

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 ₹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) advisory to Employees' Associations to support employees and workers by not terminating them and not cutting their wages.

Further, in order 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 also being 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 ₹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 can 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.

#### **Grievance of migrant workers during COVID-19**

1233. SHRI M.V. SHREYAMS KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware of the grievances of the migrant workers who were treated indifferently by various authorities during COVID-19 lockdown days;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to address their grievances; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, has provisions to protect the interests of the migrant workers against the coercive exploitation by private parties and contractors. It entitles the migrant workers to receive displacement allowances, journey allowances and other facilities.

During Covid - 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, more than one crore migrant workers returned to their home slate. A Statement giving the details of migrant workers State-wise is given in the Statement (*See* below). After the beginning of unlockdown process, many migrant workers have returned to their workplaces in the destination states.

Some of the measures taken by the Government to address their grievances are mentioned below:—

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 ₹ 295 crores.
2. Ministry of Labour and Employment issued advisory to the States/UTs and the Employers Associations on 20th March, 2020 asking them to extend their cooperation by not terminating their employees, particularly casual/contractual workers from job or reduce their wages.
3. Indian Railways operated 4621 Shramik Special trains between 1st May and 31st August, 2020 carrying 63.19 lakh passengers to their home states. These Shramik special were organised as "Trains on Demand" as and when State Govt, requisitioned those trains. Special arrangements like enhanced sanitisation, special security, medical arrangement, rake sanitisation, free meals & water etc. were made for Shramik operations.

4. Ministry of Home Affairs issued order on 29th March, 2020 to States/UTs to ensure adequate arrangement of temporary shelters, and provision of food etc. for the stranded migrant workers and screening & quarantine facilities for those who reached their home states/towns.
5. Ministry of Home Affairs also instructed, in the same order, that the landlords of the migrant workers shall not demand payment of rent for a period of one month and not ask to vacate their premises.
6. In the same order, the Government instructed the industry, shops & commercial establishments to make payment of wages to workers, at their work place, on the due date, without any deduction, for the period of their establishments remain under closure during the lockdown.
7. About 80 crore people have been provided 5 kg wheat/rice and 1 kg pulses, with a provision of free of cost food grains to all beneficiaries up to November, 2020.
8. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan, Atmanirbhar Bharat, PM Svanidhi Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and such other schemes have been launched to specifically create employment opportunities for the migrant workers.
9. Ministry of Labour & Employment has also issued comprehensive Advisory Guidelines on 27.07.2020 to all the States/UTs for covid safety & welfare of the migrant workers returning to their workplaces in the destination states.

*Statement*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Migrant workers belonging to this State/ UT who have returned to their home State/UT*
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32,571
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4,960
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,871

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1	2	3
4.	Assam	4,26,441
5.	Bihar	15,00,612
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	43,747
9.	Delhi	2,047
10.	Goa	
11.	Gujarat	
12.	Haryana	1,289
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	48,780
15.	Jharkhand	5,30,047
16.	Karnataka	1,34,438
17.	Kerala	3,11,124
18.	Ladakh	50
19.	Lakshadweep	456
20.	Madhya Pradesh	7,53,581
21.	Maharashtra	1,82,990
22.	Manipur	12,338
23.	Meghalaya	4,266
24.	Mizoram	
25.	Nagaland	11,750
26.	Odisha	
27.	Puducherry	1,694
28.	Punjab	5,15,642

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1	2	3
29.	Rajasthan	13,08,130
30.	Sikkim	33,015
31.	Tamil Nadu	72,145
32.	Telangana	37,050
33.	Tripura	34,247
34.	Uttar Pradesh	32,49,638
35.	Uttarakhand	0
36.	West Bengal	13,84,693
TOTAL		1,06,40,612

\* As per the data received from the States/UTs till date.

#### **Non-refundable advances from EPF**

1234. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have been allowed to take non-refundable advances from EPF for their Members account to meet the financial emergencies caused due to the novel corona virus-induced lockdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many members applied for this non-refundable advances details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(c) what was the amount withdraw from EPFO from lockdown to till date, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As part of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) announced by the Government to address COVID-19 situation, the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme has been amended to provide for a non-refundable advance from the provident fund account of a member not exceeding the basic wages and dearness allowances of that member for three months or up to 75% of the amount standing to his credit in the EPF Account, whichever is