GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1214
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020

EMPLOYMENT TO MIGRANT LABOURERS

1214 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) the number of migrant labourers returned to their villages in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown;
(b) what steps were taken by Government to provide support to migrant labourers during this crisis;
(c) whether Government could not give enough time to the migrants before announcing the lockdown, if so, the reasons therefor;
(d) the number of migrant labourers lost their lives while returning to their villages; and
(d) whether Government is planning to provide employment opportunities to migrants?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): During Covid – 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, more than one crore migrant workers returned to their home state. A statement giving the numbers of migrant workers to the extent available, state-wise is annexed.

The details of the measures taken by the Government to support the migrant workers are as follows:

1. **In order to resolve the grievances of migrant workers during lockdown, Ministry 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.**

Contd..2/-

2. Immediately after the lockdown, directions were sent from Ministry of Labour & Employment to all the State Governments/UTs to provide financial assistance to construction workers from Building & Other Construction Workers' Cess Fund. It is estimated that a high proportion of migrant workers are construction workers. Till date around 1.83 crore construction workers have been provided approximately Rs. 5000 crore directly in their bank accounts from Building & Other Construction Workers' Cess Fund being maintained by various States.

3. After the lockdown, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana with a financial package of Rs. 1.7 lakh crore was launched to help poor, needy and unorganised sector workers including migrant workers of the country. Under this package, around 80 crore persons have been provided 5 Kg. wheat/rice and 1 Kg. pulses. Free of cost food grains will now be provided upto November, 2020 to all the beneficiaries.

4. Per day wages under MGNREGA have been enhanced from Rs. 182 to Rs. 202.

5. PM SVANidhi Scheme has been launched to facilitate collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- of one-year tenure, to approximately, 50 lakh street vendors, to resume their businesses.

6. In order to facilitate employment of migrant workers who have gone back to their Home State, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan has been initiated in 116 districts in Mission Mode. Under this campaign, rural infrastructure would be built with involvement of these migrant workers with a resource envelope of Rs. 50,000/- crore.

7. Rupees Twenty lakh crore financial package under "AatmNirbhar Bharat" has been launched specifically to create employment opportunities, for migrant workers, workers of unorganized sector, strengthening of MSME Sector and promoting rural economy.

8. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched a scheme for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs), which is a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) to create vibrant, sustainable & inclusive Affordable Rental Housing avenues for urban migrants/poor.

Contd..3/-

9 In order to provide minimum financial assistance to the workers through their EPF Account, Ministry of Labour & Employment under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana has permitted all the EPF members to withdraw 75% of their total provident fund deposited in their EPF Account. Till date, about Rs. 39,000/- crore have been withdrawn by the member of EPFO.

10. It has been decided to extend the scheme of Atal Beemit Kalyan Yojana being implemented by Employees' State Insurance Corporation for another one year i.e. from 1st July, 2020 to 30th June, 2021. It has also been decided to enhance the rate of unemployment relief under the scheme to 50% of wages from earlier rate of 25% along with relaxation of eligibility conditions for insured workers who have lost their employment due to COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown. The enhanced benefit and relaxed eligibility condition are applicable from 24.03.2020 to 31.12.2020.

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Annexure

Statement referred to part (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question Number – 1214 for 21.09.2020.

SL No	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Migrant workers* belonging to this States/UTs who have returned to their home State
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 information received from the States/UTs till date.

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