

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 155
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021**

DATABASE FOR UNORGANISED WORKERS

155. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) the details of programmes by the Government aimed at alleviating poverty and unemployment among migrant labourers in the country after the second wave of covid pandemic;**
- (b) whether the Ministry intends to establish a National Database for Unorganised Workers including the migrant labourers in the country;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether there is a delay of lack of coordinated efforts in order to create a module between the Centre and respective States;**
- (e) the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and**
- (f) the details of action sought to address the anomalies to ensure timely establishment of the National Database for Unorganised Workers in view of facilitating streamlined deliveries of welfare programmes?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a): Government of India has taken several measures and initiatives to address the challenges and threats to migrant workers posed by Covid-19. The details are at Annexure-I.

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(b) to (f): Ministry of Labour & Employment in technical collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC) is developing a module/portal for comprehensive National Database for Unorganized Workers (NDUW) seeded with Aadhaar for all Unorganised workers including Construction Workers, Migrant Workers, Gig and Platform workers, Street Vendors, Domestic Workers, Agriculture Workers, Migrant workers and similar other workers, to address various challenges and issues related to the delivery of benefits of welfare schemes. At present, the process for dry run and security audit is underway. Rs. 45.39 Crore has already been released to NICSI for required software development and hardware purchases in February, 2021.

The project is expected to commence the registration work by August, 2021 after addressing all critical technical issues. Thereafter, the State Governments are to populate the data on the portal through mobilising the unorganised workers. The Common Service Centres through its nation-wide network of over 4 lakh centres and selected post offices of the Department of Posts will act as registration centres, where workers can visit and register themselves free of cost.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 155 FOR 19.07.2021 REGARDING DATABASE FOR UNORGANISED WORKERS.

Government of India has taken several measures and initiatives to address the challenges and threats to migrant workers posed by Covid-19. Some of these are briefly mentioned as follows:

- (i) 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. The States/UTs have been advised to implement the advisory guidelines by quickly gearing up their Labour Law enforcement machinery and ensuring statutory compliance by all the stakeholders which could provide migrant workers much needed help to mitigate the financial crisis and empower them to deal with the pandemic. The States/UTs have also been advised to maintain updated data of the migrant workers to facilitate the administration to extend benefits of the welfare schemes of the Government to the migrant workers.
- (ii) In the backdrop of a challenging situation due to the outbreak of Covid-19 which led to financial constraints among the Building & Other Construction Workers (BOCW), the States/UTs were issued Advisory to frame a scheme under Section 22(1)(h) of the Building & Other Construction Workers (BOCW) (RE&CS) Act, 1996 for transfer of adequate funds in the Bank accounts of construction workers, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mode. In response, during the 1st wave of Covid-19, the State/UT BOCW Welfare Boards have cumulatively disbursed more than Rs. 5618 Crores, through DBT, to the bank accounts of 1.83 Crores BOCW Workers during lockdown and thereafter. Food relief packages have also been provided by the States/UTs to around 30 lakh workers from the cess fund. Further, during the 2nd Wave of Covid-19, Rs. 1795 Crores have been disbursed through DBT, to the bank accounts of 1.23 Crores BOCW Workers.
- (iii) Advisories were issued to all State/UT Governments to advise all the Employers of Public/Private establishments to extend their cooperation by not terminating their employees, particularly casual or contractual workers from job or reduce their wages.

- (iv) The Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than rupees twenty seven lakh crore as part of the Aatmanirbhar financial Package. Aatmanirbhar Bharat package comprises of various long term schemes/ programmes/ policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities for organised and unorganised sectors.
- (v) Ministry of Labour & Employment under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), has contributed both 12% employer's share and 12% employee's share under Employees Provident Fund (EPF), totaling 24% of the wage for the wage month from March to August, 2020 for the establishments having upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15000/-. Under the PMGKY scheme Rs 2567.20 crore was credited in EPF accounts of 38.85 lakhs eligible employees through 2,63,272 establishments.
- (vi) Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojna (ABRY) Scheme has been launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic. This scheme being implemented through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries including MSME and encourages them to hire more workers. Under ABRY, the Government of India is bearing for a period of two years, both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers' share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments. As on 14th July, 2021 total benefit has been given to 86,610 Establishments covering 23,58,653 beneficiaries under ABRY.
- (vii) Statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee was reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for three months.
- (viii) Government of India, under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA), has taken various initiatives to boost rural infrastructure and rural economy to provide local employment opportunities particularly to the migrant returnees. It covered 116 districts of 6 States with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore and was implemented in a mission mode campaign of 125 days through Ministry of Rural Development.
- (ix) The unemployment benefit under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana being implemented by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been enhanced to 50% from 25% of the average earning, payable upto 90 days, alongwith relaxation of eligibility conditions to claim the benefit, for insured workers who have lost employment due to COVID-19.

- (x) Underlining the need for coordinated efforts of the Central and State Governments, as labour being a concurrent subject, it was requested that officers in the Labour Departments may be sensitised about the 20 Control Rooms set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment under the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) on pan India basis to resolve the grievances of workers, mainly wage related and migrant labour issues, arisen due to nationwide lockdown imposed to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization of Chief Labour Commissioner(C), Ministry of Labour & Employment has received a number of complaints regarding termination of employment of workers of the industrial establishment falling in the Central Sphere during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these disputes across States got resolved at the conciliation stage in the Central sphere.
- (xi) The Ministry also forwarded the list of 20 Central Control Rooms to the State Governments along with names of officers deputed by the Central Government. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment has requested various State/UT Governments on 18.4.2020 to designate a nodal officer from Labour Department to coordinate with Control Rooms set up by Union Government for addressing issues of the labour/workers in the country in view of the nationwide lockdown announced to combat COVID-19 pandemic.
- (xii) Due to intervention of control rooms set up on 11th April 2020 by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India, a total of 16623 complaints were received consisting of 12103 pertaining to State sphere and the rest in the Central sphere. An amount of Rs. 295 crore (approx.) was got disbursed to 1,86,365 workers in the central sphere due to substantial intervention and coordination work done by control rooms under the CLC(C). These control rooms were reactivated on 21st April, 2021 after the second wave of Covid-19. As on 16th June, 2021, a total of 1311 complaints were received comprising of 837 complaints from State sphere and the rest from the Central sphere. An amount of Rs 6.06 crore got disbursed to 4653 workers in the central sphere due to intervention and coordination work done by these control rooms.
- (xiii) Under the EPFO's Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, all surviving dependent family members of the members of this scheme are eligible to avail benefits of EDLI in case of death in harness of the member. A notification issued by the Ministry has made following amendments to the EDLI scheme of EPFO: (a) Amount of maximum benefit has been increased from ₹6 lakhs to ₹7 lakhs to the family members of deceased employee. (b) Minimum assurance benefit of ₹2.5 lakh to eligible family members of deceased employees who was a member for a continuous period of 12 months in one or more establishments preceding his death in place of existing provision of continuous employment in the same establishment for 12 months. It will benefit contractual/casual labourers who were losing out on benefits due to condition of continuous one year in one establishment. Restoration of provision of minimum 2.5 lakh compensation

retrospectively, i.e., from 15th February 2020. These welfare measures will provide the much needed support to the families of workers who have died due to the COVID-19 disease and will protect them from financial hardships in these challenging times of pandemic.

- (xiv) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced additional benefits for workers through ESIC and EPFO schemes to address the fear and anxiety of workers about well-being of their family members due to increase in incidences of death due to Covid-19 pandemic. Enhanced social security is sought to be provided to the workers without any additional cost to the employer. Currently for the Insured Persons (IPs) under ESIC, after death or disablement of the IP due to employment injury a pension equivalent to 90% of average daily wage drawn by the worker is available to the spouse and widowed mother for life long and for children till they attain the age of 25 years. For the female child, the benefit is available till her marriage.
