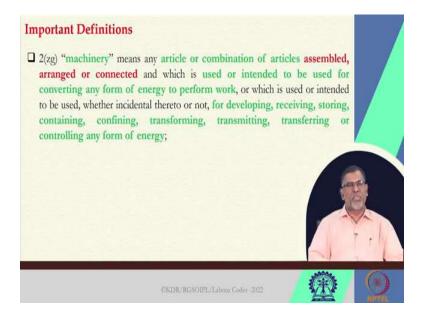
So, here in the factory, now 20 or more workers are working usually the without the aid of power. And with the aid of power, its number is increased to 40 number. But a mobile unit belonging to the armed forces of the union, railways, hotels, restaurants, eating places, etc have been excluded. So, now the factory, the minimum number is increased from 10 to 20 and 20 to 40. So, the numbers are increased.

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So, I think we have discussed elaborately with regard to the manufacturing process, what do you mean by exactly the manufacturing process. And also, the manufacturing process includes a series of activities mentioned in the definition.

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And also, the machinery has been defined as an article or combination of articles assembled or arranged or connected and is used or intended to be used for converting any form of energy to perform work. And also for developing, receiving, storing, containing, confining, transforming,

transmitting, transferring or controlling any form of energy. So, it can be also known as a machinery.

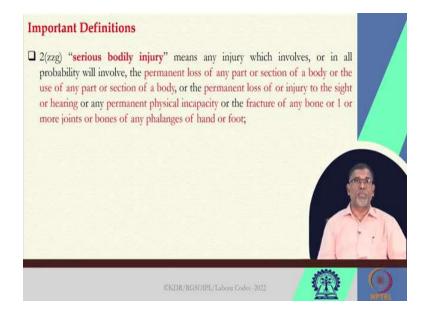
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So, hazardous processes are defined. So, for any process or activity which is the relation to a particular industry, even plantation in the first schedule, special care is to be taken. And raw materials used therein or intermediate or finished products, by-products, certain substances, waste or effluents or spraying any pesticides, insecticides or chemicals used, such materials would cause material impairment to the health of persons.

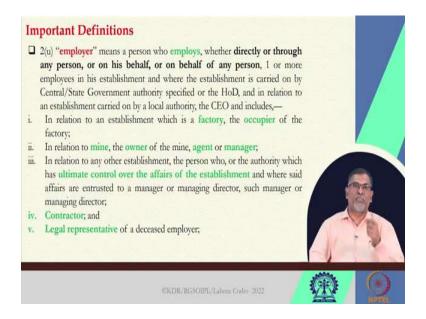
In the plantation, in the provisions also, we saw the definition of a hazardous process. A hazardous substance which includes any chemical or physiochemical properties or handling is liable to cause physical or health hazards to human beings. So, such kind of materials is known as hazardous substance as well for the purpose of this particular Act.

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Then serious bodily injury which means any injury involves any permanent loss of any part or section of a body or the use of any part section of a body or the permanent loss of injury to the sight or hearing or any permanent physical incapacity or the fracture of any bone or more joints or bones of any hand or foot. So, all this can be considered as a serious injury for the purpose of the Act.

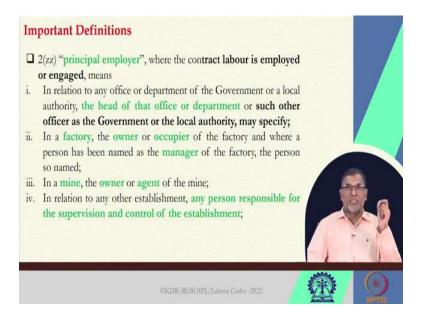
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So, here we saw the definition of an employer many times. So, ultimately, the employer is the person who is the ultimate affair, ultimate control over the affairs of the establishment. It can be a

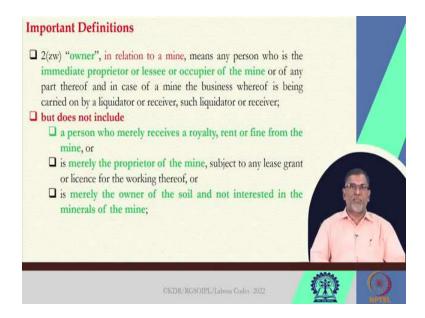
manager, it can be a director, it can be, in the case of public sector undertakings it can be the HODs and it can be a contractor. Legal representatives also can be the employer.

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And the principal employer is a person who is a contract labour is employed or engaged. So, there can be a contractor as well as a principal employer. So, in the factory, we already said that the occupier of the factory or the manager of the factory is considered to be the principal employer. In the case of mines, the owner or agent of mine in relation to any other establishments, the person responsible for supervision and control of the establishment will be considered as the principal employer.

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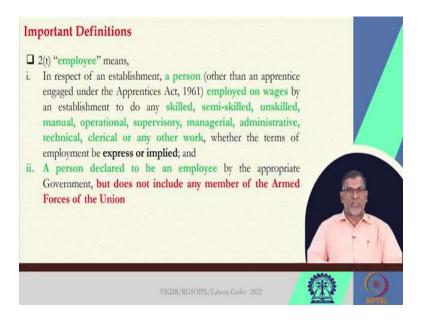
So, in the case of the owner, we can see who is the immediate proprietor or lessee or occupier of the mine, but it does not include a series of people. So, for example, if somebody is getting a royalty, rent or fine from the mine, he is not going to be the owner. And merely the proprietor of the mine or any lease or grant or working thereof is given to that particular person. So, the owner of that piece of land and not interested, he is not at all interested in the minerals, so he cannot be considered as also the owner of the land.

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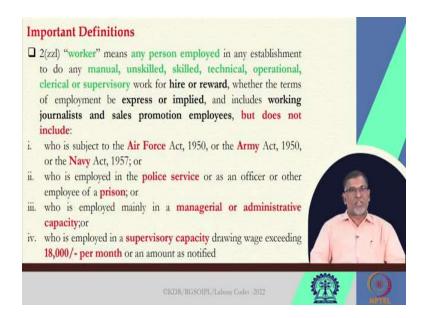
So, the occupier which we already mentioned that the occupier is related to a factory, the person who has the ultimate control over the affairs of the factory is considered as an occupier.

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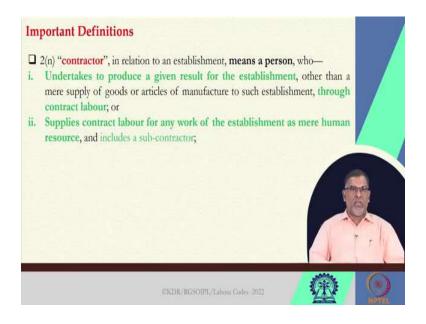
And definitions of employees many times we discussed. The employee is a wider ambit of persons who includes even supervisory and managerial administrative activities, except the armed forces. So, employee, which considers a large number of people included, that is, skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, manual operational or supervisory and managerial and administrative, will include under the scope of the definition of employee.

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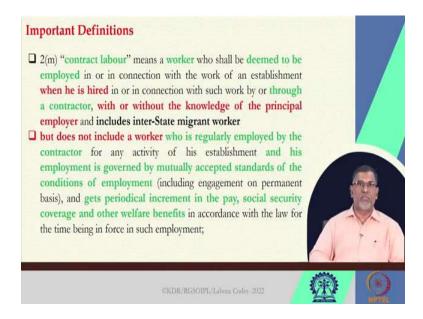
And workers and workmen, we discussed it many times, and now, the worker does not include worker who is in a supervisory capacity drawing his salary exceeding of 18,000 rupees per month. If he does not drawing salary exceeding rs.18000 then he will be considered as worker.

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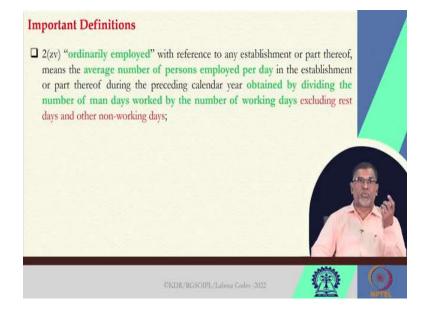
And the contractor is very clear, whoever undertakes to produce a given result for the establishment, is the contractor. So, the principal employer can be who gives the contract. And there can be a subcontractor as well who will come into the purview of the definition of the contractor.

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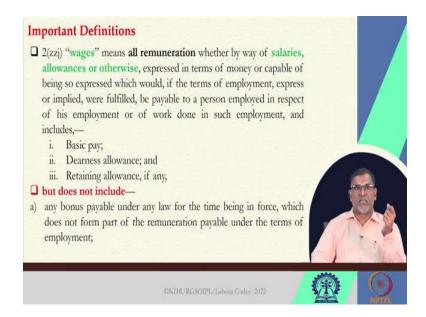
So, contract labour includes the worker who has been deemed to be employed in contract work or through a contractor or without the knowledge of the principal employer. So the knowledge of the principal employer is not required and also includes an inter-state migrant worker. All regular employees are excluded from the purview of the definition of contract labour. So, that means if periodically somebody is getting an increment, social security measures and all other benefits will not come under the purview of contract labour.

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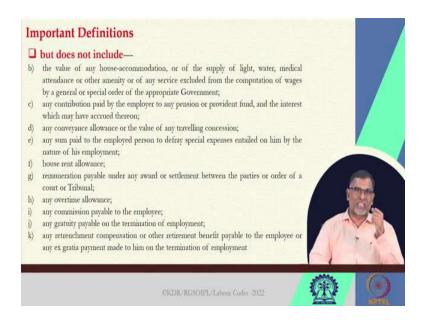
And we know that people are ordinarily employed, so the average number of people employed per day in a particular establishment in a calendar year, and so you can say that who is ordinarily employed.

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So, many times we saw the definition of wages also, it is same as that of the other codes like the Social security Code. So, the wages include basic wage, dearness elements and retaining allowances. But bonus and other payments are excluded from the purview of wages for the purpose of the Health and Safety Code also.

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And we can see exceptions which are provided under this code as well.

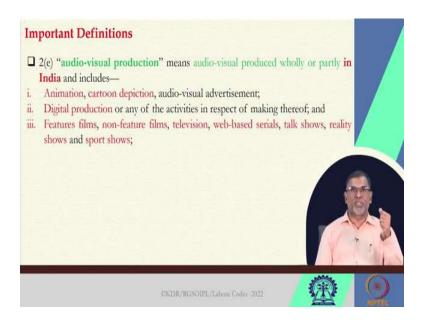
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And interstate migrant worker is defined. So, he is the person who is recruited directly by the employer or indirectly through a contractor in one state for employing him in an establishment situated in another state. So, he must come on his own will from one state to the other state for avail of the services. And also, such employed persons draw wages not exceeding 18,000 rupees. So, this applicable, this Act is applicable to people who are getting a salary to the tune of 18,000

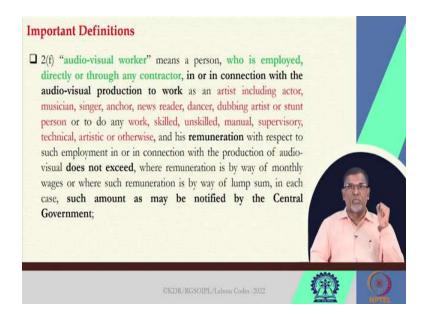
rupees per month. So exceeding 18,000 rupees is not considered to be under the purview of this particular code.

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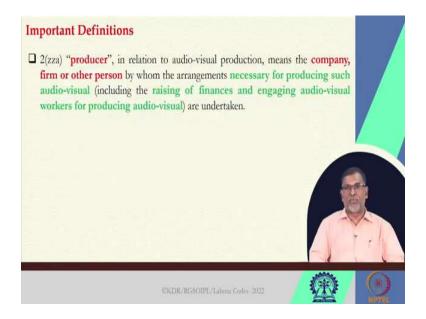
And the new definitions like audio-visual production is defined as if anybody makes animations, cartoon depictions, audio-visual advertisements, digital production and also the feature films, non-feature films, television, web-based series, talk shows, reality shows and sports shows, all this will come under the definition of audio-visual production.

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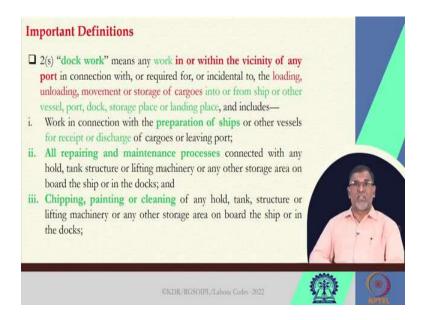
An audio-visual worker includes those who are employed directly or indirectly in this audio-visual, the audio-visual worker is an artist, actor, musician, singer or anchor, news reader, dancer, an artist, stunt person or do any kind of skilled, non-skilled or supervisory even, supervisory work for remuneration will come under the definition of audio-visual worker. An audio-visual worker is also eligible for availing of the provisions of this particular code.

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And so these are some of the additions to the definition of this particular code. So, here we can see the producer with regard to a particular program and producer with regard to production or film. So, here the arrangement is necessary for producing such audio-visual equipment. So, who is the person who is raising the finances or engaging audio-visual workers for producing audio-visual materials and undertakings or simply want to say who is spending money for the production of these activities, are, come under the definition of a producer.

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And dock worker is also included under the purview of this particular code. So, dock workers are defined people those who are loading in the dock, unloading, movement or storage of cargo into ships by sales ports, etc. And definitely for the preparation, people who are engaged in the preparation of ships for vessels or discharge or cargos and all repairing and maintenance process or chipping, painting and cleaning or do other work with tanks or lifting your machinery, they can also come under the purposes of dock work.

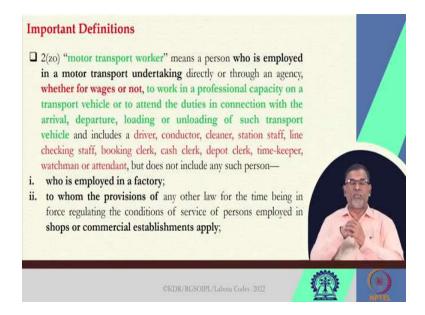
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And mine is any kind of excavation. Earlier there was a Mines Act, and now these provisions are included in this particular code. So, mine is any kind of excavation for the purpose of searching for obtaining minerals. So, there can be borings, there can be boreholes, oil wells and shafts. So, all this will come under the purview of mine.

And also conveyors, people those are working conveyor belts, and aerial ropeways for transporting these materials or removing or refusing, so they also come under the purview of mine workers. And the people who are working in any other part of mine also can come under the purview of this particular Act.

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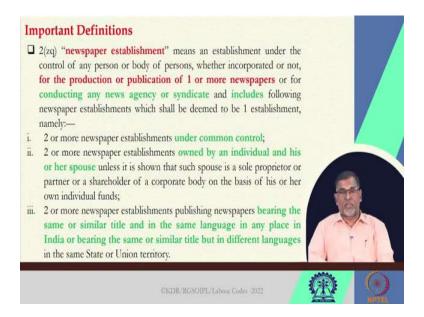
Then another category which is included in the purview of this code is motor transport works. So, motor transport includes work in any professional capacity on the transport vehicle. So, he is attending the duties in connection with the arrival, departure, loading, and unloading of any transport vehicle. And he can include the drivers, conductors, cleaners, station staff, any other checking, booking or cash clerk or timekeeper, watchman, and attendant, all these people will come under the definition of motor transport worker. So, a new category of people has been included, that is, motor transport workers.

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And another category is the newspaper. And newspaper means printed periodical work containing public news or comments on public news, newspaper.

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And also newspaper establishment is also defined. So, this establishment includes especially the production or publication of one or more newspapers and conducting any news agency or syndicate of the news agency. And also we can see that establishments, two or more newspapers establishments or common control owned by individuals and their spouses, so the related people, and or then also this can come under the newspaper, considered as newspaper establishment.

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And then we can see sales promotion employees which include the person who is employed or engaged in establishment for hire or getting remuneration to do any work relating to the promotion of sales or business but does not include any such person being employed supervisory category. So, the supervisory category is excluded from the purview of sales promotion employees and also has a salary ceiling of 18,000 rupees per month. And the people who are engaged in or employed in managerial and administrative capacities are deleted from the purview of sales promotion employees.

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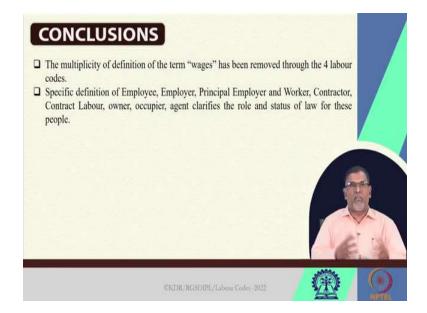
And a working journalist has been included in the code from the previous legislation. So, a working journalist includes all kinds of journalism works those who do like editors and leader-writers, news editors, sub-editors and feature writers, copywriters, testers, reporters, correspondents, cartoonists, photographers, proofreaders, and all these people come under the purview of the definition of working journalists. And the exclusion is managerial and supervisory and administrative capacity is excluded from the definition of a working journalist.

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And plantation, we already saw the definition in the Plantation Labour Act.

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So, these are the main definitions, important definitions with regard to the new code. That new code is going to see all these areas. So, Occupational Health and Safety Code is trying to include the different areas including the migrant workers, and we saw that some of the new areas and new provisions are also included for the purposes of being beneficial to this unorganized sector. So, these definitions are very comprehensive in nature. And also, for the people who are working through the contractor or the principal employer, there is no difference.

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So, the code, in terms of definitions, is very comprehensive with regard to Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions and the rules which are made there with regard to these particular provisions. Thank you.