GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 413
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020

JOB LOSS TO DAILY WAGE LABOURERS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

413 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 during the COVID-19 lockdown;
(b) what measures Government is taking to provide relief to such labourers;
(c) whether there has been any death of any labourer due to loss of job during the lockdown;
(d) if so, what is the total number of such deaths; and
(e) what steps are being taken by Government to protect daily wage labourers from exploitation by private employers in times of COVID-19?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): In order to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, a nationwide lockdown was imposed resulting in closure of all industries except essential services.

In order to mitigate the financial crisis of the migrant workers and protect them against the economic disruptions due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and Country-wide lockdown the Central Government has taken numerous measures to provide them financial assistance, food packages ration and other benefits.

Contd..2/-

The Central Government has issued comprehensive Advisory Guidelines on 27.07.2020 to all the States/UTs for the welfare of the migrant workers returning to the destination States in the backdrop of Covid -19. In order to ensure relief measures not only for the poor people and migrant workers but also their families/dependents in a sustainable manner, the Central Government announced Rs.1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for the poor people to help them fight the battle against corona virus. In order to provide employment to migrant workers at their native places the Government has launched a number of schemes like Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan to boost employment and livelihood opportunities, Anganwadi Service, employment in Food Processing Industries, Prime Minister Employment Generation Program, Scheme for regeneration of Traditional Industries, Gram Udyog Vikas Yojana, identification of ongoing works/new works for road construction. In addition, the Government has set up 30 Biotech — Kisan hubs in the country covering all Agroclimatic zones, 150 Districts including 101 aspirational districts which will help migrant workers to earn their livelihood through farming and expose them to the innovative methods of farming of high value crops.

*****