

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 28  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022**

**EXODUS OF WORKERS DURING THIRD WAVE OF COVID-19**

**28. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:**

**Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to media reports of mass exodus of workers, especially migrant labourers to their home states amid the third wave of COVID- 19;**
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;**
- (c) steps that are being taken to deal with any such situation, if it arises;**
- (d) whether Government has held any discussion with the State Governments and other agencies in this regard; and**
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 28 FOR 03.02.2022 RAISED BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA REGARDING EXODUS OF WORKERS DURING THIRD WAVE OF COVID-19.

(a) to (e): In view of the prevailing pandemic situation arising out of Omicron variant, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment chaired a co-ordination Meeting with states/UTs on 12.01 .2022 through video conferencing, to take stock of the preparedness of the States/ UTs in respect of workers in general & Migrant workers in particular. Additional chief Secretaries, principal secretaries, secretaries of State Labour Departments and Labour commissioners of all the states/UTs and officers of Ministry of Railway and Department of Food and Public Distribution participated in the meeting.

State Governments informed that barring night curfews and weekend curfews at few places in some states/UTs there were no restrictions on construction activities, business activities, running of shops and industrial activities in the country. so far, there is no report of unusual movement of magrant workers at present owing to the limited restrictions imposed by the Governments. Some media reports of mass exodus regarding movement of migrant workers to their home States were found to be untrue and it was also noticed that some of the news items were based on old photographs.

The Central as well as the State Governments are keeping a close watch on the situation and fully prepared to tackle it as it unfolds. 50% restrictions on attendance have been imposed by some State Governments in few places. Most of the State Governments have already made plans for distributing rations to the needy labourers, if required. Some have made preparations to provide financial assistance from the Building and other construction workers (BOCW) cess fund and social security fund available with the States. Railways is also keeping a very close watch on the situation particularly at the major railway stations like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and secundrabad etc. and ready to provide special trains in case the situation demands. All the States/UTs have been advised to keep a close liaison with the local Railway Authorities.

The State Governments are keeping a close watch to look after the interests of the migrant workers and are fully ready to provide all assistance to prevent any hardship to the workers. Both the labour supplying states and the labour receiving states have been advised to work in close coordination to tackle any migrant workers' situation, if need arises.

Over 24 crore unorganised workers have registered themselves on e-shram Portal. All the State/UT Governments have been requested to put in place a mechanism to maintain a record of the migrant workers. They have also been advised to register all the migrant workers who have not registered themselves on the e-shram Portal as yet, in order to facilitate the State Governments to plan and deliver social security benefits to migrant workers at appropriate time.

Twenty one Monitoring centers have been activated across the country by office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). The States have also been asked to be wary of rumour mongering on exodus and take quick steps to counter such rumours. They have been advised to reassure migrant workers regarding their safety, security and livelihood.

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