

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 188  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.09.2020**

**LABOURER'S MIGRATION DURING LOCKDOWN**

**188. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:**

**SHRI BHOLA SINGH:**

**SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:**

**DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:**

**SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:**

**DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:**

**DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has failed in assessment of problems faced by the migrant labourers during the lock down imposed by the Government during COVID-19 pandemic including Tamil Nadu and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (b) whether thousands of migrant labourers have died during lock down and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has distributed free ration to all ration card holders during the COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;**
- (d) whether the Government has received complaints regarding corruption in distribution of free ration and if so, the action taken thereon; and**
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a): 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 including Tamil Nadu.**

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**(b): No such data is available.**

**(c): State-Wise details are not available. However, 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. 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.**

**(d): Whenever any complaint is received, action is taken as per existing rules.**

**(e): 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 take adequate steps to streamline the migration of the workers to mitigate the hardships of migrant workers returning to the destination States/UTs. 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 stake-holders 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.**

**Apart from above, 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; (vi) using Building and other construction workers (BOCW) cess fund for transfer of adequate funds in the bank account of construction workers affected by COVID-19 outbreak; (vii) supporting employees and workers by not terminating them and not cutting their wages; and (viii) for taking preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.**

**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.**

**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.**