

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 60
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.09.2020**

RIGHTS OF MIGRANT LABOURERS

**60. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government taken adequate measures to safeguard social, economic, legal and health rights of migrant labourers before implementing lockdown in the country due to COVID 19 Pandemic;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the number of such labourers died/injured during migration to their native place due to such lockdown, State/UT-wise;**
- (d) the relief provided and measures taken to generate employment for such labourers by the Government so far: and**
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to make good the losses of such labourers?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): India, as a Nation, has responded through the Central government, State governments, Local Bodies, Self-help Groups, Resident Welfare Associations, Medical Health Professionals, Sanitation Workers as well as large number of genuine and bonafide non-governmental organizations in the Nation's fight against the unprecedented human crisis due to the outbreak of Covid - 19 and country-wide lockdown. 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

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the Central Government has taken numerous measures to provide them financial assistance, food packages and other benefits. However, the Central Government has already enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers which inter-alia provides for registration of establishments employing Inter-State Migrant workers, Licensing of contractors etc. Migrant workers employed with such establishments are to be provided statutory wages as per the rule in force, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc.

(c): No such data is available.

(d) & (e): To boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Government of India has launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on 20th June 2020. The Abhiyaan focuses on durable rural infrastructure and providing modern facilities like internet in the villages. Skill Mapping of the rural migrant labour is being done to help them work closer home. The Abhiyaan involves intensified and focused implementation of 25 target driven works to provide employment and create infrastructure in the rural areas of 116 districts of 6 States with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore. Apart from this, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched various schemes for migrant workers who have returned to their native places. One of the schemes is Anganwadi services which has been extended to children of migrant workers.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries have sanctioned 700 food processing/preservation and infrastructure projects in which migrant labourers will get employment.

To provide employment to the migrant workers Ministry of Transport and Highways has identified the ongoing works/new works for the road construction. Ministry of Steel assisted migrant workers and their families with food packets and face mask, milk powder etc.

The Department of Bio Technology 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.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has set up control rooms across the country to receive and address the grievances of workers who have been denied wages or retrenched during the national lockdown.

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. The salient features of the relief package are:

- (i) 80 crore people are being provided additional 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses, free of cost every month till November, 2020 to all the beneficiaries under provisions of National Food Security Act.**
- (ii) 20.65 crores women Jan Dhan account holder has been given cash assistance of Rs.500/- per month per person for three months. Rs.10,325 Crores, Rs.10,315 Crores and Rs.10,312 Crores have been credited in three installments to the women Jan Dhan account holders.**
- (iii) 8 crore poor families registered under the scheme of Ujjwala will get 1 gas cylinder, per family per month free of cost for the next three months.**
- (iv) MNREGA wage has been increased Rs.202/- a day from Rs.182/-, which will benefit 13.62 crore families.**
- (v) An ex-gratia financial assistance of Rs.1000 per person will be given to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor disabled. Rs.2814.5 Crores disbursed to about 2.81 crores old age persons, widows and disabled persons in two installments.**
- (vi) Rs.17,891 Crore front loaded towards payment of the first installment of PM-KISAN Yojana to 8.94 crore beneficiaries.**
- (vii) 2.03 crores Building and Other Construction workers have been given cash assistance of Rs.5000 crores (approx.) from the cess fund.**
- (viii) 30 lakh BOC workers have been given food packages relief also from cess fund.**

Ministry of Commerce and Industry has helped a large number of migrant workers working in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) with dry ration, water, sanitation and medical assistance. The Indian Railway has operated more than 4611 Shramik Special Trains for convenience of the workers. More than 63.07 lakh migrant workers have been shifted to various destinations located in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and other States. Food and water was also provided free of cost to the workers during their journey.

To empower millions of migrant workers/labourers working in various organized and unorganized sectors to seamlessly receive their food security entitlements under National Food Security Act (NFSA), irrespective of their physical location in the country the Government has started the implementation of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Plan. With the implementation of this plan the migrant beneficiary can get food security from any fair price shop of his choice anywhere in the country.
