

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4142
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021**

COVID-19 RELIEF FOR WORKERS

4142. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned/ released Covid-19 relief grant to any States in the country to disburse it to migrated workers, construction workers and other daily wage workers to compensate them due to lockdown of various companies/industries etc.;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the total amount sanctioned/released to each State particularly to Tamil Nadu as on date?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): In order to mitigate the financial crisis of the workers, including construction workers, migrant workers and other daily wage workers including the workers of Tamil Nadu, Government has taken various measures to protect them against the economic disruptions due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and Country-wide lockdown. The details of the measures are at the Annexure.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4142 for 22.03.2021 regarding Relief for workers.

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. Various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Labour and Employment as part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana(PMGKY) and Atmanirbhar Bharat which, interalia, include (i) payment of 12% employers' share and 12% employees' share under Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), totalling 24% by the Government of India for six wage months from March to August, 2020 for all the establishments having up to 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs.15,000 monthly wage; (ii) reduction in PF contribution from 12% to 10% of wages for the wage months of May, June and July, 2020; (iii) non-refundable Covid advance from the PF by amending the EPF Scheme, 1952; (iv) extension in the date of filing of returns; (v) issuing advisory to promptly attend to distress calls of workers/employees and also guide them in temporary shelters; and (vi) for taking preventive measures to contain the spread of Covid – 19.
3. Approximately 80 crore beneficiaries have been provided additional 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses, free of cost every month till November, 2020 under provisions of National Food Security Act.
4. In response to the Government of India's directions, the State Welfare Boards have cumulatively disbursed around Rs.5618 crore, to approx. 1.83 crore Building and Other Construction (BOC) Workers during lockdown and thereafter. In addition to this, around 30 lakh BOC workers were also provided food relief packages.
5. Further, in order to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers, returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on 20th June 2020. The Abhiyaan focussed on durable rural infrastructure and providing modern facilities like internet in the villages. Skill Mapping of the rural migrant labour was also done to enhance their employability on the basis of the skills, they possess, to enable them work closer to their homes. 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. The Abhiyaan has already generated 50,78,68,671 man-days.
6. For the benefit of 50 lakh street vendors, Government of India has also launched SVANidhi Scheme to provide them collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- to resume their lost livelihood due to Covid and lock-down.
7. To provide employment to the migrant workers Ministry of Transport and Highways has identified the ongoing works/new works for the road construction.
8. In rural areas, wages under MGNREGA have been enhanced from Rs.182 to Rs.202 per day for the benefit of rural workers including returning migrant workers.
9. Ministry of Food Processing Industries have sanctioned 700 food processing/preservation and infrastructure projects in which migrant labourers can be employed.
10. Financial package of Rupees Twenty Seven lakh crore (aprox) under "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat" has been launched specifically to inter-alia create employment opportunities, for migrant workers, workers of unorganized sector, strengthening of MSME Sector and promoting rural economy. It includes several initiatives for all these sectors.
11. Ministry of Labour & Employment has taken the decision to extend the scheme of Atal Beemit Kalyan Yojna for another one year i.e. from 1st July, 2020 to 30 th 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.