

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

For Central Legislation on Construction Labour

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NCC CL MEETING ON IMPACT OF COVID -19 **ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

The National Meeting of NCC CL took place as a Google Meeting on 15th July 2020 from 11.30 am to 1 pm. The NCC CL Meeting was participated from NMPS Delhi- Ms.Chinmayee, Ms.Madhuri, Ms.Bibyani, Nirmana –Sri Suman Gupta, Kashmir Building workers' Union – Com.Nissar Ahmed, Rajasthan Aajivika Bureau – Ms.Manas Mishra, U.P. NMPS – Com Peince Verma -BNKMU, Migrant Workers Group-Com Vijaya R, Bandhkam Mazdoor Sanghatan Gujarat – Vipul Pandya, Samajwadi Group, Madhya Pradesh–Dr.Sunilam, KSS-Com Bhagwat Parihar Maharashtra - Com.Subhash Lomte – NCC RW, Ms.Alka Pariangadkar - NAPM, Karnataka – KKTMS & NCL Com NP Samy, Andhra Pradesh – APVVU & NCL Com.P.Chennaiyah, Telengana Building Workers Union Com.Lissy, KKNTC Kerala – Ms.Salomi, NMPS – TN Com.TM Chandiran, Com Salem Ganesan, Com Murugesan & Ms. Kalaivani – HMS TN, Com.C.Selvakumar TRLMCTU & UWF, Com.Rahul UWF, DBMS - Fr Bosco, Fr Anthonyraj, JMS – Fr.Henry, Fr William, Sis Aloysius Com.Sudhir Architect and PMKTS Puduchery Com.Theerthamalai , Advocate Chirayu Jain, National Coordinator Subhash Bhatnagar, Sujata Madhok and R.Geetha, with Technical Help & Advice – Vinodh & Selva Kumar.. The discussion took place broadly on 3 topics.

- (i) Impact of COVID 19 – Loss of Livelihoods and incomes resulting in poverty of Building Workers and Unorganised workers- Inadequate Relief given by State Welfare Boards and inadequate PDS – Sharing by States
- (ii) Sufferings and Exploitation of Migrant Labourers – Rehabilitation through MGNREGA and Land – Decent Conditions of work
- (iii) Future Action

IMPORTANT POINTS IN SHARING & RESOLUTIONS :

- Cash Relief in all states present except Delhi and Karnataka being small and dry rations being given in few states, in Kashmir the situation being very bad due to one year Lockdown after division into 3 Union Territories. The PDS is also very weak and

inadequate for whole month for family. Even the small relief is not available to non – renewals and unregistered including migrant labourers. In Kerala, KKNTC had one day strike in the State after which the CM has promised Rs 5000 in a month from BOCW WB.

There was unanimous view that Rs 5000 and dry rations must be given to all BOC Workers in all states, registered and unregistered, including non – renewals.

- No cash relief is given to Unorganised workers including Domestic workers through Welfare Boards in almost all States. In Telengana and A.P., dry rations and Rs 1000 cash has been given to all families on the basis of ration cards. In A.P. Rs 10,000 has been given to Hairdressers and Auto workers. In Tamil Nadu Rs 1000 has been given along with monthly rations and in 5 districts twice. In TN, for all registered workers in 17 welfare Boards under Labour Dept and 15 other welfare Boards under other Depts Rs 1000 was given. **Everyone felt that Rs 5000 must be given from all Unorganised welfare Boards for Registered workers.**
- **PDS as per the Food Security Act, 35 kg rice/ 20 kg Atta and 5 kg Dhal and 3 Litres Oil, must be provided to each family and those who do not have ration cards must be provided through Aadgar cards.**
- **Govt of India must provide Rs 10 thousand to each family of Unorganised workers and contract workers every month.**
- **It was suggested that ESI must be implemented for BOCW and other Unorganised workers and that Covid-19 must be declared as Occupational disease and adequate compensation and treatment must be provided and the suggestion was accepted by all.**
- The Migrant workers who went back to their home villages are unable to find employment hence have no option but go back to other states for work. **It was felt that Rehabilitation package to include apart from provision of Land to landless, MGNREGA must increase the existing norms of 100 days for each family since in many states already 100 days being over, so provision of 200 days of work to each worker through individual Job Cards in a year and they must be paid minimum wages on the basis of Pay Commission fixation for Class IV employees, 600 Rs per day.**
- **The Migrant workers who are going to other states as well as those who have not gone back, must be compulsorily registered in the home states before departure and in the other states after arrival. Decent conditions of work including safety gear, 8 hrs of work day and payment of double wage for overtime work, decent living conditions with drinking water, toilets, child care, health care, education facilities must be ensured. There must be Assistance centres wherever they live in numbers.**
- Urban unemployment, starvation, inability to pay rent, indebtedness, and even suicides on the rise. **Since the pandemic is likely to continue for another 6 months it is**

important to have Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme wherein the unemployed must be given Job cards and since Covid -19 spread is more in urban areas, they can be involved in home delivery of rations and cash relief apart from assisting families affected by Covid -19.

- **There must be Workers' committees in every ward, zone and city level to implement the above stated programs.**
- **There was unanimous decision to observe DEMANDS DAY on 22nd July all over the country and join all Trade Unions and AI Farmers' Coordination Committee on Aug 9 with the above Demands.**

Yours Sincerely,

Subhash Bhatnagar

National Coordinator

NCC-CL