

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 from 11.30 am to 2 pm.** The NCC CL Meeting was participated from NMPS Delhi- Ms.Chinmayee, Ms.Madhuri, Ms.Bibyani, BMS – Sri Jayanti Lal, Nirmana –Sri Richard Sundaram **Punjab** Building Workers Union & DDVA - Advocate Gagan Deep, **Rajsthan** Aajivika Bureau – Ms.Abha Mishra, **Uttar Pradesh** NMPS Com Vishnu Shukla & Migrant Workers Group-Com Vijaya R, from BNKMU- Promod Patel **Karnataka** –KSCWCU & NCL NP Samy, Retd Labour Commissioner of Karnataka Sri Vasantha Kumar Hittangi, **Andhra Pradesh** – APVVU Com.P.Chennaiyah, **Telengana** Building Workers Union Com.Lissy, CFTUI- Com. Kanaka Rao, NMPS – **Tamilnadu** Com.Marimuthu & Com Muthu, DBMS - Fr Bosco, and PMKTS **Puduchery** Com.Theerthamalai Advocate Colin , Adv Gunjan (HRLN) & Advocate Chirayu Jain, National Coordinator Subhash Bhatnagar, Sujata Madhok and R.Geetha, with Technical Advisor Vinodh.. The discussion took place broadly on 4 topics.

- (i) Impact of COVID 19 – Loss of Livelihoods and incomes resulting in poverty of Building Workers and Relief given by State BOCW Boards.
- (ii) Sufferings of Migrant Labourers – Starvation and no transport, Non- payment of wages, no assistance violation of Labour laws
- (iii) In adequacy of rations under PDS
- (iv) Future Action

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. a) Loss of Livelihoods & incomes of Building Workers and relief given by BOCW Welfare Board in various States need to be streamlined and Rs 5000 to be provided along with quality dry rations of 15 kg of Rice, 3 Kg of Dhal , 2 litres of Oil, Masks. Vitamins, Kabasura Kudineer / appropriate siddha Ayurvedic medicine for immunity, given every month to all registered workers including non renewals and unregistered workers in all states.
2. ESI Coverage must be implemented for all registered workers by BOCW Welfare Boards.
3. The BOCW Welfare Board Fund must be used only for Welfare of BOCW workers and not diverted to other purposes such as Economic revival.
4. The sufferings of migrant Labourers, in conditions of starvation with no work, income or assistance from employer/Govt and no transport, their long walks and cycling back to their homes and even 500 dying on the way, were recalled. The following outstanding issues had to be addressed by Govt of India immediately.

- a. Immediate **transport** of Migrant Workers who are kept as Bonded Labour and not allowed to go home and providing Release Certificates under Bonded Labour Act. Earlier departure of Migrant Bonded Workers must be identified and provided Release Certificates.
  - b. **Non payment of wages** to migrant labourers needs to be solved by respective Labour Departments and all the arrears to be paid immediately by employers.
  - c. **Rehabilitation** package for Migrant or bonded Labourers, to include provision of Land, and Land development for them as well as infrastructure and water resources development forestry etc.
  - d. **Living Conditions** in Construction, Brick kilns, Quarries etc to include decent housing, drinking water, sanitation, Child Care and Children's education.
  - e. **Decent Working conditions** must be ensured in all construction including brick kilns and stone quarries, with 8 hour work, living wages, relevant safety measures including PPE etc.
  - f. Interstate Migrant Workers' Act, BOCW Acts, and Bonded Labour Acts must be **implemented properly** and there must be **compulsory registration** of all Migrant Workers, Assistance centers must be formed all over the main areas of employment of Migrant Workers.
5. **The gain** made by Govt of India **due to lowering of prices of crude oil during COVID 19** disaster along with increase in Govt taxes, amounting to over 10 Lakh crores **must be given to the suffering millions of Unorganized sector Workers and Contract Workers** so that every working class family is **provided with Rs 10,000 immediately** and again **Rs 10,000 to overcome starvation**, poverty, debt and distress **apart from adequate quantum in PDS.**
  6. The quantum allocated in the **Public Distribution System** is **highly inadequate** to meet the needs of the families of working people during the crisis, so **adequate rations must be provided**, such as 30Kg of rice or 20 Kg of atta, 5 Kg of Dhal and 3 litre of Oil for every family Card. Those who do not have ration cards, must be given **PDS on the basis of Aadhar Cards.**
  7. Govt of India must **withdraw the draft Labour Codes which seek to repeal 44 Labour Laws and dissolve the existing BOCW & USW Welfare Boards and trample on Labour Rights in the country.**
  8. Letters will be sent by **Building Construction workers Unions to Prime Minister of India** to take immediate steps to fulfill the above demands and render justice.
  9. Building Construction Workers unions will **join the All India Demonstration called by Central Trade Unions on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.**
  10. Building Construction workers' unions along with other Unorganized Workers Unions will **observe Demands Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 all over the country.**

All those who participated in the webinar and all those who could not, particularly from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and North East are Requested to share the performance of their BOCW Board in detail and demand continuation of relief till the construction restarts. Suggestions are also invited for next webinar so that uniform consolidated steps are taken all over the country by the organizations of construction workers, migrant workers and contract workers. The lessons learnt from this must be used as opportunities to consolidate.

With thanks.

Subhash Bhatnagar