

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1213
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020**

EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT LABOURERS

1213 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of daily-wage labourers who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 lockdown in the State of Karnataka;**
- (b) the number of migrant labourers were working in the State of Karnataka before the lockdown was imposed;**
- (c) the number of migrant labourers are currently working in the State of Karnataka post inception of the 'Unlock' phase of lockdown; and**
- (d) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent the exploitation of such labourers at the hand of manipulative employers in the post-COVID world?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): The global spread of the corona virus (Covid-19) followed by lockdowns has caused economic disruptions across the globe including India, which has also resulted in reverse migration of large number of workers from destination States to the Home States. As per the data received from the States, more than 1.06 crore migrant workers, including 1,34,438 migrant workers of Karnataka, returned to their home-State. A statement giving the details of migrant workers state-wise is placed at Annexure. However, now, with the process of the unlock-down, many migrant workers have started returning to their work places in the destination States.

Contd..2/-

(d): The Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, has provisions to protect the interests of the migrant workers against the coercive exploitation by private parties and contractors. It entitles the migrant workers to receive displacement allowances, journey allowances and other facilities.

Some of the measures taken by the Government to prevent the exploitation of the migrant workers at the hands of the employers, are mentioned below:

- 1. In order to resolve the grievances of migrant workers during lockdown, Ministry of Labour and Employment set up 20 Control Rooms all over the country. During lockdown, more than 15000 complaints of the workers were resolved through these Control Rooms and due to the intervention of Ministry more than two lakh workers were paid their due wages amounting to about Rs. 295 crores.**
- 2. Ministry of Labour & Employment issued advisory to the States /UTs and the Employers' Associations on 20th March, 2020 asking them to extend their cooperation by not terminating their employees, particularly casual/ contractual workers from job or reduce their wages.**
- 3. Ministry of Home Affairs in its order dated 29th March, 2020 instructed that the landlords of the migrant workers shall not demand payment of rent for a period of one month and not ask to vacate their premises.**
- 4. In the same order, the Government instructed the industry, shops and commercial establishments to make payment of wages to workers, at their work place, on the due date, without any deduction, for the period their establishments remain under closure during the lockdown.**
- 5. Ministry of Labour and Employment also issued comprehensive Advisory Guidelines on 27th July, 2020 to all the States/UTs for Covid safety and welfare of the migrant workers returning to their workplaces in the destination states.**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1213 FOR 21.09.2020

| SL No | Name of the States/UTs | No. of Migrant workers belonging to this State who have returned to their home States/UTs * |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 32,571 |
| 2 | Andaman and Nicobar | 4,960 |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | 2,871 |
| 4 | Assam | 4,26,441 |
| 5 | Bihar | 15,00,612 |
| 6 | Chandigarh | 0 |
| 7 | Chhattisgarh | |
| 8 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | 43,747 |
| 9 | Delhi | 2,047 |
| 10 | Goa | |
| 11 | Gujarat | |
| 12 | Haryana | 1,289 |
| 13 | Himachal Pradesh | 0 |
| 14 | Jammu & Kashmir | 48,780 |
| 15 | Jharkhand | 5,30,047 |
| 16 | Karnataka | 1,34,438 |
| 17 | Kerala | 3,11,124 |
| 18 | Ladakh | 50 |
| 19 | Lakshadweep | 456 |
| 20 | Madhya Pradesh | 7,53,581 |
| 21 | Maharashtra | 1,82,990 |
| 22 | Manipur | 12,338 |
| 23 | Meghalaya | 4,266 |
| 24 | Mizoram | |
| 25 | Nagaland | 11,750 |
| 26 | Odisha | |
| 27 | Puducherry | 1,694 |
| 28 | Punjab | 5,15,642 |
| 29 | Rajasthan | 13,08,130 |
| 30 | Sikkim | 33,015 |
| 31 | Tamil Nadu | 72,145 |
| 32 | Telangana | 37,050 |
| 33 | Tripura | 34,247 |
| 34 | Uttar Pradesh | 32,49,638 |
| 35 | Uttarakhand | 0 |
| 36 | West Bengal | 13,84,693 |
| | Total | 1,06,40,612 |

* As per the data received from the States/UTs till date
