

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4243
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021**

REPETITION OF MIGRANT CRISIS

4243. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has thought out any strategy to avoid the repetition of the migrant crisis the nation witnessed in the beginning of the lockdown;**
- (b) whether there is any proposal for registration of migrants or the safety standards that could ensure that the crisis is not repeated; and**
- (c) the measures taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard, since there is a need to reduce stigmatisation of homecoming migrant workers and their families by special initiative by the Panchayat, self-help groups, NGOs?**

ANSWER

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

(a): The migration related problems are sought to be addressed by a multi-pronged course of action through rural development, provision of improved infrastructural facilities, equitable dispersal of resources to remove regional disparities, employment generation, land reforms, increased literacy, financial assistance and various Government welfare and social security schemes.

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(b): Ministry of Labour & Employment is in the process of developing of a comprehensive National Data base of the Unorganised Workers (NDUW) to collect relevant information of unorganised workers including migrant workers and inter-alia help in delivery of various social security and welfare schemes being implemented for them. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare alongwith State Governments have already undertaken a massive vaccination drive and awareness campaign on covid-19 health protocol among the citizens to obviate the crisis in future.

(c): The global spread of the corona virus (COVID-19) followed by lockdowns has affected economies across the globe. Government has taken several steps to ensure that the country is well prepared to face the challenges and threats posed by Covid-19. The details of the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide assistance to the affected workers are enclosed at the Annexure. These measures and awareness campaigns have directly or indirectly ensured that there is no stigmatisation of home coming migrant workers.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4243 for 22.03.2021 regarding Repetition of Migrant Crisis.

- 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, inter-alia, 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.