

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1270  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020**

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO STRANDED MIGRANT WORKERS**

**1270. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:**

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the assistance provided to stranded migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, including provision for shelter and food;**
- (b) the State-wise details of distress calls received from workers, especially migrant workers regarding nonpayment of wages, termination of employment and request for shelter and food and measures taken to redress the same;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a national database of inter-State migrant workers and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate welfare fund for inter-State migrant workers not covered under any other welfare funds; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (e): Immediately after the lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, directions were issued 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.**

**Contd..2/-**

**Till date 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.**

**In order to resolve the grievances of migrant workers during lockdown, Ministry set up 20 Control Rooms across 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 crore.**

**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 of the country. Under this package, around 80 crore persons have been provided 5 Kg. Wheat/Rice and 1 Kg. pulses, free of cost. The food grains will now be provided upto November, 2020 to all the beneficiaries. Aim of the Government is to ensure that no one is without food during this pandemic and challenging time.**

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

**PM SVANidhi Scheme 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.**

**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 and about Rs. 50,000/- crores would be spent for this purpose.**

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

**Contd..3/-**

**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.**

**Beneficiaries for ARHCs will be from Economically Weaker Section (EWS)/Low Income Group (LIG) category including industrial workers, migrants working with market/trade associations, educational/health institutions, hospitality sector, long term tourists/visitors, students etc.**

**In order to provide minimum financial assistance to the workers through their EPF Account, Ministry of Labour & Employment 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.**

**It has been decided to extend the scheme of Atal Beemit Kalyan Yojana being implemented by Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for another one year i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> 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 relief and relaxed eligibility conditions are applicable for the period 24.03.2020 to 31.12.2020.**

**Ministry of Labour & Employment envisages development of a National Database for Unorganized Workers (NDUW) seeded with Aadhaar for all unorganized workers. The project will enroll Unorganized Workers including Migrant Workers to help them get employment and other assistance.**

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